



# NEWSLETTER



Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

Volume 12, Issue 08

August 2010

## August 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.

<b>August 1</b>	<p><b>Adventures of a New UU</b>  <i>Lay speaker Charlie Roberts</i>          Charlie will talk about some of the interesting things he discovered about being a UU and what it really means to be a UU.</p>
<b>August 8</b>	<p><b>Environmental Sustainability: Beyond Lightbulbs to Collective Wisdom</b>  <i>Guest speaker Stacey Kennealy</i>          It's becoming easier and easier to make better environmental choices in the marketplace, but is this enough? This talk will challenge us to think beyond our current ideas of "greening", and will lift up success stories of congregations and schools pushing the limits of sustainability, achieving results no one could have imagined.</p>
<b>August 15</b>	<p><b>Adventures of a UU Atheist</b>  <i>Lay speaker Michael Cluff</i>          In the next segment of our series "Adventures of a UU [fill-in-the-blank]," Michael discusses the challenges of being an atheist – even within the friendly UU community. How does a nonbeliever find meaning? Is it possible to advocate for atheism without being a jerk about it? Do atheists melt when words like "faith" and "worship" are used? And most important, how should UU atheists fill out surveys asking us our religion?</p>
<b>August 22</b>	<p><b>A String and a Prayer</b>  <i>Lay speaker Barbara Miller</i>          What is a UU Humanist doing using prayer beads? Seeking a way to deepen her spiritual life, Barbara Miller discovered this modern day practice deeply rooted in world religious tradition.</p>
<b>August 29</b>	<p><b>My General Assembly (GA) Experience</b>  <i>Lay speaker Richard Grzywinski</i>          Calling it "absolutely the most spiritually uplifting event I could ever have imagined," Richard will share his experiences as our congregation's delegate to the annual UUA General Assembly, held this year June 23 through 27, in Minneapolis.</p>



**another FUUN event...**  
**Pizza and Game Night**  
**Saturday, August 21**  
**6:30 - 9pm**



## Our guest speakers this month....



**Charlie Roberts** signed the UUCSJS membership book on May 30, 2010, he was already lending his tenor voice to the choir, taking part in the men's group, and had offered to chair the Spirituality Committee. This quiet but dynamic enthusiasm is representative of his many interests and talents which include being a Reiki master/teacher for over 12 years; a massage therapist for 10 years; and an interfaith minister for 6 years.

Charlie grew up in Galloway Township and has lived in the South Jersey area most of his life, and is currently living in Williamstown. He has been working in the computer field since 1981, and is a computer programmer and database administrator for AtlantiCare.

While he may have come from a mainly Christian background, Charlie does not subscribe to any traditional Christian beliefs. The appeal to belonging to a UU congregation is the respect for each other's beliefs, and that humanitarianism is the basis of the organization.

**Stacey Kennealy** is currently Director of Sustainability at GreenFaith, an interfaith environmental organization serving all of North America. Stacey helps Houses of Worship and religious schools 'green' their building operations and educate their members and students about protecting the environment. She is also Director of the GreenFaith Certification Program, the world's first interfaith environmental certification program for Houses of Worship. The Program provides the guidance, tools and resources to help congregations become religious-environmental leaders.

Stacey graduated with honors from Rutgers University in 2004 with dual degrees in Ecology and Environmental Policy. Subsequently, she has completed coursework and training with the Cloud Institute for Sustainability Education, The Climate Project and the Center for Whole Communities.

*GreenFaith's mission is to inspire, educate and mobilize people of diverse religious backgrounds for environmental leadership. GreenFaith is a one-stop-shop for tools, resources and programs that help religious institutions and individuals protect the environment. [www.greenfaith.org](http://www.greenfaith.org)*

## Interweave South Jersey

**offers two GLBTQ Group nights  
at the UU Center 6:30 – 7:30 pm**

**1st Tuesday of  
each month:** Transsexual peer support group.

**3rd Tuesday of  
each month:** gay, lesbian, bisexual, transsexual and questioning (GLBTQ) peer support group.

## Simply Pray

Drawing from the wisdom of the world's religions, *Simply Pray*, a book by UU minister Erik Walker Wikstrom, offers readers an easy-to-use modern prayer practice free from any particular theological orientation.

Wikstrom identifies and defines the four major types of prayer that are practiced by all the world's major religions:

- **Naming** the many ways in which the holy is present in daily life and the wider world
- **Knowing** the self introspectively -- both in its strengths and weaknesses
- **Listening** to the "voice of quiet stillness" that resides in each individual
- **Loving** by reaching out to the world .

*Simply Pray* uses these four core prayer types to develop a modern worship practice, using prayer beads as a frame of reference. The book offers illustrated prayer-bead techniques that can be used directly or customized for personal use.

There are also helpful tips on how to make prayer a part of your daily routine, as well as how to make prayer beads and the benefits of using them:

- Prayer beads serve as a **focus for meditation**. Much more than a mnemonic aid to prayer, prayer beads engage the senses to create a state of mindfulness.
- Prayer beads are **mobile altars**. Simply touching the beads as they rest in a pocket, briefcase, or purse brings a prayerful presence to mundane moments.
- Prayer beads serve as **reminders of prayer** and help keep track of prayers.

*Simply Pray* is for anyone who is seeking a modern prayer practice that is deeply rooted in world tradition.



## *First in a Series...*

### **My Ministerial Journey**

**by Richard J. Grzywinski, UUCSJS Member**

Maybe this is something I've always wanted to do... I think it is, I don't really know. Speaking before the UUCSJS on many Sundays, lay leading, working as a volunteer within and outside of our services, feeling the warmth of a caring community and, importantly, having the encouragement of my wife Cynthia – perhaps these experiences gave me the final push to answer my “calling.” In October, 2009, at age 64, I began my studies at Meadville Lombard Theological School, one of two UU seminaries, working towards a Master of Divinity Degree, one of the requirements for becoming a UU Minister.

As our congregation once again struggles to understand our needs for a minister, I thought it would be helpful if I periodically provided an “insider’s view” as I proceed through the ministerial formation process. You will learn, as I have, that the process requires formal religious education, on-site community and congregational experience, psychological testing, on-site clinical pastoral education (400 hours), demonstrated skills, periods of internship, sponsorship by a UU congregation (ahem!), interviews, reading – tons of reading, dedication, authenticity, commitment, and, unfortunately, tuition and expenses.

At Meadville, I am enrolled in the TouchPoint© distance learning curriculum. A typical academic course requires several weeks of reading, interaction with other students on-line, a full week of intensive class work and evening study at the Chicago campus, and very often follow-up submission of written materials. If you are interested in more, you can visit [www.meadville.edu](http://www.meadville.edu) for curricula, faculty bios, etc. Also, go to [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org) and click on the “ministerial credentialing” link at the bottom of the page.

My first course was entitled “Religion and Public Ethics.” My professors were Dr. Sharon D. Welch, Professor of Religion and Society, and Dr. William F. Schulz, who you may recognize as President of the UUA from 1985 – 1993, Executive Director of Amnesty International from 1994 – 2006, and currently interim President of the UU Service Committee. We focused in-depth through reading and class debate on five current worldwide issues: torture, military intervention, the death penalty, abortion and poverty. It was in this course that I prepared my talk on Animal Rights presented to the UUCSJS on March 14, 2010. It also helped me better understand the “UU Peacemaking Statement of Conscience” for which I voted as your delegate to the GA 2010 in Minneapolis.

The second course (Spring, 2010) was “Art & Aesthetics in Ministry.” My professor was Dr. John Tolley. He holds a Ph.D. in Educational Theatre and his portfolio includes over seventy dramatic productions and publications on the topics of religious education, religious art and gay/lesbian issues. Through reading, improvisation, role playing, and discussion, I learned the value of incorporating music, drama, movement, poetry, visual arts, and other creative approaches in designing a worship service. I hope to utilize these ideas in collaboration with other UUCSJS

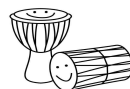
members for the Water Communion Service on Sept. 12. Volunteers?

I recently completed “Preaching As If You Mean It.” Again, my professor was Dr. Schulz. We examined the essential elements of preaching, the do’s and don’t’s, types of sermons, and practical advice from Dr. Schulz and the nearly 400 sermons he has prepared. In addition to reading and class work, the course required listening to 24 sermons prepared by fellow students, followed by critiques on substance and style. As soon as it can be scheduled, I hope to deliver one of my sermons entitled “The Sermon on the Rock - A Spiritual Humanist’s journey through creation to healing, forgiveness, hope and acceptance.”

Soon I will be engaging in my on-site community learning experience locally while taking courses on “Hebrew Scriptures” and “Buddhist Traditions of SE Asia.” I chose the latter because Alan Oliver and Cynthia Grzywinski have heightened by interest in the Buddhist philosophy. I look forward to sharing those with you.

### **HAPPENINGS AT MURRAY GROVE**

#### **Drum and Dance Fest, August 13-15, 2010**



Express yourself creatively and spiritually!  
All levels welcome! LEARN Afro-Brazilian, Latin and West African Drumming, African Dance and Belly Dancing, plus Drum/Dance Jams, Fire Circle, Facilitator Performances, On-Site Massage Therapist, Walks. Come for the whole weekend, or Saturday only.  
Visit [murraygrove.org](http://murraygrove.org) for the details.

#### **HOME COMING 2010:**

##### **A Mid-Atlantic UU Celebration of the 240th Anniversary of John Murray’s First Universalist Sermon in America**

**Friday Sept. 24, 7:30 pm:** Rev. Michael Dowd, America’s Evolutionary Evangelist, will present an oral/ musical/multimedia slideshow on “Science and the Sacred: An Inspiring Vision of Humanity’s Future.”

**Saturday, September 25, 2010, 10 am-4 pm:** Rev. Michael Dowd on “Passion for Life: Science, Evolution and Inspiration.” Plus, an intergenerational performance of “Oh Jonah” by UUCMC; Music; Workshops; Fellowship; Fun; MNY Store. Under the big white tent!

**Saturday Sept. 25, 6-9 pm:** “Healthy People, Healthy Planet: How Our Food Choices Affect Our Health, Happiness, and the Future of Our Planet” – View and discuss the film “Diet for a New America” and enjoy a gourmet vegetarian meal (\$20).

**Sunday Sept. 26 - 10 am:** Sunday service in the historic Potter Chapel with Lincroft’s Rev. Virginia Jarocha-Ernst. Stay the night Friday and/or Saturday: \$40 B&B per night! Or a weekend package for \$100!

# REFLECTIONS by President Jim Gentile

In July, the Board of Trustees had its first meeting of the new fiscal year. Typically, one of the issues at this first meeting is the assignment of Board Liaisons to the standing committees of the congregation. Under the By-Laws there are 9 Standing Committees and Board members are to serve as a liaison to a standing committee. In addition, the By-Laws provide that the President of the Board cannot serve as a liaison. This means that 6 Board members are to serve as liaisons to 9 standing committees in addition to serving on the Board. As the Board discussed liaison assignments for the coming fiscal year, these numbers caused me to question: (1) the present viability of the liaison concept of governing; (2) the need for so many standing committees; (3) the tradition and efficiency of monthly meetings for each committee; and (4) the development of the Program Council as a body to govern much of the work done by committees.

The Program council is scheduled to meet on August 1, 2010. I anticipate that these issues will provide fodder for discussion at that time. I urge the chairs of all committees to attend this meeting so that we can begin to assess the efficacy of our system of running the programs of our congregation.

Jim

## *More on prayer...*

It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart. -- Mahatma Gandhi

The greatest prayer is patience. -- The Buddha

God speaks in the silence of the heart. Listening is the beginning of prayer. -- Mother Teresa

When we pray to God we must be seeking nothing -- nothing. -- Saint Francis of Assisi

Prayer does not use up artificial energy, doesn't burn up any fossil fuel, doesn't pollute. Neither does song, neither does love, neither does the dance. -- Margaret Mead

Prayer must never be answered: if it is, it ceases to be prayer and becomes correspondence. -- Oscar Wilde

Don't pray when it rains if you don't pray when the sun shines. -- Satchel Paige

Give a man a fish, and you'll feed him for a day; give him a religion, and he'll starve to death while praying for a fish. -- Author unknown

I prayed for twenty years but received no answer until I prayed with my legs. -- Frederick Douglass, escaped slave

The trouble with our praying is, we just do it as a means of last resort. -- Will Rogers

## UUCSJS Board of Trustees 2009-2010

**Jim Gentile (12)**, *President*  
**Debbi Dagavarian (12)**, *Vice President*  
**Karen Zindell (11)**, *Secretary*  
**Primrose Reeves (12)**, *Treasurer*  
**John Searight (11)**, *Member at Large*  
**Joe Terrazzini (12)**, *Member at Large*  
**Karen York (11)**, *Member at Large*

*year given is end of term, e.g. 11 means thru 6/30/2011*

## Board Meeting Highlights

### June 13, 2010

Regarding the EPA's request last month to use our retention basin, there has no follow-up from the EPA as of the Board meeting.

Galloway Township is interested in using the UU Center as a polling location twice a year. This would be a positive exposure to the community. Possible negatives are being researched (liability, damage to building, etc). The Township would be paying \$150 per day's use.

A new staff position, for a part-time bookkeeper (12 hours/month) was approved. Applicants will be interviewed by the Board President and Treasurer.

*The full text of the Board Meeting Minutes can be viewed at our Members Only webspace, [members.uucsjs.org](http://members.uucsjs.org). Click on Board Agenda/Minutes on the left.*

**Next Board meeting** – Tuesday, September 14, 6:30 – 8:30 pm at the UU Center, downstairs lounge.

**Please note! Board of Trustees meetings are ALWAYS open to the public.**

**Any member can observe – no advance “permission” or “RSVP” needed – just SHOW UP!**

Board meetings are the second Tuesday of the month,  
6:30 - 8:30 pm in the downstairs lounge.

### Committee Meeting schedule:

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday	Adult RE, Social Justice, Interweave
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday	Children's RE, FUUN
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday	Sunday Services, Interweave
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Membership
5 <sup>th</sup> Sunday	Potluck! <i>Please, no committee meetings.</i>

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## Silver Queen Corn – locally grown!

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

**Don't you have to buy groceries anyway??!**

**ACME**

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



***We also have Fair Trade coffee and tea!***

# Board Visioning Session

## June 12, 2010

Each year the new Board of Trustees begins the year with a look back at the previous year, articulating our strengths to build on, our current concerns and challenges, our hopes and dreams for the future, and then outline some specific goals to use our strengths to get to where we want to go. We then vote on which of those goals will be our priorities for the year so as to not lose focus during the year.

A summary of that brainstorming session, follows.

The visioning process began by brainstorming on “**Where are we now?**”, and an opportunity to consider our **STRENGTHS to BUILD on** :

- Progress made on governance issue. The Board is not doing committee work
- Board meetings limited to 2 1/2 hours
- Running well without a minister
- Board has defined “part-time” minister
- Improved civility, reduced drama
- Talented, Dedicated, Patient Congregation
- Program Council is established
- Board Talk Backs – success, in that attendance to these sessions is waning
- Excellent Music Program, stimulating Sunday Services, Successful Children’s Religious Education program
- Talented/ Dedicated Staff
- New leadership stepping up
- Have a firmer handle on finances for financial planning
- Knowledge of the building and requirements for its operation
- Board meetings are open/ minutes posted/ transparency in leadership

Part of “Where we are now?” includes **CHALLENGES and AREAS of CONCERN**:

- No Minister and slow process for moving forward.
- Membership has proprietary interest/ownership in congregation (a blessing and curse)
- Have establish a “Program council” need to expand the role to be a true leadership council
- Need to establish a practice of electing successors to chairs to provide continuity of leadership.
- Concerns specifically about leadership with Membership committee and function of Communications Committee (ad hoc)
- Some problems with Board communications back to committee about decisions –closing the loop
- Board liaison system working??
- Diversity in the congregation
- Community islands working within the community rather than as a cohesive group
- Still need an articulation of Congregational mission
- Membership loss

II. Next we did some brainstorming on **HOPES and DREAMS** for the future:

- Meaningfully engage Congregation about the Minister
- Move Forward with Consensus
- Give Search Committee a precise charge
- Strong, diverse, leadership, (Program Council)
- Clear communication on governance structure
- Review and streamline committee structure
- Working as a unit with clear purpose
  - Single mission
  - Defined Vision
  - Covenant statement
- Conflict management and define what conflict is manageable
- Known in the Community by our works
- Consistently contribute to the community in meaningful ways with faith.
- Growth – targeted membership drive
- Minister
- Green Church getting greener
- Quiet spaces for meditation and reflection inside and outside

III. **GOALS.**

Finally we brainstormed on the question “**How do we get there?**” to identify some specific goals for the next year. This was followed by a vote of which seemed most important for the Board to focus on. Listed in order are the selected GOALS for the next year.

Get the vision and mission down!!

Vision, mission, ministry through social justice (6 votes combined)

Minister search (3 votes)

Hire a bookkeeper (3 votes)

Membership - It's everyone’s responsibility, bring in new people, get involved, program council event with new members (2 votes)

Congregational handbook

(policies and procedures, especially personnel and finance policies) (2 votes)

Membership drive ( ie direct mailing) (1 vote)

Program council meet more often (1 vote)

Streamline committee structure

Regular review process with five year plan

Coffee team – each committee take a turn

Green sanctuary

Small group gatherings to help new people connect

Establish a conflict resolution process

– summarized by Karen York, Board member

## Children's Religious Education

Thanks to our Summer Session presenters who led a Sunday activity with our kids in July: Prim Reeves, Debbi Dagavarian, Angela and Kyle Jones, and Colby Tippins and Doug Dickinson.

Our Summer Session activities for the remainder of the summer will be:

August 1 – Card Games  
August 8 – Crafts – Karen York  
August 15 – Board Games  
August 22 – Camp Quest Activities – Heidi Jannsch  
August 29 – Cooperative games – Karen Zindell  
September 5 – Painted Wood Project – Debbi Dagavarian

Our annual intergenerational Water Service will be Sunday, September 12, and the Religious Education school year will begin the following Sunday, on September 19.

Our classes this year will be divided as follows:

Grades Pre K-2	Spirit Play
Grades 3-5	A Stepping Stone Year
Grades 6-8	You the Creator
Grades 9-12	Truth and Meaning

Look for this year's Children's Religious Education brochure later this month for a full description of the classes... soon to be available in the vestibule at the UU Center near the informational pamphlets or on the Children's RE section of the UUCSJS website; [uucsjs.org](http://uucsjs.org)

If you are interested in participating in Children's RE, either on the committee or in the classroom, please speak to Heidi Jannsch, the Director of Religious Education, or Katy Cardwell, Children's RE Committee Chair.

-- Heidi Jannsch, Director of Religious Education

### UUCSJS Women's Association Meetings

There will be no meetings of the Margaret Fuller Circle, Olympia Brown Circle, or Women's Spirituality Circle during the month of August. See you in September!

### The Aim of Common Worship

The aim of all worship is to help order the religious consciousness in the individual and the group. It is to help us know and feel how we relate as individuals to ourselves, to the world, to the totality of being. The aim of common worship is to help us face up to our individual and collective limitations and failures, to open us to sources of creative, healing, transforming, and renewing power. It is to help us discover how that which transcends our narrow individual existence can move us, challenge us, inspire us, stimulate us to think, feel, act, and be. It is to help us declare, celebrate, rejoice in those things we have discovered to be "of worth." The aim of common worship is to help us reorder, reopen, reshape, and reinterpret our experience and to help us find the power to reaffirm again and again in word and deed what is worthy of our ultimate commitment.

-- from [uua.org](http://uua.org)'s *Worship Web*

## FLIGHT OF THE HUMMINGBIRD

(A Parable for the Environment)

The terrible fire raged and burned. All of the animals were afraid and fled from their homes. The elephant and the tiger, the beaver and the bear all ran, and above them the birds flew in a panic. They huddled at the edge of the forest and watched. All of the creatures gathered, except one.

Only Dukdukdiya, the little hummingbird, would not abandon the forest. Dukdukdiya flew quickly to the stream. She picked up a single drop of water in her beak. Dukdukdiya flew back and dropped the water on the fire.



Again she flew to the stream and brought back another drop, and so she continued—back and forth, back and forth.

The other animals watched Dukdukdiya's tiny body fly against the enormous fire, and they were frightened. They called out to the little hummingbird, warning her of the dangers of the smoke and the heat.

"What can I do?" sobbed the rabbit. "This fire is much too hot."

"There is too much smoke!" howled the wolf.

"My wings will burn! My beak is too small!" cried the owl.

But the little hummingbird persisted. She flew to and fro, picking up more water and dropping it, bead by bead, onto the burning forest.

Finally, the big bear said, "Little Dukdukdiya, what are you doing?"

Without stopping, Dukdukdiya looked down at all of the animals. She said, "I am doing what I can."

## Adventures of a UU ..... Series

While some people are raised in the UU faith, a greater number of members have come from other religious backgrounds. People join the UU faith for a variety of reasons. Unitarian Universalism often draws on adult "refugees" from other faiths.

- Religion Wiki, <http://religion.wikia.com>

In May Rev. Mannish Mishra presented a message entitled *Adventures of a UU Hindu*. Inspired by this theme, the Sunday Services Committee is launching a new series of messages: *Adventures of a UU.....*

In August we have *Adventures of a New UU* with Charlie Roberts and *Adventures of a UU Atheist* with Michael Cluff. Coming in the fall: *Adventures of a UU Buddhist* and *Adventures of a Born Again Universalist*.

How about you? What is your religious background, and what attracted you to Unitarian Universalism? How have you blended the religion handed to you by your parents with UUism?

Stay tuned for more sermons on this intriguing and fun topic.

## WHAT'S HAPPENING IN SOCIAL JUSTICE?

As the Social Justice Committee, along with the larger congregation, more forward in our mission to promote **Sustainability and Environmental Justice**, remember that each effort is valuable, even individual efforts. As Social Justice Chair, I want **everyone** to get involved, with opportunities in all aspects of our mission. For example, you can lend an effort to activism – such as signing a petition, calling the office of a representative, engaging in a letter writing campaign, or picketing against a potential environmental disaster. Another way to get involved is to help those in our community who may not have the means to live more sustainably, such as building raised beds for Habitat for Humanity or delivering CFL lightbulbs to low-income areas. Other opportunities for action may be educational; for instance, watching a documentary or hosting a speaker.

All of these opportunities and events will need the congregation's support. When reading through upcoming offerings, consider your circumstances and whether there is something that you can do to help – remember: even a small drop of water is better than nothing! Also, don't forget that everything **you** do in your personal life to care for the planet, though perhaps unnoticed by the rest of us, is still valid and important. These actions may seem insignificant – turning off the water when brushing your teeth – or huge – putting solar panels on your home. In either case, both show that you are practicing, *mottainai*, showing an acknowledgement that all of the Earth's resources are interconnected and finite and must be treated with care. Let us do this on an individual basis and together as a congregation – whenever and wherever we can.

You can start by saving the following dates:

- **Mon. August 9** at 3 - 6 pm - The ACUA is bringing local environmental organizations together on the Beach at North Carolina Ave in Atlantic City for the Plastic-Free Ocean Landfall Event. Extreme athlete Tom Jones is setting a world record by paddling on a surfboard from Key West to New York City – follow him on Facebook (search “Plastic Free Ocean”). His goal is to bring attention to the pervasive and destructive issue of plastics in the marine environment, and he is paddling to support the work of Plastic Free Oceans, an organization which strives to raise awareness and work toward the elimination of this preventable problem. There will be a beach clean-up prior to event. The social justice committee will have an informational table there about our “green” building and literature about our congregation and our faith.
- **Sun. September 19** at 12 pm - Jazz concert to benefit the Coalition for Peace and Justice and the UUCSJS's Social Justice Committee to fund social action work.
- **Sun. September 19** at 12 - 4 pm - UUCSJS will possibly be tabling at the Hammonton Green Day festival providing educational materials about our (soon-to-be) LEED certified building and selling eco-friendly and fair trade products.
- **Thurs. September 30** at 7 pm - Showing of the Sierra Club's short 15 minute film, *Beyond Oil*. A discussion will follow and other local environmental groups will be invited.

Volunteers will be appreciated to show hospitality by offering light refreshments.

- **Sun. October 3** at 12 pm - Rev. Om Prakash will offer a workshop regarding community service and community organizing called *Doing Our Best in the Community for Real Change*.

Or, you can sign one of several petitions/postcards on the Social Justice Table for August. These are backed by the NJ Sierra Club and South Jersey Sierra group. The topics include:

- **Stop the building of the PurGen Coal Plant** - An experimental coal/chemical plant and carbon dioxide storage project, called PurGen, has been proposed for Linden, New Jersey. SCS Energy, a Massachusetts based company, is proposing to build a 750MW IGCC coal plant with unproven carbon capture and sequestration technology. They plan to process coal for energy in Linden and then send a trillion pounds of pressurized, liquid carbon dioxide waste via a 100-mile pipeline through the Raritan Bay and out into the seabed off Atlantic City. SCS says the carbon dioxide will stay in the ocean floor forever, but they have no proof or scientific evidence to back up their claims.
- **Put an end to Mountaintop Removal** - Mountaintop removal is a radical form of coal mining in which entire mountains are blown up; it's devastating hundreds of square miles of Appalachia. It is polluting the headwaters of rivers that provide drinking water to millions of Americans and destroying the landscape. The Sierra Club would like Congressman LoBiondo to co-sponsor the Clean Water Protection Act (HR 1310) which would sharply reduce mountaintop removal coal mining, thereby protecting clean drinking water for many of our nation's cities. It will also protect the quality of life for Appalachian coalfield residents who face frequent catastrophic flooding and pollution or loss of drinking water as a result of mountaintop removal coal mining.
- **Oppose the Rt. 55 Extension** - State Senator Jeff VanDrew is pushing to extend Rt. 55 from Port Elizabeth to the Garden State Parkway in Clermont. In doing so, it would negatively impact 10 waterways, 2 nature preserves, and 7 wetlands. It would be 20 miles in length, require 20 years to build and cost about 2 billion dollars. The extension is NOT necessary. In 1998, a Shore Connection Committee Report recommended many alternatives to ease traffic congestion - most of which were not enacted. Let's fix the problem instead of make a bigger one!

As the Hummingbird in the parable on page 6, let us not be like the other animals of the forest that lost hope and did nothing, but do everything in our power. We can be a reckoning force if we believe in ourselves, each other, and work together. I very much look forward to working beside everyone in the congregation and on behalf of the Social Justice Committee, thank you in advance for your commitment and your efforts.

– Angela Jones, Social Justice Chair



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

**Minister**  
vacant

**Music Director &  
Sunday Service Coordinator**  
Barbara Miller  
uucsjsmusic@comcast.net

**Director of Religious Education**  
Heidi Jansch  
sjsdre@gmail.com

**Operations Manager**  
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Sharon Gray  
uucsjs@yahoo.com

**Board of Trustees 2010-11**  
Debbi Dagavarian, Jim Gentile, Primrose Reeves,  
John Searight, Joe Terrazzini, Karen York, Karen Zindell

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

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**August 2010**

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Congregation of the South Jersey Shore  
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