



The Unitarian Church of Harrisburg is an inclusive, gloriously diverse, deeply connected spiritual community dedicated to the practice of radical service.

**Minister's Message**

There is much current debate in the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) about how to count membership in churches. At our own UCH this debate has had the very real effect of reducing our UUA-certified membership numbers from 420 to 360. The 60 members that we "lost" are simply those people who, while still on the membership role, did not contribute money or time in the past year that could be accounted for. Because the UUA assesses



dues on its congregations on a per-member status, it is important to have accurate numbers. So, are we a congregation of 360 or of 420 – or some other number entirely?

Another way that churches, especially large ones, count membership is to look at attendance. One formula is to take the average weekly service and RGL attendance and double it. Most weeks this would make us a congregation of 450 to 500 people. Counting people served is yet another, more honest, way of determining how big a congregation is. If we use this last method, UCH has "grown" exponentially in the last three years!

If you count the number of individuals that come into our two church buildings each week for one reason or another, I would venture to guess that we are serving 800 to 850 people. Near the end of the month, as many as 120 people might show up for community hours held each Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 10:00 am to noon. If it is the second or last Saturday of the month, easily 250 to 300 people will eat a hot, nutritious breakfast hospitably served at our Market Street church. Another 30 people come to learn English as a second language three times a week. Then add in another 30 or 40 for the drum circle, a couple dozen for AI-Anon and other meetings, 250 adults in worship, and 100 children and youth in RGL, and you have a clearer picture of how many people UCH is really serving. Our real number might indeed be 800 or 850 people!

So how do we reconcile an official voting membership of 360 with 800+ people being served weekly? We realize that part of being a church is that the 360 contributing members give gladly to make sure that the 800+ people are served. These contributing members are also the ones who will get to decide our congregation's future. They are the only ones who get to vote on important matters of the congregation. They get to vote because they have invested. The 800+ people we serve are grateful for the generosity of the 360. And I am, too. I give UCH 5 percent of my gross income—thousands of dollars each year—for this exact reason. I hope you will join me in giving at this level, too.

See you in church. Love, Howard

**December Services**

Two services each week: 9:00 a.m. at Clover Lane, then 11:00 a.m. at Market Street. Special services Christmas Eve at 6:30 p.m. (Market Street) and 9:00 p.m. (Clover Lane)

**Unitarian Church of Harrisburg  
December 2011 At-a-Glance**

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Sat 3	4:30	Deck the Halls! Wendy Shaver
Sun 4	9:00	Sunday Worship: "Where Have All the Moderates Gone?"
	11:00	
Mon 5	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Ed Sykes
Tue 6	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation, Chuck Daley
Wed 7	6:00	Queen Spirit
Sat 10	9:00	Community Café, Clay Lambert
	10:00	Bhante Sujatha Workshop, Chuck Daley
	4:00	Families with young children, Pete Trufahnestock
Sun 11	9:00	Moral Issues Forum, David Spear
	11:00	Sunday Worship: "Three Birth Stories"
	6:30	Philosophy & Literature Group, Dick Hoke
Mon 12	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 13	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation, Daley
Wed 14	7:00	December Board Meeting
Fri 16	7:30	Coffee House, Bart Carpenter
Sun 18	9:00	Sunday Worship: "The Liberation of God and Empowerment of Humanity: A Yuletide Exploration in Metaphorical Theology"
	11:00	
Mon 19	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 20	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation, Daley
Wed 21	6:30	Winter Solstice Service
Sat 24	6:30	Multigenerational Worship Service
	9:00	Contemplative Worship Service
Sun 25		<b>Christmas Day – no services</b>
Tue 27	7:00	Silent Mindfulness Meditation, Daley
Jan 1	11:00	<b>Joint Worship Service with Shared Ministry (no service at Clover Lane)</b>

UCH HOMELESS SHELTER DUTY (P.5)

Market Street Event

**President's Message**



November was filled with so many vibrant events at UCH it is difficult to know where to start. UCH is again the venue for successes in living our Seven Principles. Starting with the Harrisburg Humanists: they provided an opportunity to fairly debate the issue of school vouchers. The debate was very well attended by UCH members and members of the

Continued on page 8

Coordinate your calendars for these UCH events.

### Sat 3 4:30 Deck the Halls

Our annual all-church party to kick off the holiday season! This “Souper Supper” is an all-family event for people of all ages. Christmas carols led by the Unisingers; hand-crafts for children, teens and even adults moved by the spirit; and a variety of teen-made soups served with bread and crackers. Childcare available.



Crafts this year will be led by a cadre of UCH artisans, namely Kate Newton, Angela Rupert, Cordell Affeldt and Karen Grimm-Thomas. The projects vary in difficulty, and participants can self-select the ones they find most appealing based on age/ability.

Dinner is a smorgasbord of soups made by the UCH Youth Group, with donations requested. Our youth work in pairs to choose a soup recipe, buy ingredients, and make the soup in the church kitchen. [One can only imagine the controlled chaos of that many cooks in one kitchen...] Their donation is the raw ingredients and KP duty ~ yours is the moolah that matters! All money collected from dinner guests goes into the youth scholarship fund, used to help cover costs for the summer social-justice trip for those who need it. Help our youth help others! This year’s trip (June 2012) will be to Appalachia.

### LAST CALL FOR SECOND HONEYMOON

We will hold the drawing for a weekend of babysitting by Trish/Gerry Brandon at “Deck the Halls.” If interested in a \$20 raffle ticket, please contact [a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com)

### Mon 5 6:30 Amrit Yoga (weekly)

Amrit yoga is a form of hatha yoga developed by Yogi Amrit Desai. The entire process moves and stretches every part of your body for an energetic workout and includes a calming, meditative relaxation at the end. Two one-hour sessions, led by Ed Sykes, [esykes@state.pa.us](mailto:esykes@state.pa.us). No experience necessary! Repeats every Monday.

### Tue 6 7:00 Mindfulness Meditation (weekly)

Two 25-minute periods of meditation with a short reading, discussion and rest between. Coordinated by Chuck Daley, [MMG@harrisburguu.org](mailto:MMG@harrisburguu.org). Repeats every Tuesday. Third Tuesday (Dec. 20) is silent meditation.

### Wed 7 6:00 Queen Spirit: Celebrating the Mother in Us

QueenSpirit is a co-created women’s spirituality circle. Bring a favorite dish, dessert or beverage to share, and bring your place setting and serving spoons and plates. This month, Ann Stillwater and Jessica Chuckalovcak facilitate a circle about the mother aspect of a woman’s life. Participants can share impressions, feelings, and experiences around mothering and nurturing. If desired, you may bring an item that represents mothering to place on the altar, and a scarf or head covering. Extra scarves will be available. Women, please come and co-create this celebration and exploration of creation.



Potluck at 6:00, followed by the circle. Contact Kandy Melillo, [KandyUU@aol.com](mailto:KandyUU@aol.com).

### Sat 10 9:00 Breakfast at Market Street

Experience community in action – no experience necessary! UCH operates our own Common Ground Café, beginning at 9:00 a.m.

Drop-ins welcome. To join the e-list of volunteers, please contact Clay Lambert, [clay.jh.lambert@gmail.com](mailto:clay.jh.lambert@gmail.com).

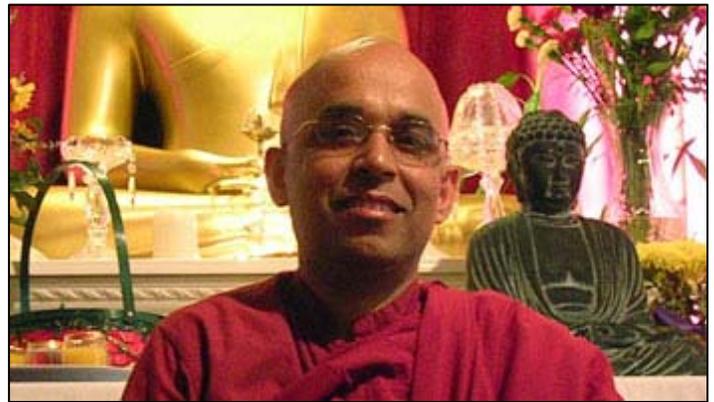


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**Sat 10 10:00 Bhante Sujatha**

Escape the holidays with a half-day retreat! Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG) is pleased to sponsor Buddhist monk Bhante Sujatha in a workshop involving teaching, seated meditation, and walking meditation. Please bring a bag lunch; hot water, cups and limited selection of tea will be available. The event is free; all are welcome. Voluntary donations in support of Bhante's work gratefully accepted. Contact Chuck Daley, [MMG@harrisburguu.org](mailto:MMG@harrisburguu.org).

Born in Sri Lanka, Sujatha was 11 when he entered the Sri Subodharama International Buddhist Centre (monastery). It is a part of the Theravada tradition, regarded among its practitioners as the lineage closest to the original form of Buddhism. After graduation, he taught meditation at Sri Subodharama and in Brisbane, Australia, before moving to the U.S. in the late 1990s. Originally focused on teaching to the Sri Lankan community, he eventually realized that the people he was living among already "got it" and he could teach the typical stressed-out, overworked Westerner how Buddhism could bring peace and happiness to their lives. He now teaches from his home base at the Blue Lotus Buddhist Temple near Chicago. This is his sixth appearance at the UCH.

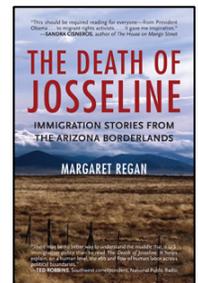


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**Sun 11 9:00 Moral Issues Forum**

Delegates at the 2010 General Assembly in Minneapolis selected "Immigration as a Moral Issue" to be the 2010-2014 Congregational Study/Action Issue of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA); the 2012 General Assembly (GA) in Phoenix will focus exclusively on social justice; and UUs across the U.S. are currently reading and discussing *The Death of Josseline: Immigration Stories from the Arizona Borderlands*. As noted at the UUA website:

Positions on immigration can be very emotional. For some of us, it touches on feelings of safety, both economic and physical. For others, it touches on issues of identity and belonging. There will be disagreement. But we must remember that everyone is trying to seek justice, as they know it. And we are called by our third principle to accept one another in mutual covenantal fellowship even as we encourage each other towards spiritual growth.



Immigration is also the topic for the December Forum. Our speaker is Angela Eveler, Director of the Pennsylvania Immigration Resource Center (PIRC), a nonprofit legal services provider helping unrepresented individuals detained during their immigration proceedings. PIRC provides about 1,200 detained foreign nationals a year with a helping hand in a cold, technical, and impersonal system. A group of York-based attorneys founded PIRC in 1996, in response to the legal needs of a wave of detainees housed there after the Chinese ship Golden Venture ran aground off Long Island, NY. The ship carried approximately 300 Chinese refugees who were fleeing persecution.

At present, the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) detains circa 1,600 immigrants in Pennsylvania at one county prison (York), two federal facilities, and a secure family shelter in Berks County. As a federal hub, York County Prison houses approximately 500 detainees on a daily basis. These Pennsylvania facilities are predominately located in rural counties, with a scarcity of immigration attorneys and immigrant communities. Consequently, most immigration detainees have little or no access to legal, social service, or community support.

The Second-Sunday Forum meets monthly to discuss moral and ethical issues from a non-religious viewpoint and without ritual. They are planned and conducted by the Humanism Lay-Led Ministry. A speaker presents his/her views on a topic with ethical and moral implications for approximately 30 minutes. After the presentation, the floor is open for discussion and questions. People in attendance share their views on the day's topic so that we learn, not only from our speaker, but from each other. For details, please contact David Spear, [spear130@gmail.com](mailto:spear130@gmail.com).

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**Sun 11 6:30 Philosophy & Literature Group**

Pot luck at 6:30 and book selection for 2012 at 7:00. Contact Dick Hoke, [Rrhoke@aol.com](mailto:Rrhoke@aol.com).

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**Wed 14 7:00 UCH Board Meeting**

Board meetings are open to members. For an agenda, please contact Judy Linder, [jclinder09@gmail.com](mailto:jclinder09@gmail.com).

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**Fri 16 7:30 Clover Lane Coffee House, \$10 donation**

Clover Lane Coffee House occurs monthly, normally on the third Friday, normally at Clover Lane. It provides a convivial environment to hear local and itinerant singer-songwriters. \$10 donation at the door; all are welcome.

This month, Clover Lane Coffee House is pleased to present Maya de Vitry and Oliver Craven of The Stray Birds, with Rick Sky opening. De Vitry has performed Appalachian fiddle and banjo music throughout North America and Europe. She is a student at the Berklee College of Music, where in her first year, she was a finalist in all four Berklee songwriting contests, including 1st prize in the "Songs for Social Change" contest. Most recently, she placed as a national finalist in the Telluride Troubadour Competition at the annual Telluride (Colorado) Bluegrass Festival. Craven was a long-time member of Lancaster-based Craven Family Band. He plays fiddle, guitar, mandolin and the resonator guitar; he is also an accomplished singer/songwriter. He played with the Americana "River Wheel" and also plays with The Steel Wheels. He has performed at diverse venues such as the Grey Fox Bluegrass and Calgary Folk Festivals, the Boulder Theatre, and the Bluebird Café. De Vitry and Craven formed The Stray Birds in 2010, now performing as a trio. Oliver and Maya were a smash hit at Clover Lane in August, singing as a trio with Charlie Muench, the other Stray Bird. Charlie is traveling this month and unavailable to play this concert.



Rick Sky plays self-composed "songs for the planet" on 6, 7, and 12 String Acoustic Guitars, Harp Guitar, Native Flutes, and world percussion. Based in Berks County, Rick presents original compositions created to heighten the audience's sensitivities to humanity and all life on our planet. Contact Bart Carpenter, [a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com](mailto:a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com).

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**Sun 18 9:00 & 11:00 Guest Minister**

We welcome a guest speaker to the pulpit this morning, the Rev. Dave Hunter (ret.) of Berwyn PA, speaking on "The Liberation of God & the Empowerment of Humanity: A Yuletide Exploration in Metaphorical Theology." Dave is a graduate of Princeton University, Harvard Law School, and Wesley Theological Seminary. He served as an attorney in the Voting Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice (1975 – 2000) before attending seminary. He and his wife, the Rev. Kerry Mueller, served as co-ministers in Crosswicks NJ and Cumberland MD before being called to Fayetteville AR in 2006. They retired earlier this year and now live in Berwyn.



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**Mon 19 7:00 Education Task Force**

As a follow-up to our three-week forum on education reform, this meeting focuses on the nuts and bolts of school boards, led by Laura Shemick, and experiences with a Book Whisperer-type of reading group at Milton Hershey Schools, led by Susan Danin Lunin. Contact May Dooley, [may@createyourhealthyhome.com](mailto:may@createyourhealthyhome.com). Focus group report, page 5.

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**Wed 21 6:30 Winter Solstice/Yule**

QueenSpirit would like to welcome one and all to the 2011 Winter Solstice/ Yule Celebration! The theme this year is 'The Three Faces of the Goddess-Farewell to the Crone and the Darkness.' Since the focus of the ritual is welcoming sunlight back to Earth, we are asking for energy-efficient light bulb donations so that we may "Share the Light" with the Market Street community. The ritual will close with a snake dance to a bonfire in the lower parking lot. Potluck hors d'oeuvres will be available in the community room downstairs. Please bring an appetizer to share!



Childcare available by pre-arrangement. Please contact Rebecca Waldemar, 717-364-2029 or [rwaldemar@gmail.com](mailto:rwaldemar@gmail.com) by December 13. For more info about the service or potluck, please contact Nikki Stone 717-265-4268 or [nstone@themanorgroup.com](mailto:nstone@themanorgroup.com). Nikki is keeping an inventory of potluck contributions (to avoid having 20 chocolate cakes and 1 veggie tray!) so please take a moment to let her know what you intend to bring.

**The Gift of Time: Homeless Shelter, Dec. 16-31**

During winter months, Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven Shelter provides a heated sleeping space for homeless men in Harrisburg, with eight area churches assisting with overnight site support. Our rotation is traditionally the second half of December. Two volunteers are needed each night, with a third back up; the back-up is called if one of the two volunteers cannot fulfill his/her shift. The shift is 7:30 p.m. to 7:30 a.m., and you should bring a sleeping bag and pillow (mattresses provided on site). All volunteers must be over age 18; at least one must be an adult male over age 21.

This year we will be scheduling volunteers two ways: (1) sign up online or (2) contact Tracy Richards at 533-3102 or [tmrichards3@comcast.net](mailto:tmrichards3@comcast.net).

To sign up on line go to [www.timetosignup.com/sheltermvolunteers](http://www.timetosignup.com/sheltermvolunteers) and select the day that you wish to sign up. After you sign up you will be provided a reminder email prior to your scheduled time as well as receive a reminder telephone call from Tracy Richards a day prior to your scheduled time. Please call Tracy Richards (533-3102) with questions.

				Friday, December 30th		Saturday, December 31st	
				Male Volunteer (at least 21 years of age) <input type="checkbox"/> sign up		Male Volunteer (at least 21 years of age) <input type="checkbox"/> sign up	
Friday, December 23rd	Saturday, December 24th	Sunday, December 25th	Monday, December 26th	Tuesday, December 27th	Wednesday, December 28th	Thursday, December 29th	
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Friday, December 16th	Saturday, December 17th	Sunday, December 18th	Monday, December 19th	Tuesday, December 20th	Wednesday, December 21st	Thursday, December 22nd	
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This could be YOU

**LaGrone Scholarship**

The fall art sale by the OLIVER COLLECTIVE generated \$1,861 for our 2012 Scholar. Sincere thanks to each of the artists, to all those who helped produce the show, and to YOU, for your valuable financial support. Special thanks to Cynthia Tyger for coordinating!

The COLLECTIVE's next benefit showing will be March 18 and 25, 2012, at the Clover Lane campus, immediately following the 9:00 a.m. services.  
– submitted by Cordell Affeldt

**Holiday Appeal**

*The season of giving is upon us. For that hard-to-get person on your list, consider donating in his/her name to the Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Fund. The money directly benefits Harrisburg High School graduates, and your contribution is tax-deductible.*

**Pastoral Associates**

Not everyone finds the holidays joyful. Whether or not you place religious or spiritual significance to specific dates in the month of December, we can find agreement that this time of year can be extremely stressful. There is tremendous pressure to decorate, bake, shop and socialize beyond our normal limits. We are inundated by images of the perfect family finding the true meaning of life in every event they experience.

Most of us do not live that perfect Hallmark-card kind of life. The best advice anyone can offer for surviving the holidays or anytime for that matter, is to be yourself, stay in your own integrity and allow others the same freedom. We don't need to make excuses if we simply do not want to attend that holiday party or join in the singing. By honoring our individuality, something UUs hold dear, we can move through this season with more grace and compassion.

Your Pastoral Associates wish you the very best as 2011 comes to a close. We are here to support you on your journey.  
– submitted by Rev. Kathie Teeter

## Education Focus Group

Report from the Education Focus Group, following the School Choice debate, *The Changing Face of American Education*:

Members of the Education Focus Group had an amazing committee experience in digging through the layers of issues. Our lively public debate in October on "The Changing Face of American Education" was attended by more than 100 members of the community, then we finished the series of three meetings with a book discussion of *The Death and Life of the Great American School System*, by Diane Ravitch, a timely and eloquent overview of No Child Left Behind, vouchers and charter schools, etc. Ravitch is particularly interesting because she started out in the Bush administration pushing for No Child Left Behind, privatizing education, etc., but after seeing some of the effects of this legislation in schools, made a 180-degree turn in support of public education. She lays a lot of the criticism of troubled inner city schools on poverty issues.

She says that on our present course, we are "disrupting communities, dumbing down our schools, giving students false reports of their progress, and creating a private sector that will undermine public education without improving it."

If you are interested in this subject but could not make the meetings, other resources include *The Death and Life of the Great American School System* (\$11.35 at amazon.com); our information meeting on Dec. 19 (p. 4); and our e-list for continuing conversation on the topic. Please contact May Dooley, [may@createyourhealthyhome.com](mailto:may@createyourhealthyhome.com), to be added to the list. Please also mention if you would like a copy of the Resource List (which includes two books recommended by a pro-choice panelist) distributed at the Ravitch meeting.

– submitted by May Dooley

## Sunday Flowers for 2012

Sponsoring flowers adds beauty to Sunday services and support for UCH, and it is a chance to share your celebration of a special occasion or commemoration of an event. Michael Mark, [michaelmark@paonline.com](mailto:michaelmark@paonline.com), is coordinating sponsorship for 2012 and has set up a website with the current schedule at <http://uchflowers.wordpress.com>. As we go to press, approximately half of the Sundays have designated donors, shaded in the accompanying calendar taken from the website.

The sponsorship fee is \$45. We will use the same flowers at both campuses each week. After Market Street services, sponsors may take them home or leave them to be enjoyed during community hours held Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays at Market Street. You will be invoiced following your Sunday or you can pay in advance (via check, with "flowers" in the memo line).

– submitted by Michael Mark

JANUARY	1	8	15	22	29
FEBRUARY	5	12	19	26	
MARCH	4	11	18	25	
APRIL	1	8	15	22	29
MAY	6	13	20	27	
JUNE	3	10	17	24	
JULY	1	8	15	22	29
AUGUST	5	12	19	26	
SEPTEMBER	2	9	16	23	30
OCTOBER	7	14	21	28	
NOVEMBER	4	11	18	25	
DECEMBER	2	9	16	23	30

## Holiday Giving Tree

Each year, UCH sponsors a Giving Tree to collect gifts for those in need. Children in the Head Start Program will be the recipients this year. Please bring your donation to either campus and place it by the Giving Tree. Children's items requested for donation include story books, interactive books (Spanish and English), hats and mittens for children age 6 and younger. Please label wrapped gifts girl/boy or either, age range, and English/Spanish or Both.

## Save the Date

Help support the Ecumenical Food Pantry as we celebrate 40 years of service to the greater Harrisburg community. Enjoy Theatre Harrisburg's production of this timeless favorite for audiences of all ages with its delightful score by Andrew Lloyd Webber.

Benefit performance; proceeds benefit the Ecumenical Food Pantry. Each week, members bring non-perishable food donations to church. We take them to the Ecumenical Food Pantry, which serves 2,700 needy residents per month.

For tickets and information contact Michael Mark, [michaelmark@paonline.com](mailto:michaelmark@paonline.com).



8:00 p.m. Friday February 17th  
Sunoco Performance Theater, Whitaker Center  
222 Market St, Harrisburg  
Tickets – \$25  
Parking Available - Walnut Street Garage

## News about UCH Members

News items about “our own” fellow UUS.

### COUCH news

The Hellmann COUCH group and spouses are gathering at the What If Cafe on December 5 for a holiday dinner. Besides our thoughtful discussions each month, we are so thankful for the comfort and joy we receive from each other. At our next meeting we plan to discuss a possible service project.  
– Submitted by Joan Hellman

### New UCH Members

We welcome three new members to the congregation this quarter!

#### Karen Baker

Karen Baker is a social worker and Director of the National Sexual Violence Resource Center (NSVRC), founded in 2000 by the Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape. She has two sons and five grandsons and has lived in Harrisburg for the past 11 years. She heard about the UCH from the Womyn’s Chorus and from a UU friend in Atlanta. She is interested in social justice, feminism and LGBTQ issues. She likes dogs, travel, games, movies, music, art and books. Her Connection Coach is **Marsha Dulaney**.

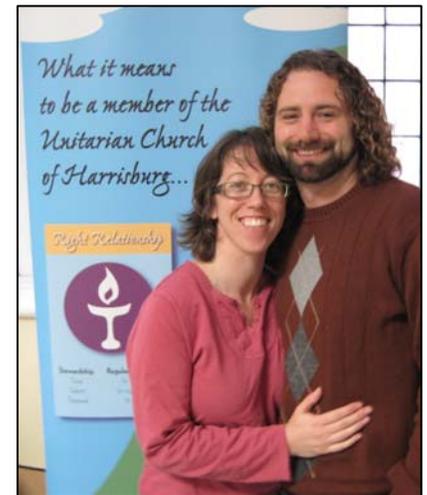
*Ed. note: Karen lives in the flood zone on Second Street and has (finally) returned to her newly repaired home.*



#### Rick and Jen Phoenix

Rick and Jen Phoenix live in Duncannon with Nina, 5, and Thaddeus, 4. He teaches Fourth Grade in Susquenita School District (and was formerly a kindergarten teacher). She is a registered nurse (RN) and works as a nurse educator in the Simulation Center at Penn State Hershey Medical Center. Both members submitted profile information via iPhone (a first), summarized below.

Jen found us on the website. She reports taking a quiz on belief net several years ago, where Unitarian Universalist came up at the top of her list. After moving to Central Pennsylvania, she and Rick kept trying different churches. After several times taking the quiz at [www.beliefnet.com](http://www.beliefnet.com), she spent a great deal of time reading the description of UU practices, watching videos, even reading about the UU ministry. She found the UUA website, then ours. Rick reports: *I am a husband, father, friend, teacher and I love all these parts of my life. I love to laugh :)*



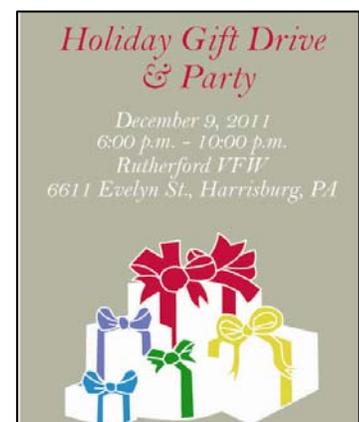
Their connection Coach is **Jessica Chuckalovcak**.

### Jordan Wright

Former Youth Group member (and current student at Stevenson University) Jordan Wright has joined the Board of Directors of a newly formed non-profit, Blessed&Appreciative ([www.blessedandappreciative.org](http://www.blessedandappreciative.org)). The Harrisburg organization focuses on community outreach at the local level. They did a fund-raiser in October for Making Strides Against Breast Cancer. In November they prepared and served Thanksgiving dinner for at-risk youth at the Diakon Wilderness Center. On Dec. 9, the group is sponsoring a gift drive for Harrisburg area children – entry to the event is an unwrapped, new gift.

As Jordan noted in a recent email, “I’m very excited for all of you to see me doing work that I’m so passionate about!”

– Submitted by Wendy Shaver



### A Message from Our President (Cont. from Page 1)

community. One large group was from the Cumberland County League of Women Voters. The debate consisted of eight panelists, four pro and four con, discussing the issues. The meeting was skillfully moderated by UCH member Scott Gilbert. It was also televised and later broadcast twice on local television. The tenor of the meeting certainly demonstrated "The inherent worth and dignity of every person", "Justice, equity and compassion in human relations", "A free and responsible search for truth and meaning", "The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process", and "The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all." In spite of the very different views of the panelists, each one was treated with respect. The questions to them were thoughtful, and probing. It demonstrated that debate of widely varied points of view can be carried on, leaving behind both polarizing language and heated emotions. Thank you to David Spear for championing this event.

The board has been quite active this month. We had an all-day retreat to focus on visioning for the church. With Policy Governance, our first responsibility to the church is to provide vision and leadership for the church. Using the Strategies and Goals that the church voted on as a guide, we started the process of prioritizing what can be accomplished in the remaining year. Since the congregation made it clear that handicapped accessibility should be at the top of the list, we are starting the long process of a Capital Campaign. With the elevator out of order at Clover Lane, both campuses need improvements for handicapped access. Another issue is improving communications with and within the congregation. Jim Cavanaugh is organizing a "Listening Campaign." There is training involved, so if you are interested in participating as a facilitator, please contact him at [Nanjim65@verizon.net](mailto:Nanjim65@verizon.net). If you have any comments about the church's policies do not hesitate to talk to or email any board member, myself included. We are all willing to listen and discuss issues in the spirit of respect and compassion.

**THE BOARD AND STAFF** had a joint meeting where we also focused on the short term (one to three years) and long term (more than three to five years) goals for the church. There were some very creative ideas for new and continuing projects. One that I thought was interesting was having a ministry for young adults that would focus on outreach to college students and social

justice issues. Is anyone interested in volunteering for starting one up?

We are continuing to give away half the plate each Sunday to a local charity chosen by staff. The reason for deciding to donate half the plate goes back to the Ends Statement voted on by the congregation:

2.3.1. The church engages regularly in community outreach and actively maintains connections to the community it serves.

**OUR ACTIVE MEMBERS CONTRIBUTE REGULARLY** through their stewardship pledge, so this is an additional donation to the needs of the community. The local Planned Parenthood received \$1,200 in October due to the generosity of our church members. It is a very simple gesture of support to not let the plate pass you by on Sunday, or send in an additional donation. I don't have the figures for November at this writing, but the goal was to feed 60 neighborhood families a Thanksgiving dinner. I was listening to a radio show a few weeks ago, and the discussion was on hunger in Pennsylvania. They estimated that one out of every nine in Pennsylvania are "food insecure." (Most of them are children) For those of you who put some extra in the plate in November, you can know that you shared your Thanksgiving dinner with someone who was truly hungry. The last Sunday in November and first three Sundays in December will go to Susquehanna Harbor Safe Haven, which we know as the Downtown Winter Shelter. It is where some of our members, every year, volunteer to stay a night. So don't let the plate pass you by!

**AS FOR THE VIEW OF THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL HEALTH** of our congregation, we are doing fairly well. At the end of October, we finished the month about \$6,800 in the black. According to the budget we should have been \$12,700 in the black, so we are slightly under budget year to date. Considering that we have an annual budget of more than \$635,000, the amount under budget is less than .0093 of the entire amount. The issue is cash flow. Since revenues equal expenditures, often the expenses come in before the revenue. We are supposed to have a cash reserve on hand to cover that situation, but we don't. How can you, loyal UU's help? Easy! If you are not a contributing member (of money or volunteer time), start contributing! There are presently 60 people out of 420 people who are listed as "members" who do not give anything to our church. (Of

course, according to the by-laws, they can't vote at our congregational meetings.) My solution to our chronic cash flow problem is for you 60 who do not contribute to finally step up and make a contribution of record. The average median pledge is about \$1,200. If 60 people could match just this median amount, we would have an additional \$72,000. That is about \$25 a week contribution of record per person. We would even have enough left at the end of the year to add to the endowment fund, pay off the mortgage in three years, or hire an associate minister. For those of us who do make a contribution of record, overpaying your pledge each month or increasing your pledge always helps. We are fortunate to have such a generous group of contributing members.

**THE OTHER BIG EVENT IN NOVEMBER** was Association Sunday and its accompanying events. On Saturday there was a one day music workshop given by Dr. Ysaye Barnwell (who also was the main part of the Sunday service). We hosted the Common Ground Cafe breakfast on Sunday morning instead of Saturday, and we served 342 meals, close to a record. We had help in the kitchen from Colonial Park UCC, Shared Ministry, Catholic Worker House, as well as the usual crew from UCH. The service

itself had a full house (about 450 to 500). It was a lively time followed by fellowship downstairs. We should all thank staff and volunteers for a well planned, successful service. If you have never volunteered for a UCH event, consider trying it!

On November 29th there was a guest speaker, John Mulligan from Gettysburg. John is director of Triple Gem Prison Sangha, a mindfulness meditation program for inmates, as well as Bodhi House, a post-release residency program for men who want to continue study and practice in a lay spiritual community. John spoke about the challenges of prison meditation programs and showed a short video on the benefits of prison meditation called "Changing from Within." He was sponsored by the Mindful Meditation Group at UCH.

Mindful Meditation is also sponsoring a return visit of Bhante Sujatha on Dec 10 (page 3). Bhante has held several workshops here at UCH as well as speaking from the pulpit. He will conduct a meditation session, and discuss the ways to live a mindful life.

May we all be well, happy, and peaceful!

*Judy*

## A Message from our Treasurer

*Extracted from Reports Submitted by Tom Winner, Treasurer, UCH Board of Trustees*

I remain concerned about depleting our Operating Asset reserve of \$6,823.66. This is far below the reserve of \$52,497 (cost of one month's expenses) as set in UCH policy and leads us to hold bills much closer to their due date. I expect income from the auction will give us a temporary reprieve, but I believe the church will exhaust its Operating Asset reserve by the end of January 2012. At that point, bills will be held until sufficient funds are available to cover their cost.

The importance of increasing the number of individuals that are pledging and contributing should be foremost on the minds of the church's leadership (Board and staff) and the congregation. In addition, fundraising from the auction, six week store, food certificate sales, etc. becomes increasingly important to fulfilling our funding needs.

I expect expenses to be "on budget" for the year. However, unless pledging/contributions increase or income from other sources increase, I believe the church will need to institute a "Close The Gap" campaign by February or find another revenue source to pay expenses through the end of the fiscal year.

*Tom Winner*

**Auction Update:** As we go to press, auction income is \$12,436, approximately \$500 higher than last year. Thanks to all who donated their time, talent, and white elephants and to the many, many families who bid. Please pay invoices by Dec. 31.  
*— submitted by Bart Carpenter*

