



# Newsletter

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the  
South Jersey Shore

Volume 15, Issue 01

January 2013

## January Services “Prayer”

We meet at our UU Center, Pomona Rd and Liebig Street, Galloway NJ (near the north entrance to Richard Stockton College).  
Services are at 10:00 am unless otherwise noted.

**Note: in case of inclement weather, you can call the church phone at 609-965-9400 for a recording as to whether events or services are delayed or cancelled.**

<b>January 6</b>	<p><b>Prayers of the Magi</b> <i>Reverend Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>One chapter in Matthew deals with astrology and slaughter, rich and poor, power and escape. It is oddly relevant today. This week we will also begin the UU Service Committee's "Guest At Your Table" campaign.</p>
<b>January 13</b>	<p><b>Permutations of Prayer</b> <i>Lay speaker Lauren Porr</i></p> <p>What do the rosary, spells, meditation, singing, and martial arts all have in common? Spiritual adventurer Lauren Porr examines the universality of prayer and its many names in different traditions.</p>
<b>January 20</b>	<p><b>Prayers of Martin Luther King</b> <i>Reverend Charlie Dieterich</i></p> <p>We tend to think of Martin Luther King, Jr. as a speech making leader. What can we learn from his prayers? How did he see the power of prayer? Was prayer political or personal? What prayer would you pray after receiving death threats?</p>
<b>January 27</b>	<p><b>Singing Meditation</b> <i>Lay speaker Barbara Miller, Music Director</i></p> <p>Singing Meditation is an interfaith spiritual practice that combines singing – of many types – with group observation of silence. Combining the two practices, which are often engaged in separately, results in a synergy that enhances each component. Music Director Barbara Miller and the UUCSJS choir will lead us in this celebration of Song and Silence.</p>

## Covenanting Workshop

**Saturday, January 12, 2013 from 9 am to 3 pm**

**with Rev. Libby Smith.**

**Lunch will be provided -- please RSVP..**

***See page 5 for more details.***

## Meditation "Gather 'Roun"

A colleague, Rev. Dr. Edward Frost from the UU Congregation of Atlanta, sent this around to the minister's group. I thought I'd share it with all of you. -- Rev. Charlie

(written after the Oklahoma City Bombing)



### Margaret Fuller Circle

Margaret Circle met Thursday January 3, where Michelle Tomko presented a follow-up on Sunday's "Fire Communion Service." This prompted a lively and interesting discussion. Peg Gillies was our hostess. Our next meeting will be on February 7. Happy New Year! -- Judy Brown, Circle Leader

### Next 350.org Meeting features Art, Music, and Saving the Planet! Tuesday, January 8, 6-7 pm

There will be a Concert and Environmental Art Show at the UU Center featuring the amazing art work of local artist Steve Kuzma, including local scenes as well as pieces from his "AMERICAN DREAM" show of US National Park scenes. Admission is FREE but a donation to the local 350.ORG chapter would be much appreciated! Please talk to Victor Maene, Ron Hutchison, or Steve Fiedler for more info.

### 2013 Worship Arts Festival - Registration Now Open!!

February 22-23, 2013

UU Church in Cherry Hill  
401 North Kings Highway  
Cherry Hill, NJ 08034

This year's featured presenter is UU Growth, Outreach, RE & Media Consultant **Peter Bowden** speaking on ***Worship in an Age of Collaboration.***

**Winter is here!  
Time for homemade soup and  
warm baked bread.**

Buy **Gift Cards** any Sunday for **Acme & Shoprite.**

Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%.

We also have Fair Trade coffee, tea, and chocolate!

I was, like them, new to the world, living in England when my city was still being bombed.

I never knew innocence.

I could only assume that being bombed,

losing my friends and relatives,  
the gutted buildings and smoking ruins--  
I could only assume

this was the nature of existence  
--this was the world in which I would live.

But I can offer this--as can millions of survivors of battles, bombings, concentration camps and all manner of human and natural terrors--that if the world is not innocent as Eden, purely good and safe, nor is it an evil place.

There is evil, which--who really knows why--some come to and are transformed.  
But there is also good,  
which I truly believe is embodied  
by the vast majority of humankind.

For every insane bomber,  
there are tens of millions of people  
who will crawl into the smoking ruins  
toward the voice of a crying child,  
who will sit and cry for the suffering of people they never knew,  
who will--in the face of such evil as this--  
remind us over and over again of what is good.

The world is not a safe place.  
No one ever said it is.

We teach our children that the stove is hot,  
that the street is dangerous,  
that the woodpile is not safe.

We also teach our children  
to hear the music, to sing the songs,  
to honor the creatures and the earth we share together.

We teach our children not to talk to strangers.

We also teach them, by our example,  
by the tears we shed for the slaughter of the innocents  
that life is so good, so worth risking,  
that our hearts ache when a single life is lost.

It may be that someone around our campfire  
will do us harm.

Still, the circle of humankind  
around the light and warmth  
is what we have.

It would be far worse for us if, in our fear,  
we doused the fire  
and ran, alone, into the dark.

I light a candle in a shadowing corner of my soul  
as a prayer for comfort

for all who grieve loss inconsolable

and as a symbol of that fire

--truth, goodness, hope, love--

around which we gather for comfort

and for courage.

-- Rev Edward Frost

# Reverend Charlie's Page

## January Reflections

January's theme is Prayer. When the Worship Committee decided on the theme I wondered if we'd fill it... I knew that I could tell stories of being a hospital chaplain, of my time with more traditionally Christian patients who expected a chaplain to pray with them, and I knew I could talk about Kate Braestrup's experiences as a chaplain to game wardens in Maine, too. Still, I wondered if anyone else here at UUCSJS had any interest in prayer. As it turned out, my two sermons this month will be about prayer, but because they occur on holiday weekends: the first on Three Kings Day and the second on Martin Luther King Day, I won't be talking about my own experiences, nor Rev. Kate's. The other two weekends, however, were snapped up by folks wanting to share. We probably could fill two months with prayer. Maybe next year.

What image does the word 'prayer' bring to mind? Perhaps Jimmy Swaggart's contorted face on a religious channel, or Billy Graham's lined, serene face praying at the time of some national tragedy. Maybe you think of a Muslim friend, praying five times a day, or Tibetan Buddhists, spinning a prayer wheel and chanting. Maybe you recall your first prayer, palms pressed together as you lay in bed, or a parent saying the Rosary beside a sick child. Indeed, there is a world of prayer out there, and in here too.

*"Let the beauty we love be what we do. There are hundreds of ways to kneel and kiss the ground."  
- Rumi*

One of the things I had to learn in seminary was not so much how to pray but why. It has been reported that in battle even atheists pray, and some even become very religious afterward. And it is also true, according to a Navy chaplain I chatted with briefly, that very religious Marines can lose their faith in battle. Some prayers are "answered" and some are not.

For me, the best prayers have no return address, no expectation of answer. A space and time where I call to mind that which is important to me. Blessings and gratitude and acknowledgement of love and resolve are prayers I like to say. Memorial prayers, like those

we might say for the dead at the shooting in Connecticut or the firefighters murdered in New York, are not so easy. What can you say other than, you were loved, we are ashamed that we could not protect you, and we will be more mindful in the future?

This month we will spend time talking about what works and what doesn't work in prayer. Please give it a try!

Peace, Rev. Charlie

## Community

January is a good time to be in community. I know I'm hosting a charades party as part of my Auction offering, and that will be a chance to sit together and laugh. Our Adult Religious Education Committee has been working toward making January a good community month too. If you missed the "UUnativity Players" explanation of upcoming programs, well, I'll only give you a hint of what is to come.

Elevator speeches are simple things... "Come see Lucy the Elephant. It's old and it's odd, but where else do you get a chance to walk through an elephant? And the beach is nice there too." or "I love the Noyes Museum because there is always something there which invites me to think in a different way." But how do you describe your experience of UUCSJS? Stay all day on January 6th.

The Saturday workshop on the 12th is a bit more contemplative. What promises will we make to each other? If our congregation is welcoming of all who seek truth and meaning in their lives, how can we deal with behaviors that clash? What does community mean?

And the "Small group ministry" evenings are even more contemplative. They are chances to reflect on a theme. There are no winners or losers, no right or wrong. We practice listening to others with respect.

For those more interested in telling stories, debate, and humor, the Circle Dinners will provide that outlet, and a chance to cook, and meet new members!

-- Rev. Charlie

**Reverend Charlie has regular office hours from  
10 am to 2 pm Wednesdays at the UU Center.**

Feel free to call the office for a half hour appointment (he has his own mailbox on the answering machine), or send him a note at [minister@uucsjs.org](mailto:minister@uucsjs.org).

"Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

-- Mahatma Gandhi



## The Paw Print

Your link to the doings of the South Jersey Animal Advocates

“A human body in no way resembles those that were born for ravenousness; it hath no hawk’s bill, no sharp talon, no roughness of teeth, no such strength of stomach or heat of digestion, as can be sufficient to convert or alter such heavy and fleshy fare. But if you will contend that you were born to an inclination to such food as you have now a mind to eat, do you then yourself kill what you would eat. But do it yourself, without the help of a chopping-knife, mallet or axe, as wolves, bears, and lions do, who kill and eat at once. Rend an ox with thy teeth, worry a hog with thy mouth, tear a lamb or a hare in pieces, and fall on and eat it alive as they do. But if thou had rather stay until what thou eat is to become dead, and if thou art loath to force a soul out of its body, why then dost thou against nature eat an animate thing? There is nobody that is willing to eat even a lifeless and a dead thing even as it is; so they boil it, and roast it, and alter it by fire and medicines, as it were, changing and quenching the slaughtered gore with thousands of sweet sauces, that the palate being thereby deceived may admit of such uncouth fare.” — *Plutarch*

SJAA would love to wish everyone a very Happy New Year. In this time of resolutions, we hope that one of yours may be to eat a bit more ethically (which usually means more healthy too). Or, if you were considering adopting a pet that you consider getting one of the many Hurricane Sandy animals desperately in need of a home. Check out your local shelter. Or visit the one UUCSJS is collecting for this month. Anything you can do helps.

SJAA will be ringing in the New Year with a January collection for the Atlantic County Animal Shelter in Pleasantville. The shelter's mission is to provide love and compassion in a healthy environment to animals while attempting to reunite them with their owners; to educate the public on responsible ownership; and to facilitate successful pet adoptions while respecting and striving to improve the quality of life for both pets and people. Much of the care and feeding of the animals is conducted via a small staff and volunteers. Although the County provides them with animal food and cleaning supplies, they still rely on donations from the public. **Contributions of the following are greatly needed and would be most appreciated: bedding (anything to sleep on); old blankets/quilts; towels; wash-cloths; rags; cat and dog toys; cat and dog treats; and newspaper.**



*“Society everywhere is in conspiracy against the manhood of every one of its members.”*

— Ralph Waldo Emerson, “Self-Reliance”

## Book Group to Contemplate *The Age of Innocence* by Edith Wharton

Winner of the 1921 Pulitzer Prize, *The Age of Innocence* is Edith Wharton’s “masterful portrait of desire and betrayal during the sumptuous Golden Age of Old New York, a time when society people ‘dreaded scandal more than disease.’”<sup>1</sup> Join us on **Friday, January 18 at 7 pm in the UU Center Library**, as book group gets together to contemplate this 93-year-old classic. Ellie Gibson, who will lead our discussion, has already revealed she finds Wharton’s writing, “simply divine.”<sup>2</sup>

*The Age of Innocence* was composed during 1919 and appeared originally as installments in the monthly New York *Pictorial Review* in 1920. According to critic, teacher, and fiction writer Maureen Howard, readers were lured with the high comic tone of the opening chapters. “Wharton’s genius lies in offering the pleasure of a romance, then engaging the reader in a stunning exploration of boundaries between the demands of society and personal freedom, illicit passion and moral responsibility.”<sup>3</sup> She states: “We are drawn by the broad humor at the outset of the novel to the discovery of a darker story without the simple solutions of melodrama.”

Edith Wharton was born Edith Newbold Jones in 1862 into such wealth and privilege that her family inspired the phrase, “keeping up with the Joneses.”<sup>4</sup> Her parents, descendants of prosperous English and Dutch businessmen, bankers, and lawyers, were pillars of the fashionable New York and Newport, Rhode Island society Wharton would later depict in many of her works.<sup>5</sup>

Wharton’s first major novel, *The House of Mirth*, published in 1905, enjoyed considerable literary success, and *Ethan Frome*, six years later, solidified her reputation as an important novelist. Often in the company of her close friend, Henry James, Wharton mingled with some of the most famous writers and artists of the day, including F. Scott Fitzgerald, André Gide, Sinclair Lewis, Jean Cocteau, and Jack London.<sup>6</sup> She died in 1937 at her home in France.

Looking ahead to February, our selection will be the more contemporary *Olive Kitteridge* by Elizabeth Strout. Winner of a 2009 Pulitzer Prize for fiction, it’s the story of a junior high math teacher who lives on the coast of Maine and has been described as “perceptive” and “deeply empathetic.” Patti Kenney will lead our discussion.

Everyone is welcome at book group meetings, held on the 3rd Friday evening each month, September through June. We wish for new members in 2013, and hope you can join us on Friday, January 16. Bring a light snack to share if you like. To receive reminders and other occasional literary notices, contact Judy Pereira. *Hope to see you there!*

<sup>1</sup>Back cover, Barnes & Noble (B&N) Classics edition (2004)

<sup>2</sup>Paraphrasing Ms. Gibson, without her permission.

<sup>3</sup>Maureen Howard, *Introduction* to B&N Classics edition

<sup>4</sup>*Age of Innocence* Literature Guide (TeacherVision.com)

<sup>5,6</sup>*Age of Innocence* (Wharton) (LitLovers.com/reading-guides)

# Message from UUCSJS President Karen York

## Possibilities

Welcome to 2013!! This year, instead of making a resolution, I decided to choose a word to be my theme for the year. The word that came up for me is “Possibilities”. I am very much in a transitional time in my life, and my reoccurring thoughts are about new directions on the horizon. I am entering my sixth month as UUCSJS President and I am still learning so much about our congregational “system” and how we work together. I am looking forward to the Covenanting Workshop January 12 as an opportunity to share ideas with each other about how to be in community together. It is an important collaborative process that will be most effective with broad participation of our membership, so I hope you will be able to join us.

In January and February there are many opportunities listening, reflecting, celebrating, socializing, and connecting with other members of the congregation. The Adult Religious Education committee is offering several new programs including new small group meetings. The Circle dinners are starting up, there are many auction events (some still have openings), a Mardi Gras dance is scheduled for February 9, as well as our regularly scheduled Coffee House (fourth Friday!). Events on the horizon for March include the Fellowship dinner (and talent show), which is the kick-off for our annual spring stewardship campaign.

Looking outward into the wider community, and the impact we can have in the world. This year the congregation approved a budget that included a special fund drive each month as a targeted collection to raise funds for special donations to projects outside of the congregation. These special fund drives have enabled additional contributions to some local charitable organizations (Community Food Bank of New Jersey - Southern Branch, Sister Jean Webster’s Kitchen, local animal shelters, Coalition against Rape and Abuse), or other organizations (Friends of Peace Pilgrim, Murray Grove Association). January’s charitable focus will collect for the work of the UU Service Committee, and also to consider that organization as a model for social action.

Karen York, President UUCSJS

### Reflection on Community – UU style

Please join us for a Covenanting Workshop **Saturday January 12, 2013 from 9 am to 3 pm** with Rev. Libby Smith. Lunch will be provided (please RSVP).

Covenanting refers to the promises we make to each other about how to be together in community. As Unitarian Universalists, we are a covenantal faith community held together by our relationships and the promises we make to one another. This workshop will explore what it means to be in community, and provide us with a process to share our intentions. We hope you will participate in this reflection on community as we continue to grow, evolve, and mature as a congregation.

Look for a sign-up sheet on Sunday or sign up by sending an **email to [AdultRE.uucsjs@gmail.com](mailto:AdultRE.uucsjs@gmail.com), with your name, contact information, and that you are registering for “The Covenanting Workshop.”**

### Openings left for some Auction Events:

You may still sign up for some auction events that will be happening mostly this winter. Simply go to the signup table, sign your name on the Event Form, put the amount of money owned in an envelope that is there, along with your name, and a label from that event. Either give it to Betsy Searight, or the person collecting the money on Sunday, or put it directly in the collection plate.

Relaxation Poetry Workshop	Wed Eve, Jan 9	\$25 pp
Winter Afternoon Tea	Sat., Jan 19, 1 pm	\$15 pp
Genealogy Workshop	Sunday, Jan 27, 12-2	\$20 pp
American Mah-Jong class	Thursday morning, Feb. 6	\$20 pp
Beer Brewing Demonstration	Sat, Feb 9, 7-9:30 pm	\$20 pp
Poetry Writing Workshop	Sat, March 2 10-12	\$30 pp
Pottery Class for 8-12 yr olds	Sat April 6, or April 13, 10-12	\$10 pp

God answers sharp and sudden on some prayers and thrust the thing we have prayed for in our face, like a gauntlet with a gift in it.  
-Elizabeth Barrett Browning

**Board of Trustees**  
**HIGHLIGHTS**  
**December 2012**

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **Board of Trustees** was held on Wednesday, December 12, 2012, at 6:30 pm in the UU Center, President Karen York presiding. Chalice lighting words affirming our shared principles were read in unison, and joys and concerns were shared.

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

President York announced that, **1) The next Board "Talk Back"** takes place Sunday, December 16 at 11:30 am, John Searight and Joe Terrazzini in attendance; the schedule is posted in the UU Center office. **2) The Covenanting Workshop** is scheduled for **Saturday, January 12 from 9 am to 3 pm at the Center**, facilitated by Rev. Libby Smith, of the UU Fellowship of Lower Bucks. All congregation members are invited to sign up for this opportunity to help craft our UUCSJS policy of "right relations," or how we covenant to act towards one another within our community. Lunch will be provided. Members of the Program Council, Committee on Ministry, Board of Trustees, and staff are urged to take part. **3) Rental of the UU Center** by a local branch of the **Society for Creative Anachronism (SCA)** is scheduled for **Saturday, February 9**, the same day as planned for the FUUN-sponsored Mardi Gras dance. In the interests of encouraging growth of building rentals by outside groups, both parties have agreed they can work around each other, and arrangements are being made to accommodate both events.

• **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

**1) Special Funding Drive for hoodies, socks, and hats.** The Board approved by unanimous vote, congregant Richard Grzywinski's request for a special funding drive again this year to supply clothing to needy students at Cape Educational Compact in Cape May and Eagle Academy in Egg Harbor Township; however, it was noted that this year the drive was off to a delayed start and likely could not be accomplished in time for the holidays.

**2) UUSC's "Guest at Your Table" scheduling.** Although some might prefer to contribute before the end of 2012 for tax purposes, the Board decided to hold a special collection in January to benefit this annual UU Service Committee (UUSC) fundraising drive. Rev. Charlie noted "Guest at Your Table" has an educational component, too, which we can embrace alongside the January collection effort.

**3) "OccuCards" at the Social Justice table.** "OccuCards" are two-sided, 4" x 6" informational cards describing 15 issues identified as important by the Occupy Wall Street movement, available at the Social Justice table in the UU Center lobby. While some were concerned their availability could be interpreted as a congregational endorsement, after discussion the Board agreed they would remain available in the interests of the value of the free exchange of ideas, and of the importance of tolerance and being open to differing points of view, among other considerations.

• **REPORTS**

**1) Minister's Report.** Expanding on his monthly report to the Board, Rev. Charlie Dieterich made the following additional remarks: —*He's glad* the "right relations" workshop on Saturday, January 12, with Rev. Libby is to be open to the entire congregation; —*It's very good* Program Council understands "calendar" is important; —*The "general overall thing"* is we're moving on and focusing on things that will serve us going forward; and, —*If we can find a way* to continue to be a beacon to the local LGBT community via Interweave, that will be very good ...

**2) Treasurer's Report.** Along with his spreadsheet "UUCSJS Budget Report for November 2012," John Searight told the Board that *Total Income improved significantly* over October, much of this due to our successful Service Auction on November 17, which raised slightly more than \$10,000. *Total Expenses increased*, too, but largely due to November's having three pay periods.

In October we had eliminated the extra \$300 payment toward mortgage principal due to budget concerns, but the Finance committee recommended we continue the practice; we have done so in November and will continue the \$300 extra payments for the rest of the fiscal year. Finance committee members have said they will solicit contributions to cover the costs of these extra payments.

For the December newsletter, Searight wrote a column on our financial health and portions of this article will be repeated in the Midweek Announcements. This is part of an effort to communicate more explicitly to members and friends about the fiscal challenges we face in the year ahead, he explained.

*Other topics included:* 1) First UU Church of Wilmington, DE, has reminded us our current five-year Growth Grant expires in February 2013, and we are encouraged to write a new proposal; and 2) The treasurer has renegotiated our elevator service contract with the regional manager of Schindler Elevator Corp., Egg Harbor Township, at a cost of \$1,060 per year rather than \$1,750, as before.

Closing out his report, Searight said we continue to be short of our annual pledge drive goal by \$5,343. Counting some \$7,800 as "soft income" which we cannot rely on receiving—and adding in the \$5,343 pledge shortfall—we *may find ourselves short of income by as much as \$12,000 or more*, later this year, the treasurer cautioned.

However, it should also be noted that at present we are \$8,275 *under budget in total expenses*, and also, Reserve Funds are again up to \$10,000; we'll have a better idea in January of where things stand, he said.

• **Adjournment** – The next meeting of the Board of Trustees was set for Wednesday, January 16 at 6:30 pm (one week later than normal); the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 pm.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of  
the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on  
**Wednesday, January 16, 2012** at  
**6:30 pm** at the UU Center,  
75 S. Pomona Rd.

**FYI...**

During November, we delivered  
**118 donated items** of assorted foods  
collected by the children on Sundays,  
to our local branch of the



## ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The first program of 2013, “**What Floor, Please?**” was developed to help our members and friends of our congregation create their own elevator speech that answers the burning question: “What is Unitarian Universalism?”

It was presented as this issue of the Newsletter went to press on Sunday, January 6. We were fortunate to have Bob Baum facilitate this workshop along with other Adult RE committee members. Participants were taken through a group of guided activities that awaken introspection resulting in their own personal 25-30 second elevator speech. At the end of the workshop each participant left with a booklet of all the speeches that were created.

There is still time to join in on the **Covenanting Workshop** on Saturday January 12, from 9 am to 3 pm. Rev. Libby Smith, who was the main speaker at the Ordination of Rev. Charlie and who has led us in other workshops, will help us in develop a covenant as it refers to the promises we make to each other about how to be together in community. As Unitarian Universalists, we are a covenantal faith community held together by our relationships and the promises we make to one another. This workshop will explore what it means to be in community, and provide us with a process to share our intentions. We hope you will participate in this reflection on community as we continue to grow, evolve, and mature as a congregation. If you are interested in attending, please register so we have a somewhat accurate count to provide lunch for all.

**Small Group Ministry for Adults**, our third program will consist of two sessions in January and two sessions in February. Each 90 minute session is an opportunity to share perspectives on a selected topic. You are encouraged to attend all four sessions, which will be with the same group of 6-10 adults. This sort of continuing community allows for sharing of many thoughts and emotions in a safe environment, and you may find it helps you feel a part of our community. Other congregations have very active "small group" programs and report enthusiastic support from participants. Couples may attend a group together or different groups if they like.

Participation requires agreement to a covenant of confidentiality and interaction to make sharing safe for all. We plan to meet in a member's home—hopefully one near you—every other week for a total of four sessions. When signing up, list preferences: Tues evenings (Jan. 15 & 29 and Feb. 12 & 26) or Wed. evenings (Jan. 16 & 30 and Feb. 13 & 27) or Thurs evenings (Jan 17 & 31 and Feb 14 & 28). If you prefer to meet during the daytime, and if there is enough interest, we will offer a group on Thursday at 1:30 on the Thursday dates above, meeting at our UU Center.

We would like to offer a **new and easy method to register** for any Adult RE course. Just send an email to [AdultRE.uucsjs@gmail.com](mailto:AdultRE.uucsjs@gmail.com), telling us your name, contact information, and which course you wish to attend. For the “Small Group Ministry” course, please tell us which days you are able to attend. You may also email us at the same address to ask questions. If you already signed up for any of the January programs, you do not need to re-register.

-- Prim Reeves, Chair, Adult RE

## CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

### A Lifetime of Learning in Children's RE

Happy New Year!

As we cross the threshold from the old year to the new, we are often inspired to try new things: we start new projects, try new hobbies and opt for healthier, happier lifestyles than the ones we had in years past. While you are trying new things, why not come downstairs one Sunday and learn something new in Children's Religious Education?

Because you're not a child, you say?

Lucky for you, learning in Children's RE doesn't require you to be! Want to know more about the Bible? Assist Michael Cluff in our Bibleodeon class as the group explores the Old Testament. Are you more interested in science and nature? Paul's class will be looking at the stories scientists tell this month. Want to participate in a discussion on how the choices we make affect our lives and the lives of others? Join our teen class this month as they focus on this topic reflected in popular films. The learning opportunities abound!

Since the month of January is named for the Roman god Janus (*the 2 faced god of beginnings, transitions, doorways, endings and time*), we extend this Janus-style invite to you to:

- Sign up 2 help in RE
- Join the entire congregation for the *beginning* of service until the children are sung out
- *Transition* to the lower level through the left *doorway*
- Remain in our classes until the *end(ing)* of service
- Have a great (and educational) *time!*

-- Heidi Jansch, Director of Religious Education

### From the UU Blogosphere...

*The Rev. Marguerite Sheehan writes about talking with her grandchildren about the tragedy in Newtown, Connecticut — and her granddaughter's response:*

Yesterday Kiara came to our house singing a song which I imagine was inspired by what she had heard and took in about the tragedy and about how all of us, no matter who we are, are loved beyond imagination: ... “I am loved! There are many adults who love me! I am loved! Everyone knows my name! At Quaker meeting I have a name tag and everyone knows my name. I am loved! Everybody loves me! I have a family and everybody loves me! I am loved! Everyone knows my name...” (Reverend Marguerite, December 18)

“Prayer is the key of the morning  
and the bolt of the evening.”

-- Mahatma Gandhi

# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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## Board of Trustees 2012-13

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Debbi Dagavarian, Judy Pereira, Lauren Porr,  
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Art Wexler, Karen York

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – [newsletter@uucsjs.org](mailto:newsletter@uucsjs.org)

**Visit us on the Web: [www.uucsjs.org](http://www.uucsjs.org)**

**January 2013**

**Unitarian Universalist  
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