



NEWSLETTER

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the
South Jersey Shore



Volume 16, Issue 09

September 2014

September 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.

<p>September 7 Family Picnic</p>	<p>Water Communion <i>Led by Worship Committee</i></p> <p>To celebrate the beginning of our program year, we come together and mingle water symbolic of the places where we learned and grew over the summer. Water will be available just in case you left yours at home or on the beach or in the swimming pool. The children will remain in the sanctuary for this intergenerational service.</p>
<p>September 14 Blue Jean Sunday</p>	<p>The Beauty and Difficulty of Humility <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i></p> <p>There was once a group of Universalist ministers who named themselves the <i>humiliati</i>. Legend has it they were anything but! I was excited and challenged to see humility, not a trait often ascribed to UUs, in the UUCSJS Covenant, so I thought we'd look at its historic import and current applications today.</p>
<p>September 21 Road Cleanup 8 am</p>	<p>What are Words For? Language, Intent, and Right Relations <i>Lay speaker Michael Cluff</i></p> <p>UUs love language and are aware of the power of words. We analyze them, scrutinize them, borrow them from other faiths. This helps us bend and redefine those words to suit our unique paths. Though we strive for our words to be inclusive, reverent, and respectful, sometimes these goals are contradictory. How does language help us and how does it hurt us as we maintain our community?</p>
<p>September 28</p>	<p>Covenant of Forgiveness in a Time of Fragility <i>Rev. Cynthia Cain</i></p> <p>With the Jewish Holiday of Rosh Hashanah as a background, we will look at how a covenantal people try to honor a vow of forgiveness and go on as people of faith. What can we learn for our lives and our collective community?</p>



**Peace Pilgrim
Weekend**
September 20-21, 2014
See page 2 for details!

Do you want to support Family Promise of Atlantic County and get 25% off at Boscov's, too?

Boscov's Friends Helping Friends Program enables you to buy a **\$5 coupon to get a 25% shopping pass for Tuesday, October 21, 2014, from 9-11 am.**

Your \$5 donation goes directly to Family Promise, and you get to enjoy a nice discount at one of your favorite stores. See Prim to buy a coupon.

Book Lovers Group

The Book Lovers Group will meet on Friday, September 19 in the Library at the UU Center at 7 pm. A discussion of the novel *A Free Man of Color* by Barbara Hambly will be led by Debbie Dagavarian. This mystery is set in New Orleans at Mardi Gras in the year 1833. It captures the life of Benjamin January, a Creole physician and music teacher who has just returned to his native city after an extended stay in Paris. Stop by the Social Justice table and pick up a copy of the selections for 2014-2015. Newcomers are always welcome.

Margaret Circle will meet Thursday, September 4 at Noon in the UU Library. Please BYOL (Bring Your Own Lunch)!



UUCSJS Hit Parade of Hymns

Our August 3 service was based on a survey of our favorite hymns. Thanks for voting! Here are the Top Ten:

1. Let it Be a Dance
2. Come Sing a Song with Me
3. Peace Like a River
4. Enter, Rejoice and Come In
5. Morning Has Broken
6. Spirit of Life
7. We'll Build a Land
8. We Shall Overcome
9. I Know This Rose Will Open
10. Voice Still and Small

Upcoming Events for Family Promise of Atlantic County

Remember to pick up your **Boscov's Friends Helping Friends 25% off Shopping Pass** for October 21, 2014. It only costs \$5. See Prim Reeves or one of the other members of the UUCSJS Family Promise Committee to get your coupon.

We have other fun fundraising activities planned, too. Early December will see a cookie sale in the Houses for Change, being created by our RE children and some members. Volunteers will be asked to bake two dozen cookies of any kind, and bring them to us to put in the Houses for Change boxes to sell. Get a nice variety of homemade cookies to freeze in time for the holidays! *Mmmmmmm!*

Speaking of mouthwatering ideas, in February 2015, we will have a soup sale. Volunteers will make a gallon of one type of soup and put it in quart containers that we will distribute. Then we will sell the soups on "Souper Bowl Sunday," February 1. Enjoy the soup right away or freeze it for when you're tight for time. Family Promise will benefit from your generosity.

You cannot be so poor that you cannot help somebody.
- Robert Ingersoll

Peace Pilgrim Celebration September 20-21, 2014

Each year in Egg Harbor City there is a celebration in honor of "Peace Pilgrim", who gave up her worldly possessions in 1953 and began a 28 year pilgrimage spreading a simple message for peace. Wearing a blue tunic and carrying only a comb and toothbrush, Peace Pilgrim crossed the country seven times, walking over 25,000 for peace and leading by "prayer and example". She vowed to remain a wanderer until humankind learned the way of peace. Although Peace Pilgrim died in July 7, 1981 her spirit lives on through her simple but profound writing and in the many lives that she touched in her years of pilgrimage. Each year members of our congregation have been involved in different aspects of the Peace Pilgrim celebration. This year's celebration will include:

Saturday, September 20, at **Peace Pilgrim Park,**
500 block London Ave., Egg Harbor City:

- **Yoga at 8:30 am**
- **2-Mile Intergenerational Walk for Peace,** registration begins at 8 am, Step off at **10 am.**
- **Community potluck picnic** starting at **noon** with music, community groups, book signing; make tie-dyed T-shirts or a reusable bag. **Drum circle** closing at **2 pm** with David Shaman.

Sunday, September 21 at **Zion Lutheran Church,**
312 Philadelphia Ave. Egg Harbor City:

- **Interfaith spiritual service** at **1 pm.**

At all events "**Walk a Mile in my Shoes on the Path to Peace**" will be collecting gently-loved shoes to donate to the needy in South Jersey.

Contributions to support the event can be made to Friends of Peace Pilgrim EHC Event, c/o Lisa Jiampetti, 208 New Orleans Ave., Egg Harbor City, NJ 08215. More information about the event can be found at www.peacepilgrim100.com.

How you can help with Peace Pilgrim weekend:

- Michele Bellinger will have a table of **Fair Trade** coffee and goods. Let her know if you can volunteer for an hour between 10 am and 2 pm.
- **Family Promise** will have an informational table. Please let Colby or Doug know if you could volunteer for an hour.
- **Coalition for Peace and Justice** will have a table with flags, buttons and stickers for sale.
- Please donate **gently used shoes** (A BOX WILL BE IN UU FOYER).
- **Community Food Bank** - bring an item.

Other reasons to go:

- Saturday morning participants will get a free Peace Pilgrim T-shirt with art work designed by a student from Cedar Creek HS.
- Tie-dyeing T-shirts will be happening!
- Barbara Reynolds (friend of the congregation and local peace maven) will be making T-shirt bags to give away.
- David Shaman will host the drum circle at 2 pm on Saturday.
- Marine Mammal Stranding Center, Atlantic County Utilities Authority, and Friends of Forsythe will have tables there.
- Airbrush tattoo artist will be there.
- Health Fair vehicle - get your vitals checked.
- Music, sun, birds, trees and peace!

**Support our congregation by doing what you
already do – buy groceries!
with gift cards for your local
Acme or Shoprite!**

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!

ARE UU KIND?

Below is an excerpt from Michael Blumenthal's poem "Be Kind," which appeared this week in *The Writer's Almanac*. You can look online to read or hear it in its entirety.

It made me think about the difference between being nice and being kind, in my opinion a huge one.

It also came to mind because I am contemplating the UUCSJS Covenant, particularly the Preamble, as we look toward September's theme. "We believe that personal accountability with respect to the substance of this Covenant will shape us as a congregation of kindness, humility, and generosity." Those are powerful and empowering words to include in the Covenant preamble.

BE KIND

Not merely because Henry James said there were but four rules of life—
be kind be kind be kind be kind—
but because it's good for the soul, and,
what's more, for others; . . .

Dust's certainly all our fate, so why not
make it the happiest possible dust,
a detritus of blessedness? . . . too much
of our unruly animus has already been
wasted on reprisals, too much of the
unblessed air is filled with smoke from
undignified fires. Oh friends, take
whatever kindness you can find
and be profligate in its expenditure:
It will not drain your limited resources,
I assure you, it will not leave you vulnerable
and unfurled, with only your sweet little claws
to defend yourselves, and your wet little noses,
and your eyes to the ground, and your little feet.

Almost anyone can act nice. We see a lot of insincere niceness in the South. It ranges from sickeningly sweet to a thin veneer of polite yet somehow not quite genuine hospitality. And there are times when I welcome this, slightly forced though it may be, over gruffness and rudeness. There's something to be said for forcing oneself to be nice.

But nice is not kind, although practicing being nice can help. Kindness comes from a much deeper place, from recognizing yourself within the other, seeing their humanity, connecting with their essential worth. It is truly a spiritual practice. It is linked to humility and forgiveness, two challenging life-long tasks that are both mentioned in our covenant. I'll be taking up both of these in September and hope to see you in worship.

I look forward to our shared ministry,

Cynthia

Rev. Cynthia's Office Hours

Wednesdays 10-2 and by appointment

Upcoming: Weeks that Rev Cynthia will be in KY:

✈ Week of September 1 (return the 4th)
Week of September 29

*Deep, deep, deep in the dark
of the winter...*



The Winter Solstice Singing Ritual returns to UUCSJS on December 21, 2014, at 4:30 pm. We will celebrate the return of the Light which occurs after the Winter Solstice with songs and stories. The singing will include music from calypso, Western choral singing, Native American texts, Greek mythology, feminist rounds, Pagan chants, and even an old American hymn. The ritual runs about 75 minutes.

All are invited to participate. There are roles for singers, readers, production assistants, instrumentalists, children, and dancers. We are always happy to have extra singers from outside the congregation join us, so your music-loving friends are also invited. Participants from past years' WSSRs can testify to the power of our meeting together to honor the Dark and welcome the Light.

Our congregation owns a small number of books and CDs which participants may borrow. Many of us own our own copy, and Barbara Miller will be ordering more copies as needed this year.

Please contact Barbara at uucsjsmusic@comcast.net to let her know of your interest.

From the Caring Ministry Team...

If you have a concern or a joy, that you wish to share with someone on the Caring Ministry Team, please call Carolyn Baum, Theresa McReynolds, Darah Walther, Jessica Dunn, or Marcia Wolfe. Their phone numbers are in the Member Directory.

You need to be aware of what others are doing, applaud their efforts,
acknowledge their successes, and encourage them in their pursuits.

When we all help one another, everybody wins.

- Jim Stovall

How To Get Your Groove Back

That elusive groove, that coveted sense of feeling useful and productive. Are you the kind of person who makes a difference in others' lives? How can you get your groove back? Well, maybe you never lost it to begin with, but just need some creative ideas.

On **Sunday, October 12**, UUCSJS will hold its annual **Volunteer Sunday** after the service, giving you an opportunity to explore all the different ways in which you can participate in the life of the congregation and the larger community.

Some people have obvious ministries. Heidi Jansch's ministry is to give our children an educational, enriching, and safe environment in which to learn. Barbara Miller's ministry is to provide our congregation with spiritually-gratifying Sunday services, accompanied by beautiful music. Richard Schurig's ministry is to make sure we are nicely caffeinated on Sundays. Margaret Rea's ministry is to provide a graceful chalice table each Sunday she is here. Peg Gillies' ministry is to cheerfully record our money when we buy grocery cards. As you can see, some of these are "big" things and some are much more modest. And these are only a small handful of members whose ministries are visible.

Let us help you find your ministry. What excites you, what incites your passion? What do you love to do? We offer many different ways to enrich your soul!

Do you have a particularly handy talent, such as carpentry or electrical skills? Do you enjoy gardening or mowing? If yes, then consider volunteering to help maintain our building, or tend one of the gardens, or mow our grass with our new lawnmower. No meetings to attend, just live out your ministry!

Do you feel at home in a kitchen, and enjoy camaraderie around a kitchen sink? Serving as one of the people who assist with coffee and light refreshments on Sunday mornings is a very much appreciated way to make your contribution.

Are you outgoing? Be a Sunday morning greeter! Are you fastidious about cleaning? Then join the Clean Team! Do you want to feed the hungry in our local community? Then join the Food Bank Crew. Do you enjoy developing young minds? Then volunteer to teach or assist in Children's RE!

Read the brief descriptions we'll have available before Volunteer Sunday to see what interests you. Let us help you find your ministry!

The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others.
- Mahatma Gandhi

All-Volunteer Day "Blue Jean Sunday" September 14

Our annual Blue Jean Sunday effort is scheduled for Sunday, September 14. If you haven't participated in this all-congregation, volunteer activity before, here is how it works:

- Wear blue jeans or work clothes and comfortable shoes to service, and plan on staying for an hour or two of volunteering.
- Directly after service, congregation members and friends, from pre-schoolers to grandparents who can help out will gather for instructions and bagels. Note: There will be no regular coffee hour.
- Volunteers will be divided into teams. We have plenty of both inside cleaning and outside work to do, so that everyone who is physically able to help out will be able to participate.
- Child care: if you have an infant or toddler who will need child care during our Blue Jean Sunday effort, please add their names to a list at the back table in the sanctuary.

And lastly – ask anyone who has participated in the past – our Blue Jean Sunday efforts are a necessary part of maintaining our beautiful Center, a terrific way to get to know people better – and **GREAT FUN** to boot!

For questions or suggestions please see Jesse Connor or Steve Fiedler.

Living Green

I bet I am not the only one of us that re-uses plastic ziploc bags. How to wash and store these without the kitchen looking like a plastic bag monster has stumped me.

Looking for a way to tidy up my kitchen I found this:
www.theyummylife.com/wash-dry-and-store-used-plastic-bags

The author actually puts her ziploc bags on the top rack of the dishwasher, first anchoring them down with other items while trying to expose as much of the bag as possible to the water. This presents me with a dilemma. Aren't we supposed to wash full loads of dishes to save water and energy? Washing a bunch of spread-out plastic bags anchored by a few mugs does not seem that efficient.

So, back to washing them in soapy water in the sink. If the bags were not very dirty, just shaking out the crumbs or rinsing is sufficient.

For drying the bags you can fill a glass Mason jar with aquarium gravel and stick barbecue skewers or dowels in the gravel. Put the bags on the skewers to dry! I bet you could also use ancient dried beans – if you need any, I have some! If you are crafty or want a project to do with children, you could decorate the jar.

For ideas on storing the bags, click the link above.

Two important points:
Remember to turn the bags inside-out before washing.
Don't re-use bags that had cheese or meat products!

-- Barbara Miller

How can I be useful, of what service can I be?
There is something inside me, what can it be?
- Vincent Van Gogh

Auction Madness!

By Debbi Dagavarian

Our 10th annual Service Auction, an important fundraiser for UUCSJS, will be held on **Saturday, November 15, 2014**. It's a fun evening of fellowship and winning, so mark your calendars now. You're probably asking yourself at this very moment what you can donate. The possibilities are almost endless!

Events

The most popular category of donation is Events. You can host a themed dinner either at your home or in the UU Center. Luau anyone? *Aloha!* French dinner? *Mais oui!* Sushi and chopsticks? *Domo arigato!*

Or, you can take people on a nature experience. White-water rafting? *Whoaaaa, yeah!* A birding morning? *Tweet-tweet!*

Or come up with any other adventure you can think up. A field trip to the Wildwood Boardwalk? *Watch the tram-car please!* A British high tea? *Tut-tut – and please pass the lemon curd!* A make-your-own-pizza party? *Ciao, baby!*

Items

If you're like the little old lady who drove her '82 Chevy only on Sundays to go to church and it's still in pristine condition, then donate some of your gently-used stuff. No large furniture, please. Or if you're like me and have a kitchen full of never-used appliances and gadgets – *what was I thinking when I bought that mandoline!* – then let some other lucky person feast on your misfortune.

Remember that lovely kitchen towel set you bought for Aunt Gladys? Well, Aunt Gladys is in assisted living now and can't use it. What about the unworn slim jeans you bought for yourself last summer? Hmmm, that was before you started inhaling Dunkin Donuts every morning. Perfect to donate.

Baked Goods

This is the yummy category. If you're a fair hand at baking, why not donate a pie or two? Or cookies . . . or scones . . . or brownies . . . *excuse me, I have to get a snack.*

Ok, I'm back. What if you're like Melissa and can create a delicious vegan or regular pesto? Or like Jack and have a winemaking operation that any speakeasy during Prohibition would have coveted? Or like Helen and make the best pumpkin pies on this planet? Donate! Donate! Donate!

Handmade Items

A category near and dear to my heart, handmade items can include earrings – my motto is that you can never have too many pairs of earrings, or necklaces – ditto the earrings motto. Potters take heed – donate your ceramic originals. If you're a knitter or crocheter, donate your scarves, bags, sweaters, baby clothes, and other cute stuff. If you're an artist, whatever you do well, donate your lovely creations.



Services

Once the mainstay of our auction, services of many types are valued. Guitar lessons? Surfing lessons? Full-body massages? Resume writing? Repair work around the house? Babysitting? Limo service to and from the airport? Our congregation offers a plethora of generous services, yours for a reasonable bid.

A Way ANYBODY Can Donate

If you really don't have anything to donate – *don't tell me you're still keeping that guitar you used to play Kumbaya on* – you can buy an ad or a sponsorship.

An ad is simple. If you have a business and want to advertise, you buy an ad. Easy!

A sponsorship, however, takes some explanation. If you don't have a business and have nothing in particular to advertise, but have a burning message you want the congregation to know – *yes, Doug, we want to know how much you love Colby* – then buy a sponsorship. A sponsorship gets you a quarter, a half, or a whole page to get your message out. Do you want to thank someone for something? Do you want to share your joy with the congregation – now that we don't say Joys and Concerns aloud every Sunday? Or do you just want to share a lovely poem with others?

Here's your chance! Donate! Donate! Donate!

UUA President Peter Morales Speaks Out About Ferguson, Missouri Police Action and Citizen Outrage

In an August 20 statement, UUA President Peter Morales said, "The images from Ferguson, Missouri, are profoundly unsettling: tanks, tear gas, military weaponry for urban warfare, angry crowds. We immediately feel a mixture of shock, anger, dismay, helplessness, sympathy, and outrage. As religious people who are committed to compassion and justice, what are we to do?"

"Ferguson is not about Ferguson," Morales said. "It is about the systematic dehumanizing of people all over America." He encouraged UUs to "stand on the side of love with those seeking healing and some measure of justice," and to "rededicate ourselves to the work of building a world where events like those in Ferguson are unthinkable."

From uuworld: www.uuworld.org/news/articles/297126.shtml

Board of Trustees
HIGHLIGHTS
August 2014

The **regular monthly meeting** of the **UUCSJS Board of Trustees** was held on Tuesday, August 19, 2014 at 6:30 pm in the Lounge at the UU Center, President Art Wexler presiding. Chalice lighting words were selected and led this month by Melissa Hutchison, and joys and concerns were shared.

Board members noted the first appearance in the pulpit of our new Interim Minister, Rev. Cynthia Cain on Sunday, August 17, and reported hearing unsolicited praise both for the tone and content of her message.

• **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

—The next **Board Talk-Back** will be held **Sunday, September 14** at 11:15 am in a lower level classroom.

—For the record, the Board acknowledged receipt of letters from: **a) Murray Grove**, thanking UUCSJS for donating \$335 to the "Camping in the Grove" scholarship fund, and **b) UUA** (Unitarian Universalist Association), acknowledging our status as a "2014 Honor Congregation," meaning we contribute "full fare" to both the UUA and Joseph Priestley District (JPD) for each and every certified member of our congregation.

—**Central East Regional Group** of the UUA (**CERG**) is offering a new style of Leadership Training Institute course combining online presentations with face-to-face learning. The ten offerings from "H-UULTI: The Hybrid/Online Team-Based Leadership School" will be available again in spring. Registration fees are only \$50 per semester/per congregational team (four or more), plus \$50 per participant for materials, etc. Participants from the same team may choose different courses.

For more information see Karen York, or go to:

www.cerguua.org/UULTI/

• **REPORTS**

1) Treasurer's Report. Treasurer Karen York distributed her written report showing figures for **July 2014**, as follows: **Income, \$28,114** (including \$9,835 in advance payment of pledges for FY 14-15), and **Expenses, \$19,113** (for a net of income over expenses of \$9,001). "We're in good shape," the treasurer said; "our balances are high at this point."

a) Special Collection for Uganda. The collection to benefit LGBTQ human rights in Uganda held on Sunday, July 27 totaled \$1,190, York said. As requested by Rev. Mark Kiyimba, the funds were wired to the "UUA of Uganda" in support of LGBTQ work and other projects there, including New Life Primary School, New Life Children's Home, New Life Unitarian Church in Kampala, and New Life Fellowship in Masaka.

—A motion to accept the written report of Treasurer Karen York as presented was passed unanimously by those present.

2) Minister's Report. Rev. Cynthia Cain was unable to attend the Board meeting due to Interim Ministry training taking place in Minnesota this week.

3) Staff & Committee Reports. President Wexler noted the only possible action item gleaned from this month's round of reports was the suggestion from Music Director, Barbara Miller that UUCSJS consider adopting a system for projecting the words for hymns, allowing congregants to sing hands-free. (See below under **Discussion/Action Items**.)

• **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

1) Program Council leadership. The first Program Council meeting of the new fiscal year and first since the arrival of Interim Minister Rev. Cynthia Cain will be held Sunday, August 24, jointly chaired by Jon Luoma, Board Vice President, and Board member Karen York. Though the UUCSJS Bylaws state, "The Vice President shall chair the Program Council," shared leadership may prove to be an effective model. Permanent change would involve amending the bylaws by vote of the congregation. Note: The Board secretary will begin to compile

an ongoing list of bylaws provisions that might be put forward for amendment at the Annual Meeting next June.

2) Future consideration for projection of hymns. In her monthly Board report, Music Director, Barbara Miller wrote: "Many UU churches are now projecting lyrics for at least some of their hymns. A few of our congregants who visit other UUs when travelling tell me how they sing more easily and happily when they are not holding a book. In San Diego, a screen dropped down off to the side in the front of the sanctuary. I understand that a projecting arrangement was considered when our UU Center was built, but was deemed too expensive. Someday I hope we can have a projector and screen that will allow us to sing looking up instead of down at books..."

The consensus of the Board was that first steps in this matter could be the Worship committee's starting a discussion, begin to obtain feedback, facts and figures, and ultimately, write a proposal for presentation to the Board.

• **UPDATES**

1) Transition Team. Karen York said that having assembled the Transition Team in her role as President during the last fiscal year, her "last act" will be to email the group asking them to choose leadership and decide, in consultation with Rev. Cain, how to move forward. A transition team is supposed to represent the "pulse of the congregation," York said; a "panel of experts" on the congregation's culture.

2) Family Promise (FP). In the absence of Doug Dickinson of the UUCSJS FP Team, York and Pereira reported briefly on the progress of Family Promise of Atlantic County (FPAC) and our UU team's activities. Funds are being raised by selling Boscov's "Friends Helping Friends" shopping passes at \$5 each (25% discount 10/21/14 *only* and 100% of ticket sales goes to FPAC). Eight congregations (including UUCSJS) have signed on as "host congregations," and two or three more are close to commitment according to Prim Reeves, chair of the UU FP Team; thirteen (13) are needed to begin operations.

Members of the Board expressed some concern that congregational enthusiasm for Family Promise could wane, and crucial momentum lost, during the long wait between voting in June to become a host congregation and the program's actual start-up in Atlantic County. (The UU FP Team is trying to make sure this doesn't happen!) *To be continued...*

3) Children's Religious Education (CRE) OWL curricula. Betsy Erbaugh, Paul Utts, and DRE Heidi Jannsch completed the 7-9 Grade (Jr High) OWL Training at Murray Grove in July. CRE plans to offer OWL ("Our Whole Lives") at this level on Sunday mornings from October to May (27 sessions – three Sundays per month, and *four* in months with five Sundays).

4) Re: permanent bookshelves. Providing an update on congregant Bill Felix's suggestion at Board Talk-Back that we build permanent bookshelves at the back of the sanctuary to house our hymnals, Karen York said the idea has been weighed by Building & Grounds, Worship, and Membership committee members. So far consensus seems to be there isn't enough space for permanent shelving, but we can increase hymnal storage with a second library cart and/or one with more shelving in order to accommodate the "teal" hymnals (*Singing the Journey*) as well as *Singing the Living Tradition*.

Replacing the glass patio table with an upgrade is also contemplated, as Felix suggested. A proposal suitable for action by the Board is anticipated in the near future.

• **Adjournment** – The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 pm.

— Judy Pereira, *Secretary*

The **NEXT REGULAR MEETING** of
the UUCSJS Board of Trustees will be held on
Wednesday, September 17, 2014 at 6:30 pm
in the Lounge at the UU Center,
75 S. Pomona Rd., Galloway, New Jersey

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Hope everyone had a great summer!! We have a few new programs going on this fall and will continue with many of our on-going programs that are very popular.

“**A Course in Miracles**” starts Wednesday evening, September 17. This is a series based on Helen Schucman’s popular and influential book.

“**First Friday Film Nights**” will commence in October, on Friday evening, October 3. “Long Strange Trip” is a six-part video series by Ron Cordes that explores the history of Unitarian and Universalist thought and practice from the early, liberal strands in faith at the beginning of the Christian era to what we know today as Unitarian Universalism. Learn more at: <http://www.uua.org/re/tapestry/resources/292799.shtml>.

We will be continuing with our current programs of Journaling with Bob Baum, Sing Meditation with Barbara Miller, the Small Group Ministries at various locations and the Buddhist Study Circle. See Sunday and mid-week announcements for times, locations and details.

Do you have an idea for a program you would like to see us provide? Feel free to contact me and let me know. Everyone have a wonderful and educational fall.

Charlie Roberts – Adult RE Chairperson

Join Club 172!

Family Promise of Atlantic County’s member congregations are taking part in the **Club 172** challenge to help homeless families.

Here are the facts:

- ❖ 68% of homeless children in Atlantic County are age five and under.
- ❖ Out of 746 homeless people in Atlantic County as of January 2013, 172 were homeless children.
- ❖ Between 2011 and 2013, the number of homeless children in Atlantic County has increased by 71.5%.

Joining **Club 172** will provide a family of four with *10 days* of service in the Family Promise program. That’s 10 days of giving a homeless family:

- A safe place to sleep
- Good, nutritious, hot meals
- A chance to secure employment and affordable housing
- Care by dedicated volunteers
- And hope!

For just \$3.31 per week, you can join **Club 172** and help homeless children and their families. You can send \$172, or pay \$43 quarterly, or \$86 twice a year. Use one of the postcards available at the UU Center, or send a check and your name, address, phone, email, *and congregation* to:

Family Promise of Atlantic County, Inc.
8 Sooy Lane
Absecon, NJ 08201

Remember, your donation is tax deductible.



CHILDREN’S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Happy New (School) Year!

A resounding “Thank you!” to all of our summer session volunteers, who spent a Sunday or two leading craft projects and activities with our youth:

*Debbi Dagavarian, Michelle Tomko, Colby Tippins,
Prim Reeves, Bud Smith, Karen York, Karen Zindell*

Thank you for a great summer!

Our final “Summer Sunday” will be our annual inter-generational water service on September 7, and our Religious Education school year will begin on September 14. This year, our classes will be divided as follows:

Our **Pre-K - 1st** grade group will begin the year working on a UUA Tapestry of Faith curriculum called *Love Surrounds Us*. This program explores our UU Principles in the context of Beloved Community of family/home, school, and neighborhood.

Our **2nd - 6th** grade group will be using *Spirit of Adventure*, an active Unitarian Universalist Identity curriculum that encourages learning from physical movement, challenges and adventure. This curriculum uses the themes of sports, medicine, food, science, building, exploring and the web of life as ways to discover the people and value of our Unitarian Universalist faith.

Students in grades **7 - 9th*** will be using *Our Whole Lives*. OWL is a series of sexuality education curricula that helps participants make informed and responsible decisions about their sexual health and behavior. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, *Our Whole Lives* not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality. (One Sunday a month, the 7-9th grade will not meet for OWL, but will instead use *The Fifth Dimension* – a curriculum focusing on social issues presented in episodes of *The Twilight Zone*.)

*Only children of members or friends of UUCSJS in 7-9th grades **whose guardians have attended the Parent Orientation** are permitted to participate in OWL classes. Sunday visitors in 7-12th grades will be welcome to join in the other RE classes, or invited to assist the caregivers in the toddler room.

The Parent Orientation for OWL is scheduled for September 11. For more information about OWL or our religious education programming, please feel free to contact me at sjsdre@gmail.com.

Heidi Jannsch
UUCSJS Director of Religious Education

Coming Soon: NEW EDITION of Member Photo Directory

Is there a new member of the family?
Have you (or your children!) aged beyond recognition?
Dissatisfied with your old photo?

If yes, ACT NOW to arrange to have a new photo taken on Sunday morning by advance request to Mariann Maene within the next three weeks (publication in late September/early October).

If you want your current photo used again, just do nothing!

Unitarian Universalist Congregation of the South Jersey Shore

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September 2014

Newsletter – Mariann Maene – newsletter@uucsjs.org

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