

THE REPORTER

The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg • June 2009 • Vol. 44, No. 10

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.

June Services

June 7	9:15 & 11:00	☼ Gratitude is Not Enough
June 14	9:15 & 11:00	☼ Farewell to Yvonne
June 21	9:15 & 11:00	☼ Daily Spiritual Practice
June 28	10:00*	☼ Roots & Wings - a Faith Journey

* One Service at 10:00 AM for the next seven weeks, thru August 9.

From Your Minister

*The Reverend
Howard N. Dana*

Now that we are one congregation with two church buildings, the obvious question is: How will we use each building next year? When it comes to worship we are planning a two-phase approach. During the 2009-10 church year we plan to hold an intergenerational worship service once a month in our Market Street building. Since this service will fall on the second Sunday each month, we will call them "Second Sunday in the City." These intergenerational services will allow us to worship together as one congregation once a month. We will position our Homecoming, Day of the Dead, and Flower Communion services to fall on second Sundays. With a much larger sanctuary, we know we will all fit into one lively, music-filled service with one coffee hour to follow. The rest of the Sundays each month, we will have two worship services at Clover Lane with RGL for children and youth.

Another aspect of Phase One is to offer a monthly forum at our Clover Lane location on the second Sunday each month. Given the fact that a goodly portion of the congregation opposed the purchase of the Market Street church, we want to take things slowly there. Some people are not ready - for whatever reason - to venture into the City of Harrisburg yet. The beauty of having two locations is that those who are reluctant to leave the suburbs won't have to. A forum series will happen at 9:30 AM on the second Sunday each month. Those who want to attend the forum as well as the worship service on Market Street may do so. Others will be able to remain after the forum for coffee and further conversation. Plans are in the works for a terrific line-up of speakers and presenters on a variety of topics. Watch the *REPORTER* for details.

Beyond Sunday morning, our Phase One plans for the Market Street building are to simply use it as appropriate. We will spend all of next

(Continued on page 4)

In last month's column I took us on a low-altitude flyover of the events of the past year. This month I want to share some lessons learned in this first year as president of the church. You may wish I hadn't learned some of these, and others may be things that have been obvious to you for years. Some you may outright disagree with. I hope some will make you smile. Maybe you learned some of these, too. Please note that none of these are about specific people, except myself.

In this past year as President of UCH...

- ... I have learned that the members of this congregation *can* disagree strongly and emotionally with one another, and still remain in dialogue, moving forward with love and purpose, and not quit in despair and disgust.
- ... I have learned that I can do this, too.
- ... I have learned that the best-laid plans for slow methodical work on a well-considered agenda can always be trashed by a great opportunity with a narrow window for action.
- ... I have learned that most UUs are inherently distrustful of their leadership.
- ... I have learned that I am overly sensitive to criticism, and that I will be better served if I accept it as a gift, a free downpayment towards my own growth.
- ... I have learned that defensiveness doesn't become me.
- ... I have learned that many liberal UUs are pretty conservative about some things.
- ... I have learned that some people will object to virtually everything their leadership does, seemingly on principle!
- ... I have learned that what you pay attention to *grows*. I've also learned that what you dismiss and ignore *festers*. Balancing these approaches is perhaps THE challenge of leadership. How to tell *obstructive* dissent from *constructive* dissent? Next year's lesson!
- ... I have learned that it's a good idea for a dreamer

(Continued on page 8)

President's Message

J.D. Stillwater

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
<p>May 30: Allison Hill Community Walk at 10 AM</p> <p>May 31: Registration for Children's Summer RG&L</p>	<p>1 Yoga 6:30 pm</p> <p>Adult Religious Growth & Learning: Building the World We Dream About 7:00 PM</p> <p>Hellmann <i>COUCH</i> 7 pm</p>	<p>2 Mindfulness Meditation Group 7 PM</p> <p>Helping Women in Prison & Their Families 7:30 PM</p>	<p>3 NARCOTICS ANON 4 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON 6 PM</p> <p><i>QueenSpirit</i> Potluck & Circle 6:00 PM</p> <p><i>Community Cmte 7 pm</i></p>	<p>4 Ziegler/Tyger <i>COUCH</i> 9:30 AM</p> <p>Unisingers 7 pm</p> <p>Adult RGL: Philosophy of Religion 101 7:00 pm</p>	<p>5 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM</p>	<p>6 Fellowship Potluck 6 PM</p>
<p>7 Services 9:15 & 11:00 AM</p> <p>Explore UCH 10:15 & Noon</p> <p>Movie Milk 6 PM</p> <p><i>Courtesy of:</i> Doyle <i>COUCH</i> Group 7 PM</p>	<p>8 Yoga 6:30 pm</p>	<p>9 MMG 7 PM</p> <p>QUESTERS 7 PM</p> <p>FINANCE CMTE 7:30 PM</p>	<p>10 NARCOTICS ANON 4 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON 6 PM</p> <p>REPORTER deadline</p> <p>Board Mtg 7 pm</p>	<p>11 Dooley <i>COUCH</i> Group 1 PM</p> <p>Unisingers 7 pm</p>	<p>12 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM</p>	<p>13 1508 Market Street Work Day 10 AM to 4 PM</p>
<p>14 Services 9:15 & 11:00 AM</p>	<p>15 Yoga 6:30 pm</p> <p>Adult RGL: Building the World We Dream About 7:00 PM</p> <p>Hellmann <i>COUCH</i> 7 pm</p>	<p>16 Special Coffee House 7:30 pm</p> <p>MMG 7 PM</p> <p>PrideFest mtg 7:00 PM</p> <p>The Oliver Collection Mtg 7:00 PM</p>	<p>17 NARCOTICS ANON 4 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON 6 PM</p> <p>Clover Grove 7 PM (off site)</p> <p><i>Community Cmte 7 PM</i></p>	<p>18 Ziegler/Tyger <i>COUCH</i> 9:30 AM</p> <p>Unisingers 7 pm</p> <p>Picnic 6 pm</p>	<p>19 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM</p> <p>Clover Lane Coffee House 8 pm</p>	<p>20 Craft Group 10 AM</p> <p>Ordination of Yvonne at 1508 Market Street</p>
<p>21 Services 9:15 & 11:00 AM</p> <p>Path to Membership 10:15 & Noon</p> <p>Doyle <i>COUCH</i> Group 7 PM</p>	<p>22 Yoga 6:30 pm</p>	<p>23 MMG 7 PM</p> <p>QUESTERS 7 PM</p> <p><i>Membership Action Council 7:00 PM</i></p>	<p>24 NARCOTICS ANON 4 PM</p> <p>AL-ANON 6 PM</p>	<p>25 Dooley <i>COUCH</i> Group 1 PM</p> <p>Unisingers 7 pm</p>	<p>26 UCH Playgroup 9:30 AM</p>	<p>27 Yard Sale</p>
<p>28 Service 10:00 AM</p> <p>Young Adult Cmte 12:30 PM</p>	<p>29 Yoga 6:30 pm</p>	<p>30 MMG Movie Night 7 PM</p>	<p>JUNE 2009</p>			

Reserved for Members of UCH

Reserved for Members of UCH

Grocery Store Gift Card FUND RAISER

Participating in the Grocery Store Gift Card Fund Raiser is an easy way to help the church by doing something most of us need to do anyway – buying groceries and other supplies. Weis and Giant gift cards earn 10% profit, while Karns gift cards earn 5% profit. (Note that Weis gift cards are going to 5% when our current stock of cards is depleted. We have ample supply for several months at the 10% discount.)

Cards are mailed on the 1st and 15th of each month, along with an order form for you to place your next order and a postage-paid envelope to use for your payment and order form. Simply return your form at least seven days prior to the mailing date to receive your cards in the mail in time for your shopping. If you participate in the program and do not receive your cards within a few days after the order date, please call Anne.

If you would like to participate, or if you have questions about this fund raiser, call Anne Moore at 877-8576, or e-mail giftcard@harrisburguu.org.

Submitted by Anne Moore

Roses are red,
Violets are blue;
But they don't get around
Like the dandelions do.

Slim Acres

The REPORTER
PUBLISHED MONTHLY
UNITARIAN CHURCH OF HARRISBURG
1280 CLOVER LANE
HARRISBURG, PA 17113

From Your Minister

Rev. Howard N. Dana

(Continued from page 1)

year working on the building, getting it repaired, improved, and cleaned. It is just fine to move in slowly. We will join in the outreach efforts of The Shared Ministry and start some of our own. We will hold large memorial services and weddings there. Renters will use the space. Social justice efforts will be launched from our Market Street location. And we are looking for some longer-term tenants. We have been in conversation for a few months with an organization called Family Promise. They would like to use our Market Street building as a day center for homeless families that they work with. These families are housed in churches at night, but need a place during the day to come and go from. Family Promise would work with us to install showers and a washer and dryer for the families to use. A social worker would assist them in finding jobs, keeping children in school, and securing permanent housing. Many of these families are immigrant families and need some help adjusting to life in the United States. There would be ample opportunities for UCH members to volunteer with the families. We will know soon if Family Promise wants to rent from us.

Our 2010-11 church year will bring us to Phase Two of utilizing our two buildings. During Phase Two, we plan to hold a worship service at both buildings each week. People will be able to choose whether they want to attend services at Clover Lane, Market Street, or a combination of both. We will still have RGL for children and youth each Sunday, some of which might be at Market Street. If the intergenerational services are a success in Phase One, we might continue them in Phase Two. After a full year of being one congregation with two church buildings, we will know a lot more about how to use both effectively. By the end of Phase Two, we should fully inhabit the Market Street building, having repaired and cleaned it enough for it to be safe, comfortable, and attractive. By the end of Phase Two, we should be drawing many more people from the City of Harrisburg into our congregation.

Other aspects of Phase Two will probably include a capital campaign to pay off the debt on the Market Street building and to improve both our buildings. We need to put in an elevator in the Market Street building. We would like to air condition both sanctuaries. During Phase Two we can see about buying the vacant lots behind the Market Street building. We can begin to make long-term plans for using both properties.

The main thing to keep in mind as we proceed carefully and deliberately into being one congregation with two buildings is that we are on the cutting edge of Unitarian Universalism. As far as I know, no UU church has done this before. Our bold move has gotten lots of attention at the denominational and district level. Other UU churches are studying us to see how we do in this venture. With the collapse of mainline Protestantism, thousands of churches will be available in the next ten years to do just what we are doing. Other Unitarian Universalist churches can benefit from following our example. During this process, we will have to be patient with one another. We will have to listen and explain and encourage a lot. There is no race to move into our new building. And the potential for expanding our mission in the city is remarkable. There is a place for each and every UCH member and friend in this exciting venture. I hope you will come along with us. We are doing the things a church should do.

Love, Howard

To find our calling is
to find the intersection between
our own deep gladness and
the world's deep hunger.

~ Frederick Buechner



*The members of
the Unitarian Church
Of Harrisburg*

invite you to celebrate with us

as we ordain

Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek

into the

Unitarian Universalist ministry

on Saturday, June 20, 2009

at 3:00 PM

in the sanctuary of

the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

at 1508 Market St.

in the city of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

A reception will follow the ceremony.

Child care will be available.

We invite clergy to arrive early
to robe and process.

RSVP appreciated but not required
717-564-4761 or office@harrisburguu.org

Please note:

The service and reception will be held at
UCH's newly-acquired sanctuary in the city,
1508 Market St., between 15th and 16th Streets,
Harrisburg, PA

Dear Harrisburg Unitarian
Universalists,

Yes!

The Commonwealth Interfaith Service of Prayers for Peace, organized by the Pennsylvania Council of Churches and hosted by Pine Street Presbyterian Church, across the street from the state capitol building, took place in early May. It observed the National Day of Prayer on May 7.

On the program were representatives of local Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist, and Bahai communities, in addition to a handful of Christian speakers, and me representing UCH. It was a lovely service attended by about 100 people, besides those who offered prayers and danced – all of us sharing a yearning for peace. I hope that next year many more will attend. It was good to see about a half dozen folks there from UCH.

I have been thinking about how and why we pray. For me, prayer is not so much about getting the attention of an anthropomorphic God that may or may not exist, and probably does not, as it is about aligning my own mind and heart with the pulse of the cosmos, the harmonies in nature, and companions on the journey through life. It is about voicing yearnings and intentions, pain, joy, regret – the full array of human thoughts and feelings, those which matter most. I can hardly think of a better topic for prayer than peace, which so often feels so elusive.

Here is how I prayed UU style at the early May interfaith event, based in part, as you will see, on a beloved song from our hymnal and also on a prayer by the Rev. Eric Cherry that I found at the UUA's Peace Ministry website, which I commend to you as well (www.uupeacemakers.org).

Spirit of Life and Love,
O great Mystery,
Source of All in whose tender and abiding embrace
we are all held, forever, in holy Oneness,

We give thanks for the precious and fleeting gift that is our
lives.
We stand in awe of the beauty of all creation.

“For all that is our life, we sing our praise and thanks
for all life is a gift that we are called to use
to serve the common good and make our own lives glad.”

May we be instruments of peace.
Help us to discern the best ways we might use our gifts,
the abundance that is ours,
our hands, our minds, our hearts,
to serve the common good,
and to foster peace within ourselves,
our families, our community, and the wider world.

Help us to cultivate compassion.
Help us to learn to love ourselves, and each other,
and *all* who walk this world, in this time, with us;
let us even learn to do that most difficult task of loving our
enemies as ourselves.

Help us to alleviate the suffering and injustice in the world
that leads to anger and violence.

Be present with those who are endangered in war zones.
Please lift up their hearts and keep them safe, oh Love,
most especially the children.

Keep strong those who care for the injured, the hungry, the
grieving.

Let us not ever forget our own complicity and
responsibility;
give us strength, wisdom, and courage
to address our accountability effectively, together.
May we fully embrace our own power to put things right.
Let us work towards reconciliation and right relationship.
May we always keep a vision of peace centermost in our
hearts and minds.

When we breathe in, let us breathe in peace.
When we breathe out, let us breathe out love.
When we act, let our acts be of love, of kindness, of
compassion.

In the name of all that is sacred and holy I pray for peace,
this day and always,
and that we may fully live our prayers.
Amen,
Blessed Be,
Namasté.

I wish for each of you peace and blessings all the days of your
lives.

Keep your light shining –
love, Yvonne

Yvonne Schumacher Strejcek
Acting Associate Minister, UCH, until July 1st

Fellowship Potluck Dinner

☞ **When** ☞
Saturday, June 6, 2009, 6 until 9 PM
☞ **Where**
The Common Room
☞ **What to Bring** ☞
A prepared dish and ideas to share
☞ **Why** ☞
*brainstorming & conversation
for a thriving UCH*
☞ **Who** ☞
You! Everyone's invited!

Childcare will be provided if requested by May 31.
Contact Randa Todd at irrt1946@yahoo.com.

Religious Growth & Learning

SUMMER PROGRAMMING FOR CHILDREN

Stories and activities will reinforce the Unitarian Universalist Principles during summer Sunday morning programming for elementary aged children.

Child care will be provided during services every Sunday for children five and under.

Summer volunteers are needed to help out on Sunday mornings. Please sign-up at the resource center by the lower level entrance in the common room.

- June 7 – Participants of all ages will celebrate sculptor Oliver LaGrone and try their hand at sculpting
- June 14 – Intergenerational Services, no classes, child care provided
- June 21- Elementary Class at 11:00
- June 28 – Elementary Class at 10:00
- July 5 – Holiday, No Class, child care provided
- July 12 – August 9 Elementary Summer Class at 10:00

REGISTRATION FOR CHILDREN & YOUTH FOR 2009 - 2010

Registration forms are due May 31st. Please return your form to the resource center or mail it to church to enroll children and youth for the next church year.

Forms were mailed out to currently registered families. Forms and are available on the church web site and at the resource center.

*Submitted by Trish Brandon
Director of Religious Growth & Learning*

Teens Volunteer to Refocus on Key Principles

On Sunday April 26, twelve curious UCH teens participated in a customized development session called “*The Future of the Faith*”. This session was designed specifically as an attempt to accelerate the students’ ability to articulate the Seven Principles. Once accomplished the goal was that they might be better equipped to make more authentic meaning of them and apply the new information to their discussions, activities, and personal lives.

The session was led by Felicia Louise Gaines, M.Ed. and participation was voluntary. Using imaginary names each participant took a pre-assessment to establish a benchmark for how well they already knew the Seven Principles. The average post-test score (out of a possible 180 points) was 109.8 and represented an overall classroom improvement of more than 89 points! The students were asked to consider competing only against themselves while simultaneously being given substantial measures of motivation and encouragement. Each participant exceeded all expectations and made a unique contribution to the overall group success.

“I kept thinking that two hours would not be enough to make this happen but we managed to get it all done.” The session featured an instructional component to highlight each principle, some fast-paced discussion, a timed group activity and an effort to illustrate a *focus formula*. “This gathering was designed to push the students beyond their comfort zone”, Gaines offered. “Sometimes we all need to be reminded not only of our potential but of the need to take on things that are not necessarily of our design; something greater than ourselves.”

Submitted by Felicia Louise Gaines



*If you see Nancy Pratt,
give her a big kiss!*

or if you aren't comfortable with that, just tell her how awesome she is for donating handmade chalices to all the graduating high school seniors of UCH. And she has been doing this for several years now. The chalices that Nancy makes are gorgeous and unique.

Thank you, Nancy.

Submitted by Wendy Shaver

What is YRUU Up To This Summer?

(YRUU = Young Religious Unitarian Universalists)

Opportunities abound for high schoolers of UCH this summer. Programming that focuses on social action, real-world learning, and fun community building will continue during the long break from going to school every day. Although the days of lockers, gym class and homework end for a while, the work of being a Unitarian Universalist teen never ends.

During Sunday morning sessions, youth will take part in a program called "Thinking the Web" in which they dismantle their views on "hot" political issues such as drug legalization and the death penalty. Participants will challenge one another to formulate their views on a deeper level – beyond parroting what others have told them, as well as to investigate the history of the Unitarian Universalist Association's involvement in the issue.

Social action will be a strong focus this summer. Youth will kick off the summer by participating in the Tour de Belt, a 20-mile bike ride to raise money for the Capital Area Greenbelt Association which maintains this green space through Harrisburg. The heart of YRUU summer social action will be a week spent at the Pilgrimage in Washington D.C. The Pilgrimage is service-learning hostel which immerses pilgrims in hands-on service projects combined with interactive workshops designed so groups can learn more about the root causes of poverty and what they can do about them as conscientious UU's and world citizens. Check out www.thepilgrimage.org and/or the bulletin board outside the high school room. Finally the youth will participate with church members of all ages at the Harrisburg Pridefest. Youth will serve in different ways, including selling wristbands and acting as Silent Witnesses.

And summer wouldn't be summer without riding roller coasters with Howard at Hershey Park! And an overnight to say farewell to the seniors and play sardines. (Ask a youth what sardines is!!) Don't you wish you could be in high school again??

Submitted by Wendy Shaver



Enjoy a Bike Ride – Support the Ongoing Social Action Project of the UCH Children and Youth!

Twice a year the children and youth of UCH spend Sunday morning beautifying the UCH-adopted section of the Greenbelt. The Greenbelt is a twenty mile recreational trail through Harrisburg which was created to maintain green space in the city for everyone to enjoy. The concept began over 100 years ago and has been brought full circle by the Capital Area Greenbelt Association (CAGA) which was formed in 1990 by concerned citizens. For the past several years UCH children and youth have picked up trash, spread mulch, planted daffodil bulbs and raised money to buy trees to plant in the church-adopted section of this linear park.

On Sunday, June 7, 2009, you can support the CAGA by participating in the Tour de Belt – a twenty mile bike ride around the Greenbelt complete with snack stations, crossing guards, t-shirts and a cheering section and lunch when you finish. This is a great social action project for UU's of all ages. You can register at www.caga.org or pick up a registration form at the Religious Growth and Learning resource center inside the downstairs door to the church. When you register, don't forget to list UCH as your team so we can get all the publicity we deserve.

Submitted by Wendy Shaver

QueenSpirit POTLUCK & CIRCLE

Wednesday, June 3, 2009

6:00 to 9:00 PM

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg (UCH)
Common Room &
Joseph Priestley Room

- Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share
- Bring your place setting and serving spoons and plates
- If possible, please read the book listed below prior to the circle.
- If you don't get a chance to read it, you are still welcome to come and participate in the circle.

LOVE

Sandy Eckert will facilitate June's circle which will be based on the book, *Goodbye, I Love You: A True Story of a Wife, her Homosexual Husband and a Love that Transcended Tragedy*. The book is available used on amazon.com.

And September Save the Date: September's circle is "Alpha Pack." In addition to the first Wednesday, September 2, we will be taking a trip to the wolf sanctuary on Saturday, September 19.

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

Submitted by Anne Moore

The bicycle
is a
curious vehicle.
Its passenger
is its engine.

John Howard



Food Bank

You folks have been wonderful about donating food and money to the Food Bank and the Food Pantry! Please keep up this wonderful work.

If you forget to bring food, money is just as good! If you write a check for this cause, please make it payable to UCH and write FOOD PANTRY in the memo line.

Thanks again for your good work.

Nathalie Hoke

Mindfulness Meditation Group

Silence is a receptive space.
-Barbara De Angelis

Taking time, anytime, to be silent brings us to a space where we can receive everything as it is without having a need to change it. No thing needs to be different. No thing needs to be done. No thing to worry about. Simply being with what is as it is. Just be still. Breathe. Relax. Breathe again. And again. Let a little time pass, doing nothing.

Please join us to create that receptive space Tuesday evenings at 7:00 in the Margaret Fuller Chapel. The meditation on June 15th (the third Tuesday) will be held in complete silence. Family Movie Night will be back on Tuesday June 30th. Please watch the Sunday order of service for movie titles closer to the date. We will have a movie for adults and another for the children. Feel free to direct questions to Jeanne at 774-1479 mmg_of_uch@comcast.net.

Submitted by Jeanne Shellman

*Every man is a damn fool for at least
five minutes every day;
wisdom consists in not exceeding
the limit.*

Elbert Hubbard

President's Message

J.D. Stillwater

(Continued from page 1)

- like me to have a strong pragmatist closely involved in my work, if I want to be effective.
- ... I have learned that the biggest gift I bring to UCH is respectful listening, and my biggest weakness is my compulsion to make everyone happy; before this year I thought these were both gifts.
- ... I have learned that commercial real estate transactions require unutterable amounts of patience. Oh, AND a crack team of great legal professionals, and then some more patience. Did I mention patience?
- ... I have learned that only a very few people in the congregation have even the foggiest idea of how policy governance works, and why UCH adopted it.
- ... I have learned that even when there's controversy, lots of people won't attend meetings, especially if the meeting is informational in nature. This is not an indictment, just an observation of fact.
- ... I have learned that it's even harder to get people to attend informational meetings about the budget, even though it's the church's primary governing document that determines nearly everything we do, including most of the controversial stuff.
- ... I have learned that even when swamped with demands for time, it's worth some time to stop and communicate, to share the process.
- ... I have learned the phrase "assume good intentions."
- ... I have learned that Yvonne Shumacher Strejcek is one class act.
- ... I have learned that this congregation *is* able to take daring, if tentative, steps towards its own glorious potential.
- ... I have learned that when it comes to working for social justice, most of us are more comfortable doing political action work than befriending desperate people. That's not a bad thing: both are needed and effective, but it's certainly worth being conscious about.
- ... I have learned that even though I came to church for the fellowship, the best thing church has to offer me, and should offer me, is coaching; coaching that pushes me to get outside my comfort zone, coaching to keep sacredness near the center of my life, and coaching to take on responsibilities that stretch and challenge me.
- ... I have learned that my fellow board members are amazing human beings, complete with quirks and aspects that bug me, and I have fallen deeply in love with all of them.
- ... I have learned that there are lots of highly competent, capable, willing, and loving people in this community that I can call on to help, if I'll just pick up the dang phone and ask.
- ... I have learned that no matter how long I procrastinate writing a REPORTER column, I won't get inspired until I actually sit down and write the first paragraph. And finally,
- ... I have learned that no matter how good a piece of writing is, among UUs there's always more wordsmithing to do...!

*With love,
JD Stillwater, President*

Racial Justice & Cultural Understanding

Hello everyone!

The Racial Justice and Cultural Understanding Lay-Led ministry (RJCU) is organizing a second community walk throughout Allison Hill on **Saturday, May 30th at 10:00 AM.**

This is a great opportunity to observe and get to know the people and places of Allison Hill as we become a part of the community. The first community walk last month (in the rain) went great and those who attended really enjoyed the experience. Most people will walk alone, a few will walk in pairs and last time we even had a dog on the roster. All are welcome to join us.

We will begin promptly at 10 AM at 1508 Market Street for a meditation circle and brief orientation where a map and a mantra will be provided to everyone. We will be out to walk the sidewalks of Alison Hill by 10:30. We will walk until approximately 12:30 and return to the church where we'll share our experiences and an optional lunch at the local taco stand.

Please RSVP to Sandy in the Church office by phone at 717-564-4761 or email at office@harrisburguu.org so we have a general count.

Thanks and we hope to see you all there!

Submitted by Clay Lambert

*Everywhere is
walking distance
if you have the time.*

Steven Wright

☞ Clover Grove ☞

Tammy Adams is hosting the June Clover Grove gathering at her home in Harrisburg on June 17th at 7:00 PM. We will be having a short ritual to Celebrate the Summer Solstice, a potluck, and we will work with oracle and tarot cards. Everyone is welcome and we would love to have you join us. Please bring a dish to share and, if you have them, tarot or oracle cards. For further information, call Rebecca at 364-2029. For Tammy's address and directions, please call Tammy at 648-0526.

Submitted by Rebecca Waldemar

UCH Gardens

We could have used a few more hands in our two garden activities in April and May of cleaning and mulching, but we had 22 of them, belonging to James Anderson, Bart Carpenter, Mary Kay Doyle, Stephen Kostelec, John and Anita Mentzer, Richard Pratt, Debbie Reihart and her daughter, Hannah, Casey Snyder, and me. Besides the individual feeling of accomplishment, we also enjoyed the satisfaction of working with others in a communal effort.

We are looking to developing a native plant space across the sidewalk opposite the bench in front of the church. Let me know of any plant preferences you'd like included in that space or of any ideas you might have about its design, or of any desire, or even a small curiosity, about tending one of our garden areas. Contact me at 236-1876 or ronskrabut@hotmail.com.

Submitted by Ron Skrabut

A comparatively small portion of scripture bears on immortal life and the great end of our course. Conduct is three-fourths of life. This present life is the great pressing concern. . . A solemn reserve is thrown over future life; the great emphasis is on the present time. This is precisely as it should be.

Phineas Taylor Barnum

Philosophy & Literature Group

The Philosophy and Literature Group will meet on June 14 at the home of Jim and Willie Calhoun. We meet at 7:30 PM and will discuss *The Green Collar Economy*, by Van Jones.

For directions, and to let them know that you will be attending, please email williejim@verizon.net or call 566-5167. All are welcome, but it is necessary for the hosts to know how many will attend in order to provide enough seating.

Submitted by Dick Hoke

Annual Yard Sale

UCH's Annual Yard Sale will be held on **SATURDAY, JUNE 27, 2009**. Collection will begin in June with the dates of collection to be announced. Watch weekly announcements in your Order of Service for more information. The Yard Sale makes the Church thousands of dollars each year. **YOU CAN HELP BY DONATING YOUR ITEMS AND YOUR TIME.**

Items to donate			
Household items	Toys	Bikes	Lamps
Furniture	Baby items	Art	Dishes
Lawn furniture	Tools	Linens	Games
Children's clothing	Collectibles	Music	Jewelry

Please clean the items you donate. If there is anything complicated about making an item work, please include it in the note.

We will be collecting **OLD CELL PHONES** to donate to Swatara Township, who donates \$1 per phone to charity and donates the phones to charity as well. There will be a special collection box for cell phones - it will be marked.

PLEASE DO NOT DONATE:	ALTERNATE DISPOSAL OF THESE THINGS:
Broken items of any type	Repurpose these items, but please do not donate them to the sale
Encyclopedias	They can be recycled by removing covers, recycling covers with cardboard recycling and putting the pages in paper recycling--check your municipality's recycling policies
Console televisions	These can be repurposed instead of scrapped, but we cannot take them for the Yard Sale
Curtain rods or Venetian blinds (unless they are new & in the original packaging)	
Glass canning jars	These can be recycled at your house or repurposed
Adult clothing	Bring them to the church and donate them to Shared Ministry in the receptacle upstairs outside the West side of Sanctuary. Donate women's business clothing to the Women in Prison Project — collection area upstairs outside the East side of Sanctuary
Large exercise equipment unless approved by Yard Sale Co-Chairs (see contact info below)	

We need customers! We'll be making flyers for you to put up in your local hangouts, library, coffee shop, etc. Invite your neighbors and friends. Copies will be available in the Common Room and will be placed with the sign-up sheets for volunteers for the sale.

YARD SALE CO-CHAIRS this year are **Patti Hazell** (pahazell@yahoo.com) and **Julie Brown** (717-439-5207 or juliekbrown@comcast.net)

DONATION INTAKE DATES & TIMES will be announced via Order of Service inserts, email and posters at the church. Sign-up sheets for volunteers will be in the Common Room during coffee hour from the middle of May through June.

WARNING! Anything left in the COMMON ROOM is in serious danger of being sold at the yard sale. TAKE YOUR THINGS HOME or find a safe storage place for them DURING THE MONTH OF JUNE. **ITEMS HAVE BEEN SOLD IN THE PAST WHICH WERE NOT INTENDED FOR THE YARD SALE!**

Thank you for helping us to make this year's sale a success!



Submitted by Julie Brown

MS WALK-A-THON

It was a beautiful day for a walk on Sunday, April 19, and the UCH MS Walk-a-thon Team was out in force. Eighteen humans and two canines completed the four mile walk in Camp Hill to raise money that will be used to provide services for individuals with multiple sclerosis, as well as to fund research into the causes and (one day) a cure for a disease which has touched the lives of many church members, friends and their families. Thanks to the team members' individual fund raising efforts and the generosity of this congregation, the team raised more than \$2,500. Just as importantly, we raised community awareness of UCH; the team gathering spot was at the entrance to the parking lot, and everyone who arrived had to drive past the large "Unitarian Church of Harrisburg" sign that we were holding up.

Many thanks go to the walkers who participated in our 10th annual event: Peter Adams & Ann Sitrin, Tammy Adams (and her dog), Janice Arana, Kelly Cain, Marie Cowburn, Donna & Phil Hoskins-Helm, Robert Keck, Steph Kew, Mim Moyer (and her dog), Kirsten Salvatore, Laura Shemick, Julie & Rob Slaybaugh, Ed & Karen Sykes, and Jon Sykes.

Submitted by Team Captain, Donna Hoskins-Helm

THE OLIVER COLLECTIVE

The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund has increased by \$1635! Thanks to each contributor! The response to premiums offered by the OLIVER COLLECTIVE two Sundays in April after Sunday services was heartwarming indeed! THANKS!

Your next chance? September 20 and September 27, 2009.

The OLIVER COLLECTIVE is a group of contributors of personal art work as premium gifts for contributions to the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund. One Scholarship of \$5000 is offered annually to a graduate of the Harrisburg Schools. A mentor from the UCH congregation further links with each Scholar over four years of post-secondary work.

See <http://harrisburguu.org/Lay-Led/lagrone.asp> for detail on the Scholars and Oliver. See the light box display in the Common Room at UCH for further information.

Submitted by Cordell Affeldt

Wherever you go,
go with all your heart.

Confucius

ADOPT-A-HIGHWAY

On a very warm April day ten UU's and Swatara Church of God parishioners picked up litter along Lindle Road. The Great PA Clean-Up date was picked by Penn Dot in recognition of Earth Day. Twenty-eight bags of trash were gathered.

The local hero award was, once again, given to Tom Winner for dragging seven waterlogged tires up a steep bank. He went beyond the call of duty.

Due to church fiscal constraints the budget for Adopt-A-Highway was eliminated during the winter. This proved a hardship as the nourishment previously doled out was unavailable. Fortunately several partially filled cans of Diet Coke and Old Milwaukee Beer were found among the weeds. While the liquid proved to be both warm and flat they did hit the spot on this day with the temperature in the 80's. Eagle-eyed participants noted two deer that had been killed by cars. Toward the end of the two hour session three of the hungrier members were discouraged from salvaging the flank meat from these animals. The next session scheduled for Adopt-A-Highway will be in the 2009-2010 fiscal year and the budget will be restored.

Submitted by John Hargreaves



Work Days
@ 1508 MARKET STREET
10:00 AM to 4:00 PM
Jobs for all!

Saturdays, June 13th;
July 11th; and August 15th
Cleaning supplies provided - bring tools
Snacks and lunch provided
Childcare available
Come for the whole time or just an hour

ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE WINDING DOWN!

I'd like to extend a very grateful and great big thanks to everyone who submitted their pledges so far this year. As of this writing, we're over 90% of the way towards the stretch budget goal. If you haven't submitted your pledge yet, there's still time! If you do not have a pledge card, you can drop me an email at stewardship@harrisburguu.org or call me at 717-361-2992.

I'd also like to extend a very grateful and even bigger thank you to all the folks who volunteered to help organize, host and facilitate the zip code cottage meetings: Joyce & Dale Dourte, Laura Shemick, Kevin Geist & Andy Back, Sparkie Radcliffe, Barb & Mac MacPherson, Joyce & Doug Hoskins, Karen & Ed Sykes, Phil & Donna Hoskins-Helm, EvAnn & Rick Hawley, Marybeth Williams, Susi Mapp, Mary Lou & Raymond Harris, James and Mary Henninger-Voss, Trish Brandon, Chris & Jennifer Ziegler, Randa Todd, Alice & Tom Winner, Rev. Howard Dana, Rachel Mark, Anita & John Mentzer, Cynthia Tyger, JD Stillwater, Rebecca Waldemar, Maria Gregg, Kate Quimby, Leta Beam, Pete & Kendra Trufahnestock, Pam Desch, Bart & Kate Carpenter, Mary Ann Rhoads, Cathy Montes & John Forrest, Joe & Kandy Melillo, Ann Johnston, and Donald Anklam & Mark Smith. The response was overwhelmingly positive! Many folks would love to do this again for reasons totally unrelated to the budget drive, so if you're interested in participating in something like this again, let me know!

And of course, I really need to thank the folks who helped with all the phone calls, reaching out to folks and talking about the budget, quite probably the most time-consuming thing we do as part of Stewardship – these are my heroes: Mary Ann Rhoades, Donna Hoskins-Helm, Bart Carpenter, Michael Mark, Dick Hoke, John Hargreaves, Jim Cavenaugh and Joe Melillo.

*Submitted by Alanna Berger
Stewardship Coordinator*

QUESTERS

This is not a quest which tries to tempt prospective candidates with the offer of prosperity or to bribe them with the satisfaction of their desires. ~ Paul Brunton

Questers will meet on June 9 and 23 at 7 PM.

Submitted by Terence Sillett

Helping Women in Prison & Their Families

Eggs, bacon, sausage and lots of breakfast foods were consumed by the 55 residents of local work release centers and half-way houses at the annual church sponsored re-entry breakfast on April 18th. They were appreciative of their time away from what can be a dreary living environment and, no doubt, the food was far superior to their usual fare. WIPF thanks all members of the Church who helped put this breakfast together, especially the Mark's COUCH Group. We hosted this soiree in conjunction with Christian Churches United.

Nowhere near as upbeat was the book, *Doing Time on the Outside* that was the subject of the April book discussion group. This compendium examines the devastating effects on family life of incarceration and how difficult it is to make the transition from prison back to healthy neighborhoods.

One of the upcoming opportunities for Church members is the Party for the PROGRAM June 5 at the Holiday Inn on Lindle road (yes, the highway is clean because that is our stretch of Adopt-A Highway.) This is the annual fundraiser for the PROGRAM for Female Offenders with whom the Church has been working closely for years. Join us for dinner and to meet these fine people who are turning their lives around.

The PROGRAM could still use volunteers to help train ex-offenders in basic computer use and don't forget to bring the classified advertisements from Sunday's paper to aid in the job search. They can be placed in the baskets by the upstairs coat racks and in the downstairs entryway.

Join us for our next meeting, Tuesday June 2nd at 7:30.

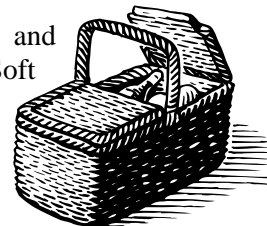
One on one, a little at a time.

Submitted by John Hargreaves

Harrisburg Area Humanists SUMMER PICNIC

Join the humanists for a potluck picnic on Saturday, July 18, from 4:00 to 7:00 PM. Come to learn more about humanism, or just to enjoy the fellowship of others.

Bring a dish to share with others, and bring a chair or blanket to sit on. Soft drinks will be provided. The picnic will be held at the home of Peter and Mary Houts.



Please RSVP by July 13 so we know how many to expect. Call Willie Calhoun at 566-5167, or e-mail humanists@harrisburguu.org.

Submitted by David Spear

For Friends & Families of Problem Drinkers

Al-Anon Meeting Wednesdays at 6:00 PM

Sophia Lyon Fahs Room (lower level)

For over 55 years, Al-Anon has been offering strength and hope for friends and families of problem drinkers. It is estimated that each alcoholic affects the lives of at least four other people... alcoholism is truly a family disease. No matter what relationship you have with an alcoholic, whether they are still drinking or not, all who have been affected by someone else's drinking can find solutions that lead to serenity in the Al-Anon fellowship.

Many who come to Al-Anon are in despair, feeling hopeless, unable to believe that things can ever change. We want our lives to be different, but nothing we have done has brought about change. We all come to Al-Anon because we want and need help. In Al-Anon, members share their own experience, strength, and hope with each other. You will meet others who share your feelings and frustrations, if not your exact situation. We come together to learn a better way of life, to find happiness whether the alcoholic is still drinking or not.

Al-anon is an anonymous fellowship. Everything that is said in the group meeting and member-to-member is held in confidence. In this way we can feel free to say what is in our minds and hearts, for this is how we help one another in Al-anon.

Al-Anon is a spiritual fellowship, not a religious one. We avoid discussion of specific religious doctrine, and members of all faiths (or of none) are welcome.

Newcomers are welcomed to meetings, provided with literature and a local meeting list, and invited to listen and learn. Members are available to answer questions before or after the meetings.

For more information, please visit the web site:

<http://www.al-anon.alateen.org/newcomer.html>

or contact Holly Hartman

by phone 717-623-3051 or e-mail purdytig@yahoo.com.

Submitted by Holly Hartman

*Rest is no idleness, and to lie sometimes
on the grass on a summer day listening to
the murmur of water, or watching the
clouds float across the sky,
is hardly a waste of time.*

John Lubbock



Coffee House Double Header

Clover Lane Coffee House is pleased to present a double header to open the summer season: a special Celtic concert with *'Round the House* on Tuesday, June 16, at 7:30 PM, and our regular Third Friday coffee house with singer/songwriter Brady Earnhart on June 19, at 8:00 PM. Tickets are \$5 per concert; both are in the UCH Common Room.

Tucson-based *'Round the House* made their East Coast debut in 2008, including a stop at the UCH – and we're happy to welcome them back for an encore. The four-person band delivers up a mix of lively Irish dance tunes – lovely jigs, driving reels, and songs in both English and Irish. With three excellent CDs out and recent performances with top Irish bands, Téada and the David Munelly Band, they are a rising star on the Celtic music scene. We're thrilled to catch them on tour again, even if we have to settle for a Tuesday!

Brady Earnhart is a songwriter, a poet, and a professor of American Literature and Creative Writing at the University of Mary Washington in Fredericksburg, VA. His song "Gargoyle" won the Gold Medal in the Folk Category of the 2002 Mid-Atlantic Songwriting Contest, and his second CD, *Manalapan*, was runner-up in the 2004 national Outmusic Awards. He was the February 2007 "Featured Player of the Month" by Gay Guitarists Worldwide. Accompanying him for the evening is cellist Rebecca Maxon.

Submitted by Bart Carpenter

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Association



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. *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.