



Newsletter



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore

Volume 11, Issue 04

April 2009

April Services

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.

April 5	<p>The Beatitudes <i>The Reverend Rosemarie Newberry</i> The Sermon on the Mount is considered one of the most famous collections of wisdom of the prophet Jesus. The Rev. Rosemarie Newberry will look at the two versions that exist in the Christian Scriptures and reflect on the message that it has for us today. This sermon topic was picked as part of the annual auction -- thank you, Betsy and John Searight. Also, in this service will be a time for new members to sign the membership book.</p>
April 12	<p>A Single Path <i>Lay speaker Margaret Rea</i> Margaret Rea, long time member of this Congregation, will speak about the past and present use of Labyrinths as tools for meditation, metaphors for life's journey, and platforms for healing and ritual.</p>
April 19	<p>Our Shared Ministries <i>The Reverend Rosemarie Newberry</i> The new Committee on Ministry and The Rev Rosemarie Newberry will be sharing and reflecting on our shared ministries. We will be considering how we work together, how we handle conflicts, how we divide up the responsibilities between professional and lay ministers. There will be an opportunity after the service to gather and discuss deeper your thoughts and views. This Sunday will also be the first Children's Chapel. The children will not be with the adults upstairs and will enjoy their own chapel downstairs. Both the Children's Chapel and the after service discussions are embraced by many Unitarian Universalist congregations and we are trying them out as an experiment. We would love to hear your feedback.</p>
April 26	<p>The Water Cycle, Past and Future <i>The Reverend Rosemarie Newberry</i> This will be an intergenerational service; the children will attend the entire service. In honor of Earth Day, we will be learning about our water, including pollution and water rights. Everyone will learn something new and be motivated to make changes in their lives. The Core of Fire, a Unitarian Universalist (mostly) liturgical dance group, will dance a new piece of theirs.</p>

Words from... The Reverend Rosemarie Newberry



If you want to build a ship, don't herd people together to collect wood and don't assign them tasks and work, but rather teach them to long for the endless immensities of the sea. ~ de Saint-Exupery

This quote popped up in an email from a minister sometime during the last month. I like the rich metaphor of ships and the sea. My late husband was a wanna-be boat builder and just loved looking at the old methods of hand building boats. And, my cousin is a certified boat builder. She never did any work in that field, preferring to sing jazz instead.

I have never been much of a boater. I have been plagued with motion sickness all my life. But I do long for the sea. The sea of tranquility, of peace, of loving kindness. For me, it is never about the work that is needed to make those trips. It is always the desire to be out there, floating in peace with people that I know, people that I don't know, and people that I will soon know.

Here at UUCSJS we have been boat builders with much gathering of wood, tasks assigned and work that was done. Yet, at the heart here is to lead each and every one to a longing for the endless wonders of the sea. Offered here is much to enrich your soul and your lives. If you haven't found the right thing yet, try something new. If you feel like you need something that isn't offered, just let us know. We are here together, exploring, living, loving. We are in it together.

Ministers Note: I went to my first meeting of Bridges of Faith, an interfaith clergy group in Atlantic County. I have been approached by an Imam and a Minister that are both interested in doing some joint projects where we can learn more about each other. Please let me know if you would like to help create some of these new projects.

Rosemarie has office hours on Tuesday mornings from 9 am to noon. Call the office at 609-965-9400 or send her email to make an appointment. She will also meet with folks in the evening, with an appointment.

Reverend Newberry's email: minister@uucsjs.org

What is the Committee on Ministry?

Never Fear! The Committee on Ministry is here! We are a group who meet monthly with Reverend Newberry, to act as a liaison between the Minister and the Congregation, and to have a two-way dialogue to keep a "pulse" on what is happening at UUCSJS. We have been working to refine the "Covenant Statements" that Rosemarie and the leaders of the congregation wrote during the Start Up Seminar at the end of January, and along with the Board and other leadership, will be starting to work on Visioning for the congregation over the next several months. We are also available to assist in conflict resolution as the need arises. Currently, the committee consists of Carl Benner, Michael Cluff, John Searight, Karen York, and myself. This summer, two to three new members will be needed to replace those departing from the committee. If you have feedback (whether positive and negative), or if you have a conflict that involves either the minister or any other paid staff member, we encourage you to first approach that person directly. However, if you feel uncomfortable doing that, you can approach a Committee on Ministry member to work on addressing the concern.

You will also notice in this month's newsletter, that the April 19 service is about "Shared Ministry". We hope everyone will be able to attend this service, as it will also include more information about the Committee on Ministry. Without spoiling Rev. Newberry's talk, Shared Ministry is what many UU congregations practice – it is a belief that we (Minister, Congregation, Staff) are all in this religious endeavor together. Shared Ministry is what we do to serve our congregations and the broader community individually and together.

Feel free to give me a call or send me an email if you have any questions.

-- Melissa Hutchison, Chair

The Annual Congregational Meeting is coming up in June. All committee chairs and staff members, please hand in your annual report to Kathie Benner.

**2009 JPD Spring Conference:
"Navigating Changing Times"
April 24-25, 2009, Wilmington, DE**

Our own Reverend Newberry, Allison Woolbert and Prim Reeves will be making presentations this year.

Register online at <http://jpdoua.org/register2009.html>

**REFLECTIONS FROM
UUCSJS PRESIDENT
PAUL UTTS**

This month, my daughter transitions to an adult – legally, at least. Many of you have already passed this milestone with your children, but Julia is my first and contemplating her departure is bittersweet. We have six colleges to explore before she decides where to go, but go she will. Richard’s sermon about love this past Sunday caused me to examine what love is for me and although I

have fallen in love many times in my life, it never overwhelmed me as it did with the birth of Julia. I know there is a biochemical explanation for this intense feeling: oxytocin, nature’s way of insuring procreation; nonetheless, even at thirty-five it was surprisingly powerful. Teenage years take some of the gushing bloom off the intensity, nature’s way of emptying the nest, as the relationship shifts (hopefully) to one of mutual respect with love, combined with parental anxiety. Indeed, I wonder if the mother bird experiences her fledgling’s first flight with the same mixed emotions we feel as parents watching our children step into the world. The pride mixed with fear is as overwhelming as the feeling of love was at birth.

Julia has benefited from the love and support of this community as she navigated her voyage to adulthood. I have watched in awe as other members of our community sent their children out into the world with style, grace and confidence that proceeds naturally from a nurturing family environment. Julia enjoys participating in our UU community and has grown intellectually, spiritually and emotionally from the experience.

This month also marks the end of Betsy Searight’s service as our Administrator. She took us through some very difficult times, always working cheerfully to keep us together. Her contribution to our very existence cannot be understated. The Board is in the process of accepting applications as well as asking various committees to replace the many tasks that Betsy handled flawlessly. I would say that replacing her is impossible, and it is. Several times, however, I’ve thought the same about valued Board members leaving the Board, thinking how will we ever get along without ...? -- only to find new Board members who brought new insights and skills to the group. Fortune has certainly smiled on us so far; I’m hoping our lucky streak continues. We can never thank Betsy enough for her years of service and will never fully comprehend the thousands of details she handled through her years of service. Thanks Betsy -- you are amazing.

So maybe we shouldn’t fear change and in fact embrace it, but that is easier said than done. I spent years on stage singing and dancing with little fear, but on my wedding day froze like a deer in the headlights; some milestones are such shifts in our routine that the accompanying anxiety is unavoidable. Money, family, and work are all areas where change can cause stress; the current world economy affects all three. In a spiritual community, knowing we have each other’s support, I think, helps ease that stress. Watching others in our community successfully send their children out into the world helps me feel more confident about the transition, just as seeing the strength and growth of our congregation during past staffing changes helps me feel confident that we are more than the sum of our parts. I’m still anxious, but comforted just the same.

Watching the pitch-in response to the rising waters in North Dakota also reminds me of the benefit of community. Even in the face of potential disaster, the faces of those helping show mostly fatigued pleasure. The sense that they are working together to help each other appears immensely gratifying. The waters of the nation’s problems are still rising, and to the extent that we can help our community, we will. Just as we buy insurance to spread risk of disaster, we support this congregation to spread the risk of concern and magnify feelings of joy and love. I know a bargain when I see one and that’s a bargain. Just as April showers bring May flowers, transitions bring growth and deeper understanding of what it means to be fully alive.



EVER WANTED TO TRAVEL TO EXOTIC, FARAWAY PLACES ?????

In this age of virtual travel... Here's your chance to explore far away parts of the world and be a gracious host at the same time, right in your own home!

AYUSA (Academic Year in the U.S.A.) and YES (Youth Exchange and Study) Programs are your "Priceline" tickets to other world cultures.

On April 5, 2009 a short info-mercial will be presented to explain all this, right after services. Grab your coffee & snack and sit with us to find out more from the students and host families. Debbie Rockelman, regional coordinator for AYUSA, will also be available to answer your questions.

Currently, there are 2 hosting families; Jack & Barbara Miller host Mehwish Zuberi from Islamabad, Pakistan, and Sharon & Justin Gray host Salman Samuil (Sam) Haque from Dhaka, Bangladesh. Last year Evelyn & Tull Benton hosted Houssein Mezzine, from Tangiers, Morocco. Also, Paul & Helen Utts have hosted Simon Sobellek and Sebastian Buettenbender, both from Germany. These young "Tour Guides" have been wonderful to host and learn about and learn from.

YES is an innovative high school exchange program funded by the US State Department's Bureau of Educational and Cultural Affairs. This initiative builds bridges of international understanding, especially between Americans and people in countries with significant Muslim populations.

Under the scholarship grant, YES scholars live with their host families, engage in school activities and volunteer in the community. They learn about American society and values while helping to educate others about the customs and culture of their homelands.

And best of all, **you** don't even need a passport!!

Buy **Gift Cards** any Sunday for **Acme & Shoprite**. Don't you have to buy groceries anyway??!

Using these gift cards for groceries nets the congregation 5%. Buy at the Social Justice table.
We also have Fair Trade coffee and tea!

Children's Religious Education

As we welcome the changes that accompany Spring, the Children's RE program will be undergoing some changes as well. Leadership of our classes will be transferred to several new teachers. Prim Reeves and Jim Gentile will be leaving their classes in the capable and caring hands of Katy Cardwell (Grade 3-4) and Kathie Benner (Coming of Age). Victor Maene and Brenda Yunker will be taking over the 5-7th grade class from Paul Utts. Paul has been a dedicated teacher in Children's RE for years, and he will be missed as he enjoys a well deserved (but hopefully short-lived?) break from the program. Karen York remains the dedicated expert of the SpiritPlay programming for our Pre-K-2nd graders, and your DRE hopes that Paul's "sabbatical" doesn't give her any ideas!

All of our 11-16 year-olds (and their parents) are invited to participate in a NJ Audubon service project restoring the native wildlife to New Jersey marshes on Saturday, April 4. Kim Peters will be contacting our families about this very muddy, but important project; see her if you would like more information.

Our **Mystery Pals** have been matched up and have begun their communications. Pals will continue to exchange clues and messages throughout April, and will solve the Mystery of their pals' identity at a special celebration following the service on April 26. If you have any questions about Mystery Pals, please see Katy Cardwell.

Our **Being a UU Parent** course has already shared several thought provoking conversations on parenting. If you are a parent of a child in our RE program, please attend and add your thoughts to the discussion. The group will meet again on Wednesday, April 8, April 22, and May 6 at 6:30 pm in the downstairs lounge. See Heidi for more information.

Youth Group will meet again in the downstairs lounge on April 24 from 7-9 pm. All UUCSJS youth between the ages of 11-16 are welcome to attend for an evening of fun and fellowship.

Thanks to all who assisted in our Children's RE classes and/or provided healthy snacks in March:

Superstars!

Theresa McReynolds	Marsha Hannah
Tom Celandine	Debbi Dagavarian
Mariann Maene	Carl Benner
Victor Maene	Peg Felix
Katy Cardwell	Helene Gentile
Ronda Cluff	Lee Campbell
Richard Grywzinski	Brenda Yunker
Cynthia Grywzinski	Kathie Benner
Wendy Terrazzini	Roberta Castorani

-- Heidi Jansch, CoRE (Coordinator of RE)



Interweave GLBTQ Corner

This month, Interweave is starting a series of Support Groups for the GLBT members of our community. As part of our outreach and education, this month's article is on **Suicide** and **Depression** and the unknown cost to the GLBT community. **If you know of anyone in need of support, please check the Interweave bulletin board for support group times and dates and reach out to them.**

Facts on GLBT Suicides; GLBT rates are higher than most, but who's counting?

A friend of mine so aptly observed that suicide is a life threatening condition. Sometimes I really have to wonder about people when they make such informed comments. The fact is suicide rates for the GLBT community are some of the highest among any known population. Here's some info on what we know at this point.

The National Center for Injury Prevention and Control (NCIPC) states that the highest risk factors for suicide are previous suicide attempts, a history of mental disorders, particularly depression, a history of alcohol or substance abuse and a family history of suicide.

But amidst this wealth of information, NCIPC offers no statistics about GLBT suicide on their website, which contains extensive findings about suicide among virtually every group of Americans. While they do fund and sponsor groups around the country working on suicide prevention among GLBT Americans, they don't offer GLBT-specific statistics by themselves.

According to New York City's Hetrick-Martin Institute, an advocacy group and home of the Harvey Milk High School for GLBTQ youth, they are three times more likely to attempt suicide than other youth, and 40% of GLBT youth attempted suicide compared to about 10-12% of their heterosexual peers.

The Trevor Project -- which bills itself as "a non-profit organization established to promote acceptance among gay and questioning teenagers, and to aid in suicide prevention among that group" -- asserts, "teenage suicide has risen by more than 200% since 1960. For every kid who takes his or her own life, there are 20 kids who try, and gay youth in grades 7-12 are twice as likely to make plans to commit suicide than are their straight counterparts." **The Trevor Helpline is the only National toll-free, 24-hour, 365-day-a-year, confidential suicide hotline for gay and questioning teens (1-866-4U-TREVOR).**

Kevin Caruso of Suicide.org makes an important point about the reliability of suicide statistics in GLBT youth: "It is difficult to research gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgendered youth suicide because many young gays, lesbians, bisexuals, and transgendereds have not 'come out.' But it has been estimated that as many as 30 percent of all youth suicides are completed by gays, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendereds."

-- Allison Woolbert

My Hearing Loss, and My Journey with You

On March 8, just a few weeks ago, I decided to become a member of UUCSJS. I've been a Unitarian-Universalist since 1993. This membership is going to be something new for me as well as for my fellow congregation members. I am one of the very few individuals who will admit openly to a hearing loss. But I need to do this because this sensory deprivation impacts all of my communication in my everyday life and it will affect my interactions with fellow members. I can hear lots of sound, but I am unable to discriminate what much of the sound means. That why I wear my button that says:

Please FACE me.
I'm hard of hearing.

When the hearing began to get "hard," I started wearing the button. When you face me, your message will go straight toward my face and ears and won't drift off to the side.

Even if one has a hearing aid, hearing will NOT be restored to normal. No hearing aid or cochlear implant can restore "normal" hearing. Hearing aids only amplify the sound, including distracting background noises.

Now, these are some of the steps for which I am responsible:

1) Informing others about my hearing loss; 2) Anticipating difficult situations and planning how to minimize problems; 3) Telling others how to talk with me for the best results from communication; 4) Looking for visual clues as to what is being said; 5) Asking for clarification when I don't understand (I can't bluff); 6) Arranging for frequent breaks if discussions or meetings are long because my brain and eyes get tired; 7) Providing feedback to you about how well you are communicating; 8) Asking if something sounds strange (I can't assume that what I heard is what you said).

Since communication is a two-way street, now I'll list some things of which those speaking to me need to be aware.

1) Please get my attention before speaking to me; 2) Don't put obstacles in front of your face; 3) Don't have objects in your mouth such as food, gum, cigarettes, etc.; 4) Trim mustaches and beards so that your lips can be read more easily; 5) Don't have lights or windows behind your head because that reduces my access to your face; 6) Speak clearly and at a moderate pace; 7) Use facial expressions and gestures; 8) Give clues when you are changing the subject so I can refocus; 9) Rephrase when I don't understand you the first time (using the same words in the same order a second time does not help); 10) Don't shout (shouting distorts sound); 11) Avoid noisy background situations; 12) Be patient, positive and relaxed with me; 13) Ask me for suggestions if we are having difficulty with our communication.

I hope some of these basic hints will make our communication flow more easily. I do like to join and I do like to talk. I hope the explanations above will make everyone feel at ease around me. I'm okay around "normal" hearing folks.

Peace,
MaryAnne Kowalczyk, New Member

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

SOME DAY YOU MAY WIN A PRIZE

Some day you may win a prize if you can answer this question, "What do these three books have in common: 1) *Megatrends 2010: The Rise of Conscious Capitalism* by Patricia Aburdene; 2) *A New Earth: Awakening to Your Life's Purpose* by Eckhart Tolle; and 3) *Living Deeply: The Art & Science of Transformation in Everyday Life* based on a decade-long research program at the Institute of Noetic Sciences?"

The answer is that these three books (and many others) are forecasting that we are moving into an age where the "Power of Spirituality" will be the prevailing theme.

These three books represent a management consulting, religious, and scientific perspective with regard to what kind of country we will have once the current turmoil is over.

According to these sources, this means that our focus in the coming decades will be on increased awareness, commonalities, cooperation, empathy, interdependence, love, mindfulness, purpose, unity, and wholeness.

What does this mean for Unitarian Universalists? It can mean that our focus on our Seventh Principle, "Respect for the interdependence of all existence of which we are a part" will resonate with the growing number of "unaffiliated" who are seeking a spiritual home.

Those who are thinking about the future are saying about the current financial crisis that "this too shall pass." This belief can help us to support those in need during the current financial meltdown with some degree of confidence that the steps being taken will help to bring about the kind of financial, political, social, and spiritual changes we hope for. We can continue to do our part to make it happen.

Our UUCSJS "Spiritual Buffet" of Adult Religious Education programs can help us to weather this current crisis and prepare for the better days being forecast by futurist thinkers:

APRIL and MAY 2009

A Taste of InterPlay led by **Pam Altaffer**. Interplay is a practice and philosophy rooted in the transformational power of play. It helps us approach life with more freedom, creativity, and joy. Involves the use of movement, storytelling, and voice to balance mind and body. Saturday, April 4, 10 am to 12 noon.

Singing Meditation, led by **Barbara Miller**. Singing Meditation is a spiritual practice that combines singing with silence. One-hour sessions, offered twice a month. April 10 & 24, 7 pm. *Contact Barbara Miller to register.*

Discovering Your Ministry, led by **Marsha Hannah, Colby Tippins**, and **Karen York**. A 4-week course using readings, reflection, small group discussion, and artistic expression to identify your unique gifts and talents. How can you use these gifts to make a difference in the world? The format is a small group discussion, so it provides an opportunity to connect

deeply with some other members of the congregation. April 30, May 7, 14, 21 (Thursdays) 7 pm.

Family Money facilitated by **Ruth Eaves**. How to stretch your money and include your children and other family members and friends in this process, as well as how to cope with stress surrounding these difficult financial times. Friday May 1, 7 pm.

Letting Go of God facilitated by **Michael Cluff**. Julia Sweeney, once a cast member of *Saturday Night Live*, recounts in a hilarious monologue how her crisis of faith led to a struggle with her Catholic upbringing and how she ultimately became an atheist. Sweeney's approach is kinder and gentler than some non-theist memoirs, and is more likely to be appreciated by anyone who has struggled with personal faith. During this two-part program, Sweeney's movie *Letting Go of God* will be shown, followed by a discussion. Thursdays, May 21 and 28, 7 pm.

UUCSJS Has a Voice:

How do we want our UUCSJS Delegates to the 2009 UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City to vote on the **new Principles and Purposes** for our National UUA? (See *UU World*, Spring 2009 for more details). **Barbara Clark** and **Prim Reeves** will facilitate a workshop discussion group on Sunday, May 3 after Sunday Service, to talk about **our reaction to the proposed amendments in our Principles and Purposes**. (See the Commission's full text at UUA.org/documents/coa/081219_boardreport.pdf)

New Program Planning

We invite you to come and join our Adult RE Committee (first Sunday of each month after Services) as we continue planning our exciting programs.

-- Barbara J Clark, Chair, Adult Religious Education

UUBookLovers News

The book group discussed *Here If You Need Me* by Kate Braestrup, a UU minister with the Maine forestry service. A thought provoking meeting was led by Mariann Maene, although as par for the course there were some good laughs also! Next month's selection is *Three Cups Of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. It will be held on Friday, April 17, 7 pm at the UU Center. We hope to have some special guests that evening! For more information, or to get on our email list, contact Helene Gentile.

MARGARET CIRCLE

Our next meeting will be this coming Thursday, April 2. We will meet at 1 pm at the Center in the Library. The topic for discussion this month will be on the embryonic stem cell debate. How do you feel about it and how much do you really understand about it? There is a lot of information on the web about it, if you want to prepare yourself for discussion.

Peg Felix will be hosting, please RSVP to her so she will know how many to prepare for. You can also contact Kathryn Kelley if you have any questions.

All women are invited, there is no requirement to be affiliated with our congregation to attend. Come and bring a friend.

What's Up in Social Justice?

Our first peace vigil on our property, on a beautiful sky-blue day, was both moving and inspirational. The vigil commemorating the **Sixth Anniversary of the Iraq War** was sponsored jointly by our Social Justice Committee, The Coalition for Peace and Justice, and The Atlantic City Area Friends Meeting and was attended by about 50 adults and ten children. It was nice to see other members of the public, including Atlantic County Freeholder, Jim Schroeder, in attendance as well.

Members of our choir led us in singing peace songs, which helped to instill a feeling of community, reverence, and hope for a more peace-filled world to come. Volunteers took turns reading the names of the 87 service men and women killed in Iraq and Afghanistan. Those gathered in a circle, adults and children alike, placed a single daffodil in a vase for each person whose name was read. Norm Cohen, Executive Director of the Coalition for Peace and Justice, spoke briefly about his belief that peace activists needed to give the new Administration the time to make some changes, but that we also had to continue to publicize our interest in ending the wars. We also paid tribute to the hundreds of thousands of Iraqi citizens who have been killed, the over 30,000 service men and women who have been seriously injured, and the more than 10,000 veterans who are suffering from post traumatic stress disorder.

Thanks to all those members who participated and helped us honor those who have been killed or injured as a result of this war. It is wonderful to have a home from which we can promote the message of peace, reason, and diplomacy.

Listen to the latest *UU World*

Audio recordings of the articles in the latest *UU World* are now available. Award-winning audiobook actor Dick Hill reads articles from the Spring 2009 issue. The recordings can be listened to in most browsers or downloaded to your computer for playback using an mp3 player. The audio version of *UU World* is produced in cooperation with the UUA Office of Accessibility Concerns.

Go to <http://tinyurl.com/uuworld-audio>

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY DISCUSSION MEETING:

The next meeting of the alternative energy discussion group will be held on Tuesday, March 31 7 pm at the UU Center. The discussions are open to all who are interested in learning and/or discussing what is going on in the inevitable world shift to the use of energy generated from clean renewable sources.

IT'S FULL GREEN AHEAD!



1st Annual UUCSJS Backyard Habitat Native Plant Swap and Sale

We're holding our first ever Plant Swap and Sale here at our Center on May 2! So, now is the time to begin dividing your native perennials and potting up small trees and shrubs to swap and donate at our sale. Please see the SJ Table for a flier with details about the event as well as a volunteer sign up form. And please, help spread the word to your gardening friends! An easy way to spread the word is to direct your friends and co-workers to the social action page of our web site (www.uucsjs.org/social_action.html) where they'll find a link to the flier and other info on creating backyard habitat.

Tax Breaks for Going Green

If you bought a fuel efficient car or made energy-efficient improvements to your home last year, you not only reduced your carbon footprint, you might also shrink your tax bill.

Depending on the model hybrid car you bought, you may be eligible for a tax credit on your 2008 return. (A tax credit is more valuable than a tax deduction because it reduces your tax bill dollar for dollar. A deduction merely reduces the amount of income that is taxed.)

If you may energy-efficient improvements to your home during 2008, you could be entitled to a tax credit. You can claim a credit for 30% of the cost of installing a solar water heater, solar electric heater or geothermal heat pump up to a maximum credit of \$2,000. You can also claim a credit for 30% of the cost of a fuel cell up to \$1,000 of kilowatt capacity or small wind energy generators for a credit of 30% of the cost up to \$1,000 per kilowatt of capacity (not to exceed \$4,000.)

You can claim the credits if you installed these energy-saving devices in your principal residence or vacation home (except for the fuel cell which qualifies for a tax credit only if you install it in your principal residence.) None of the credits can be claimed for equipment used to heat a swimming pool or hot tub.

Claim the credits on Form 5696 (Residential Energy Efficient Property Credit) and attach it to your tax return. You can use the credits to offset both regular tax and alternative minimum tax. Although the energy tax credits are not refundable—meaning they cannot reduce your tax liability below zero—you can carry the excess credit over to your 2009 taxes.

From: <http://tinyurl.com/kiplinger-green-tax-tips>

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Minister

Rev Rosemarie Newberry
minister@uucsjs.org

Music Director

Barbara Miller
music@uucsjs.org

Religious Education Coordinator

Heidi Jansch
dre@uucsjs.org

Church Administrator

Betsy Searight
office@uucsjs.org

Newsletter

Mariann Maene
newsletter@uucsjs.org

Electronic Communications

Sharon Gray
uucsjs@yahoo.com

Board of Trustees 2008-09

Kathie Benner, Debbi Dagavarian,
Jim Gentile, Richard Grzywinski,
Primrose Reeves, Paul Utts, Karen Zindell



**P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240
(609) 965-9400**

April 2009

Visit us on the Web: www.uucsjs.org

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Congregation of the South Jersey Shore
P.O. Box 853
Pomona, NJ 08240**

