



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

Minister's Message



Periods of interim ministry tend to be busy times for churches. That certainly was true for October, as we celebrated National Coming Out Day and worshipped with the Shared Ministry congregation. Many of us also paused to say goodbye to a well-loved member of our church, Maureen Callahan, whose sudden death on October 5 took

everyone by surprise.

We also met to discuss the history and heritage of UCH, as the first step in our congregation-wide engagement with the interim ministry work. My thanks to the 98 UChers who came together October 13 for such a rich, respectful conversation of how our church evolved over the years to the religious community it is now. Special thanks to the members of the Transition Team who made the event happen.

We had a fruitful engagement that afternoon, but we did not have time to address every issue as fully as we'd have liked. So we will have a follow-up meeting on Sunday, Nov. 17, 1:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m. in the sanctuary at Clover Lane. This conversation will focus on a few outstanding issues for which there was energy around addressing in more detail. Please see my blog, *In the Interim*, for a post that tells more about this follow-up conversation, and one that offers my interpretations from our conversation on Oct. 13.

Perhaps the most immediately important piece that emerged from our history discussion was a reminder that we have a VERY important anniversary this month. It was 50 years ago this month that our then-new building on Clover Lane was dedicated. This deserves celebration! We will lift up this anniversary during worship at both campuses Nov. 17. Following the 9:00 a.m. worship, we will have a special celebration in the Common Room.

We also have two guests coming from out of state to share with UCH their insights into UUism. At the 9:00 a.m. Forum and the 11:00 worship service Nov. 10, the Rev. Ron Robinson will be with us. He is the clergy leader of a unique "missional" ministry in an economically poor, largely rural neighborhood north of Tulsa, Oklahoma. Come to ask questions at the Forum and be inspired as we worship together.

The following evening, Monday, Nov. 11, we are pleased to host a lecture and book reading by one of the best-known ministers in UUism today, the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed, who will speak and read from his new books. In addition to serving congregations in the U.S. and Canada and teaching at Meadville/Lombard, Mark is the author or editor of several books, including *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*. We hope you will join us at Market Street that evening for an insightful and educational time.

With so much coming up, I can only add the oh-so-fitting words: See you in church!

In faith, *Rev. Eric Posa*

Unitarian Church of Harrisburg

November 2013 At-a-Glance

Please check website for last-minute updates

DATE	TIME	SPEAKER
Fri 1	9:00	Adopt-A-Highway, John Hargreaves
	5:30	Family potluck, Alex/Andrea MacDonald
	7:00	Clover Lane Coffee House, Bart Carpenter
Sat 2	5:30	Lights, Camera, AUCTION!
Sun 3	9:00	"The Only Way Out is Through," Rev Eric Posa
	11:00	
Mon 4	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Ed Sykes
Tue 5	7:00	Mindfulness Meditation Group (MMG), Chuck Daley
Wed 6	6:00	Queen Spirit, Randa Todd
Sat 9	9:00	Common Ground Café, Clay Lambert
Sun 10	9:00	Second Sunday Forum, Rev. Ron Robinson
	11:00	"Life on Fire," Rev. Robinson
	7:00	Philosophy and Literature, Don Brown
Mon 11	7:00	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
		Rev. Mark Morison-Reed
Tue 12	5:45	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	7:00	Tenets of <i>Toxic Charity</i> , Trish Brandon
	7:00	MMG, Daley
Wed 13	7:00	Board of Trustees, Judy Linder
	noon	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
Fri	7:00	<i>Talking White</i> , Jessica Chuckalovcak
Sun 17	9:00	"Loud the Hallowed Halls Demand," Rev. Posa
	11:00	
	1:30	All-Church Meeting
Mon 18	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 19	5:45	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	7:00	MMG, Daley
Wed 20	noon	"Friedman's Fables," Rev. Posa
	6:00	Clover Grove, Nikki Stone-Thonus
Sun 24	9:00	"A Prayer of Thanksgiving," Rev. Posa
	11:00	
Mon 25	6:30	Amrit Yoga, Sykes
Tue 26	7:00	MMG, Daley

Occurs at Market Street campus

Community Hours, 10:00- noon, every MWF except holidays

President's Message



Mark your calendar for our second congregational meeting Nov. 17 at the Clover Lane campus. The first meeting on October 13th was attended by nearly 100 members and friends of our congregation. Those of you who participated had an opportunity to explore the history of UCH, its past ministers, important events, issues, and growth to our present congregation.

There were several issues that deserve more discussion, therefore the upcoming meeting will be devoted to them. Congregational meetings are an important part of our two year interim period and transition to a settled minister.

Participation of everyone will make our journey "home" one that we can understand. Transition is not a passive process; it will be one that we must all actively engage. We will be in search next year for our new settled minister, and it is

important that we openly and honestly discuss issues of agreement and disagreement. The process of this transition is one of understanding and respecting each other, and being willing to accept /embrace the decisions that are the best for the entire congregation.

We are individually members of the church, with individual opinions and needs. But what is important is that we speak our minds and hearts and then, having been heard, move into acceptance of decisions based on the mission of the church as a whole. Eric and the Board will make sure that the entire process is done in plain sight, with no hidden agendas. The process will be most successful if we have active participation of all members of the congregation.

The Board of Trustees has been sharpening its skills thanks to the Policy Governance workshop that Rev. Eric Posa attended last month. It was conducted by Miriam Carver, www.carvergovernance.com/MiriamCarver.htm a noted expert in governance structures for Boards. The Board gave a list of questions to Eric to ask at the seminar. One of the topics that our Board has been addressing is that of monitoring the Executive. Eric has returned with many ideas and techniques for the Board to use. We have formal limits on what the Executive has to do and cannot do. The Board has been

working with Eric to have more meaningful reports, a calendar for follow up, assessment and communication tools, and actions that can be taken if needed. Actions can include direct inspection, changing or adding to the goals (or Ends) or limitations for the Executive. The Board will be having additional meetings as needed for education and self-assessment. The goal is to be ready for a new settled minister with improved governance. Review of governance procedures is also a significant part of the interim period, and a time for review and making changes where needed.

Another issue the Board is working on is the balloon payment on our mortgage. We currently have a mortgage on the Clover Lane property that is a commercial mortgage. A commercial mortgage is usually for a five year period with a balloon payment either to be paid off or refinanced. The estimated balance will be about \$250,000 (our only debt, and a small percentage of our total assets) and it is due in July. We have

met in person with loan officers or branch managers in four of the banks. To date two banks have contacted us for follow up appointments, one visit has been completed, another is scheduled. Of course it is too early to know what interest rates will be in July, but the Board has felt it is important to do

careful research, to have the proper documents in hand, and build a relationship with several banks. The quality of our financial reports, especially audit requirements, seem to vary between all of the banks. The Board has authorized an audit of our financial records because it is fiscally responsible.

Remember Michael Durall's advice:

During this period of transition, I hope church members will hold true to your current mission statement, which reads in part, " To be a beacon of love and tolerance." The ground rule of "all voices being heard " does not mean that all ideas put forward will prevail. If a member's wish is not the direction the leadership decides, I urge members to be slow to anger and quick to forgive, and remain team players. Maybe the next decision will go your way.

May we all be well, happy, and peaceful! *Judy*

Sunday Service Assignments for November

DATE	CLOVER LANE			MARKET STREET		
	TRUSTEE	USHER	GUESTBOOK	TRUSTEE	USHER	GUESTBOOK
Nov 3	Laura Shemick	Hannah Belser & Wally Wenklar	Laura Shemick	Andy Loza	Ann Stillwater	Bart Carpenter
Nov 10	M. McHenry	Joan Hellman		Tom Conners	Chris Dutton/Steve Todd	Meg Conners
Nov 17	Mary H-Voss	Steve Todd	TBD	Andy Loza	TBD	Bart Carpenter
Nov 24	Dave Forster	Rachel & Michael Mark	Marj Forster	Clay Lambert	Anita & John Mentzer	Bart Carpenter

Please synchronize your calendar for these UCH-sponsored events.

Fri 1 6:00 Family Potluck **Clover Lane**

Bring your family and a favorite dish to a potluck dinner; no reservations necessary. Coordinated by Andrea/Alex MacDonald and Jessica/Chris Chuckalovcak. The event precedes the family concert (see below) and the "cash and carry" auction (further below) will be open tonight! All are welcome. Contact Andrea MacDonald, histrclpn@aol.com.

Family Potluck

Fri 1 7:00 Clover Lane Coffee House: Lui Collins **Clover Lane**

Clover Lane Coffee House presents its third concert this season, a family-friendly event featuring Lui Collins. Admission is \$10 at the door; \$25 max per family. All are welcome.

An accomplished vocalist, guitarist, and banjo player, Lui has performed across the U.S. for more than 30 years, including collaborations with Horace Williams and Dana Robinson.

In the 1990s, she began performing for and working with children when her own children were small and subsequently trained in the early childhood "Music Together" program. In 2007, she began research and development on Kids' Jam, an educational program for 5-7 year-olds, for which she has since adapted, written and recorded a two-year cycle of 8 seasonal collections of songs. Contact a.bart.carpenter@gmail.com.



Sat 2 9:00 Adopt-A-Highway **Clover Lane**

The Adopt-a-Highway cadre is responsible for two miles of Lindle Road near the Clover Lane campus. Policing actions are held in the spring, summer and fall. THIS IS THE DAY. PennDOT provides orange safety vests and highway warning signs that we use during litter pick-ups. It also provides trash bags and picks up the bagged litter from the roadside. Volunteers must be at least eight years old, and those under age 18 must be accompanied by an adult. Meet at Clover Lane to start. Contact John Hargreaves, cierpinski@comcast.net.



Sat 2 5:30 All-Family Auction **Clover Lane**

Final Casting Call!! "Shooting" begins for the new production at 5:30 with a shared meal and more! Please bring a gently used item (white elephant) to donate to the cash-and-carry auction – and do plan to take another elephant home with you. You should coordinate your dinner contribution with casting director Patti Hazell. If interested in proxy bidding for the live auction, please contact Bart Carpenter.

You are cordially invited to the UCH's annual

ALL-FAMILY AUCTION

SATURDAY, NOV. 2, 2013




WEST HOLLYWOOD
1280 CLOVER LANE

Mon 4 6:30 Amrit Yoga (weekly) **Clover Lane**

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.

Led by Ed Sykes, esykes@state.pa.us. No experience necessary! **Repeats every Monday.**

Tue 5 5:45 Friedman's Fables & Food **Clover Lane**

—and—

Wed 6 noon Friedman's Fables & Food **Market Street**

DATE	FABLE
Nov. 5/6	"Round in Circles"
Nov. 12/13	"Projection"
Nov. 19/20	"Raising Cain"
Nov. 26/27	No meeting til Dec. 3

For the first three weeks of November, Rev. Posa will hold his weekly book study of *Friedman's Fables*: Tuesday evening at Clover Lane, Wednesday noon at Market Street. (No sessions the week of Thanksgiving.) Each week, we'll read one fable, promptly at the beginning of the hour. Then we'll spend the rest of the hour discussing its insights into our relationships with one another: in church, in our families, and in other areas of our lives. Obviously, these times



Adult RGL

overlap significantly with meal times. That's part of the point, in fact; eating at these discussions is encouraged. Please feel free to bring a "brown bag" lunch or dinner with you to these meetings.

Tue 5 7:00 Mindfulness Meditation (weekly) Clover Lane
 Two 25-minute periods of meditation with a short reading, discussion and rest between. Coordinated by Chuck Daley, MMG@harrisburguu.org.
Repeats every Tuesday. Third Tuesday is silent meditation.

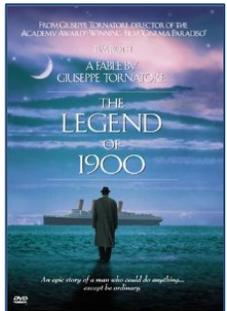
Wed 6 6:00 Queen Spirit Clover Lane
 Queen Spirit is a co-created women's spirituality circle that meets on the first Wednesday of the month. This month, Queen Spirit and Clover Grove will be meeting to work on our Winter Solstice Celebration. Please come and help make the Celebration wonderful. We come together to share our stories, be nourished and affirmed in our journeys, and provide and receive spiritual enrichment. Potluck at 6:00, followed by the circle. Contact Randa Todd, Irrt1946@yahoo.com.

Sat 9 9:00 Common Ground Café Market Street
 In collaboration with the Shared Ministry, the UCH is now in its fourth year of operating the Common Ground Café at our Market Street campus. It occurs on the second and last Saturday of the month, and attendance continues to increase! The café opens at 9:00 a.m., and you can be a part of the action! No experience necessary, and drop-ins are always welcome. We also need volunteers to work with neighborhood children.



To join the list of volunteers, contact Clay Lambert, commongroundbreakfast@gmail.com. **Repeats November 26**

Sat 9 7:30 Movie Night at Clover Lane Clover Lane
 UCH members and friends are invited to a convivial "Saturday Night at the Movies." This month's feature is *The Legend of 1900*. From Amazon.com,



The Legend of 1900 is a movie unlike almost any other I have seen. It is the story of a musical genius who is born, lives out his life, and ultimately dies on board a grand trans-Atlantic liner in the first half of the 20th century. He watches the world pass him by just a few thousand people at a time, is sought after by recording companies, and listens to and learns from the music of all the different cultures who are emigrating from the Old World to the New, but he never once leaves the ship. Indeed, the mere thought of setting foot on land is his ultimate nightmare.

Contact Judy Linder, jlinder09@gmail.com.

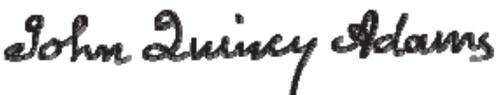
Sun 10 9:00 Second Sunday Forum: The Missional Church Clover Lane
 Our guest speaker this month is the Rev. Ron Robinson, speaking on *The Missional Church* and his work with the economically disadvantaged community of Turley, OK. Robinson is a Christian UU and executive director of the UU Christian Fellowship, a denominational organization of UU Christians. He will talk about his work at The Third Place in Turley.



"We are going to where the people are rather than making the people come to us," Robinson told *UU World* in an interview several years ago. "Our goal is to become embedded in the life of the larger community, providing life-giving opportunities. This also helps to get people out of the consumer model of church."

Join us for a thoughtful, broad-based discussion about this topic at Clover Lane at 9:00 a.m., then a joint worship service at Market Street. All are welcome.

Sun 10 7:00 Philosophy & Literature Group Clover Lane
 The Philosophy & Literature Group meets on the second Sunday of each month, usually at Clover Lane. The book for November is *John Quincy Adams*, by Harlow Unger. From amazon.com:



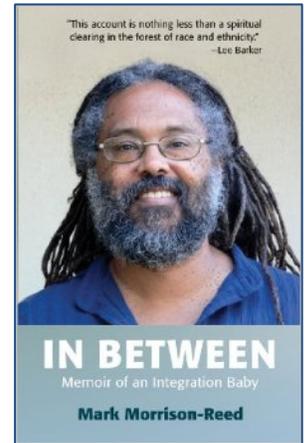
He fought for Washington, served with Lincoln, witnessed Bunker Hill, and sounded the clarion against slavery on the eve of the Civil War. He negotiated an end to the War of 1812, engineered the annexation of Florida, and won the Supreme Court decision that freed the African captives of *The Amistad*. He served his nation as minister to six countries, secretary of state, senator, congressman, and president.

He was also a Unitarian! This month, the group meets at Clover Lane. Any person who loves serious fiction and non-fiction is invited to join the group. Contact Don Brown, dabrown57@gmail.com.

Mon 11 7:00 Black Pioneers and More

Market Street

All are welcome to hear the Rev. Dr. Mark Morrison-Reed speak on the role of African-Americans in the UU world. Mark was raised in the UU faith and ordained in the UU ministry in 1979. For 26 years, he and his wife served as co-ministers first in Rochester, NY, then Toronto, Ont. Since retiring in 2005, he has traveled and lectured extensively. He comes to us after conducting a weekend retreat at All Soul's in Washington D.C. Here is his description of the evening event in Harrisburg:



There are many more African-American UUs than you know about. Find out who they were – and learn what is it like to grow up as one! Why does UUism find it such a struggle to become more diverse?

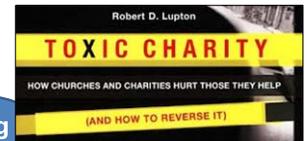
Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will read excerpts from the new UUA meditation manual that he co-edited, *Voices from the Margin*; the history *Darkening the Doorways: Black Trailblazers and Missed Opportunities in Unitarian Universalism*; as well passages from his memoir *In Between: Memoir of an Integration Baby* and a précis of his next book that looks at the UU involvement in Selma in 1965.

The program runs about two hours and includes a short DVD, readings, questions and answers, and book signing.

Tue 12 7:00 Implementing Principles of Toxic Charity

Clover Lane

All are welcome to join in the follow-up discussion of Robert Lupton's *Toxic Charity*, facilitated by John Forest and Trish Brandon. To enable lasting change, Lupton recommends a process of establishing relationships, partnering with neighborhood leaders and local organizations, facilitating conversations to identify needs, and then supporting local leaders as they implement plans. He emphasizes both the importance of reserving charity for emergency situations and the need for systems that include reciprocity and dignity.



Ongoing Discussion

Participants will discuss some of the ways UCH engages in social justice and ideas for the future based on the tenets of the book. RSVP appreciated but not required; all are welcome. Contact Trish at DREHarrisburg@gmail.com.

Fri 15 7:00 Poetry Reading

Clover Lane

The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Committee is pleased to present local poet Maria Thiaw in an evening of poetry, with proceeds benefitting the LaGrone Scholarship Fund. A Professor of Literary & Cultural Studies in the School of General & Immersion Studies at Central Penn College, Maria writes really compelling poems and reads them beautifully.



The cozy setting, informal style, and audience comment enriches the experience of hearing her. Admission includes a copy of her newly published collection, *Talking White*. The lyric poetry takes a hard look at the intra-cultural bullying that takes place within the African American community.

You will be delighted at Maria's refreshing and meaningful approach to expanding your mind! Admission \$15 at the door; all are welcome. The event also includes an advance showing from this season's display of artwork created by the **OLIVER COLLECTIVE**, i.e., UCH artistically inclined members and supporters of Oliver LaGrone.

Contact Jessica Chuckalovcak, jemoy1123@yahoo.com.

Sun 17 10:00 Celebrating 50 Years at Clover Lane

Clover Lane

In November 1963, the UCH dedicated its new building at 1280 Clover Lane. Following the 9:00 a.m. worship today, we will lift up this important milestone in the life of our congregation. "Coffee and Conversation" includes a special celebration of this anniversary; in other words, there'll be CAKE! **Note:** we will also celebrate this milestone during the 11:00 a.m. service at Market Street; no promised of cake, though! Contact Rev. Posa, revericposa@gmail.com.

Sun 17 1:30 All-Congregation Follow-Up Gathering

Clover Lane

Almost 100 people attended our gathering to discuss the history and legacy of UCH in October. This follow-up will be to address in more detail, issues that we ran out of time to explore in depth. All are welcome, especially (but not only) those who attended on Oct. 13. Snacks and childcare provided. Contact Rev. Posa, revericposa@gmail.com.

Oliver Collective Art Sale

The **OLIVER COLLECTIVE** has scheduled its fall art sale for Nov. 17 and Nov. 24, at both campuses. To donate artwork, contact Wally Wenklar at wmwenkla@te.com. The showings this year include treasures such as: knitted/crochet wearables, wooden lamps, framed photography, box-framed assemblages, jewelry, pottery, paintings, and note cards. Contribute the named amount, or more.

The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship is annually awarded to a graduate of Harrisburg High School. An adult and a youth member of UCH participate with three Harrisburg residents in choosing the Scholar. The UCH assigns a member to serve as mentor and connect with the Scholar through post-secondary graduation. This year, the LaGrone Scholar will receive a total of \$5,500, the largest of any local scholarship.

LaGrone Profile

Durrell Burns, a graduate of the SciTech campus of Harrisburg High School, was awarded the Oliver LaGrone scholarship in 2011. Currently in his third year at Millersville University, Durrell is majoring in secondary education with a focus on English. Durrell recently completed a four-week field experience in which he worked with 6th through 8th grade students, and he says that it was a positive experience but confirmed for him his desire to work with high school-aged students. Durrell also credits his UCH mentor, Nick Wilson, with helping him to focus his career aspirations, thanks to some professional guidance and materials that Nick gave him last year.



This academic year is a busy one for Durrell. He has moved off-campus and, in addition to a full course load, works full-time on the third shift at Lancaster Mold. Durrell says that the LaGrone Scholarship has been a huge help to him, especially when purchasing textbooks for his classes. Durrell noted that one textbook last year cost him \$186 and he was only able to resell it for \$50.

Durrell also shared a piece of exciting news: He will become a father soon! A baby girl is expected around Feb. 14. Please join me in sending out positive wishes to Durrell in all his endeavors.

The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship, established in 1974 by members of the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg, provides four-year scholarships for post-secondary education to graduates of the Harrisburg School District. The scholarship honors the life and legacy of poet, sculptor, educator, humanitarian, and UCH member Oliver LaGrone (1906-1995).

—Submitted by Amy Allen

Obituary: Maureen Callahan

Long-time UCH member Maureen Callahan died Oct. 5, 2013, at the age of 67. Services were held Saturday, Oct. 12, at Geigle Funeral home, the Rev. Eric Posa officiating.

Maureen joined the Unitarian Church of Harrisburg in 1982 and devoted much time to teaching Sunday school, fund-raising, and organizing holiday luncheons and events. A former nurse clinician specializing in neurosurgery, Maureen served as UCH Mentor to the 2010 LaGrone Scholar, Dana Washington (photo, 2012), who is studying to be a physician's assistant at Penn State. Dana was among those who chose to speak at the funeral, saying how much she appreciated Maureen's personal encouragement and friendship. The Oliver LaGrone Scholarship Committee expressed its condolences to the family and will miss Maureen's support.



Maureen was deeply involved in the UCH community for more than 30 years. "She was a co-leader for the Rite of Passage from childhood to being a youth, called Coming of Age," said Religious Education (RE) Director Trish Brandon. "She served on the RE Committee for many years and was a dedicated RE teacher. "

Margaret Carrow notes that Maureen was known for her excellent cooking and baking and for years organized the annual all-church Thanksgiving dinner. She is survived by her husband of 38 years, Roger Ostdahl; daughters Maggie and Shannon; and her son-in-law, Matt Killian.

Inside UCH highlights church programs and services so UCH members and friends better understand all that is going on in the church and how they can become more involved.

Attentive listening communicates worth, legitimate employment gives meaning to life, community gives a sense of belonging -- all three enhance human dignity.
— Robert D. Lupton in *Toxic Charity*

Three days a week, from 10 a.m. to noon, residents of the Allison Hill neighborhood around our Market Street campus come into the downstairs community room. Some get a cup of coffee and sit at tables, talking with neighborhood friends or volunteers. Others sign in and ask for specific help that they need. They come because there are people present who will listen to them and will try to help them in material and spiritual ways. They come to bask in the growing spirit of community that they find at 16th and Market Street.

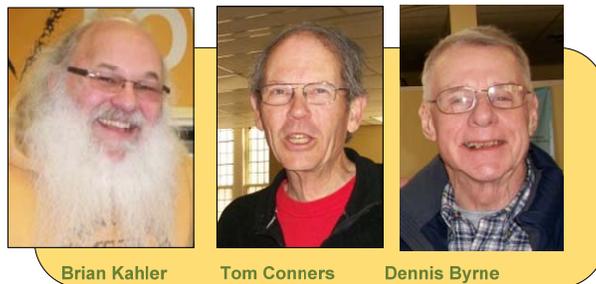
Community Hours in the Market Street building dates back more than 30 years. It was started by Fourth United Church of Christ (UCC) when they were the building's sole occupant and continued when The Shared Ministry was created by the merger of Fourth UCC and Park Street United Methodist Church to function as a single congregation. In buying the building four years ago, the UCH also joined The Shared Ministry in a partnership providing for both congregations to use the facility for worship and community outreach. Community Hours and the twice-monthly community breakfasts quickly became the centerpieces of the UCH's work in Allison Hill.

The two congregations have different approaches to meeting needs in the community, although their ultimate goal is the same: to help residents find ways to become more self-sufficient and solve their own problems, and to provide substantive assistance to meet true emergency needs.

The Shared Ministry budgets to support a staff person who works during Community Hours to provide intake services for people with emergency needs and distribute food vouchers, clothing, bus passes, and other goods. The budget, augmented by individual contributions, also gives Pastor Richard Gordon a discretionary fund to help with requests for assistance with rent payments, utility bill payments, etc. Rev. Gordon says he has become adept at screening out those who try to scam the church and take advantage of its generosity, although he recognizes that sometimes he makes mistakes.



“The ingrained perspective in The Shared Ministry’s parishioners is that we know we are not necessarily doing things the right way or doing enough, but we’re glad we are doing something,” he says. He has asked UCH to consider budgeting to support this cash-based outreach.



Brian Kahler Tom Conners Dennis Byrne

Ownership of the program continues to evolve. Many congregants from The Shared Ministry “continue to hold on to Community Hours as our program,” says Rev. Gordon. But they also see UCH members such as Brian Kahler, Tom Conners, Dennis Byrne (photo), and others working many hours there every week and realize that it is “functionally a Shared Ministry/UCH program.”

Richard has expressed interest in having a group from both congregations read the book *Toxic Charity* and form a planning group that could look for better, more efficient and effective ways for the two congregations to support community-based initiatives and improve life there.

UCH member Brian Kahler has volunteered at Community Hours for almost five years and serves as a campus/community liaison there. Over the past few years, many suggestions have arisen for programs at Market Street that are or could be offered by other groups that already provide the services, e.g., tutoring, literacy training, or nutritional education. Brian says it is important to listen to community members and learn from them what they need and want, rather than imposing our ideas and goals on them, possibly duplicating existing resources or programs.

“In my opinion,” Brian says, “we need to keep in mind that we are a church, not a social service agency. The most important thing we bring to the Allison Hill Community is our faith – Unitarian Universalism. And the best way we can do that is by establishing personal relationships with our neighbors, and hearing their stories.”

Brian hopes that the building will be open and serving the community many more hours a week in the future, perhaps ultimately 24x7. For the moment, this is simply a vision, and Brian recognizes there is no overarching congregational vision for how the UCH wants to sustain and grow a ministry in Allison Hill.

As part of an annual report two years ago, Brian created a list of tasks accomplished by Community Hours volunteers – listening, listening, and listening some more; helping resolve a resident’s employment issue; arranging a mentoring relationship; transporting a father to visit his hospitalized son; reading to children; making coffee and preparing snacks; working on a resume and job search; folding donated clothing; picking up trash around the building; providing physical therapy for guests with a doctor’s prescription; reading mail to illiterate guests; providing food and clothing to a prisoner in work release; praying with guests who are in pain; supporting residents at

court hearings; helping guests complete needed government paperwork; working in the garden near the church; and taking and posting photographs of guests to build a sense of community.

How You Can Help
 Community Hours succeeds through a combination of volunteer efforts, material goods, and cash support. If interested in volunteering on an occasional or regular basis, please contact Brian Kahler at goatskinboy@comcast.net. Also contact him to donate supplies that cannot be bought with food stamps, such as items for personal hygiene, cleaning, etc., to be given to Community Hours guests when needed. We have limited storage space, so please coordinate with him. Cash contributions should be checks payable to The Shared Ministry, marked for the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

While the two congregations continue discussing internally and with each other the best way to provide ministry and support to residents of a proud and decaying neighborhood, the needs continue, and three days a week, from 10 am to noon, residents file into the community room for coffee, conversation, prayer, hugs, physical therapy, bus tickets, food, and many other things that help to hold body and spirit together.

—Submitted by Linda and John Hope

Religious Grown and Learning

UCH Holiday Giving 2013: Pride & Joy

This holiday season congregants are invited to provide children with the opportunity to experience the pride and joy of giving. Children ages 4 through 4th grade may perform service during a community breakfast Nov. 9th or Nov. 30th in exchange for entrance into Santa’s Gift Shop. Supervised service opportunities will vary depending on need and may include picking up trash outside around the church, working in the gardens around the church building, or helping at the breakfast if there is need for it.

Santa’s Gift Shop will be in the Latimer Room at Market St from **9:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. on Saturday, Dec. 14.**

To Help:

- ☘ Purchase an item for any age or gender **valued under \$10**
 - Items needed for: siblings, moms, dads, grandparents, aunts, uncles, cousins, friends
 - A list of suggested items is available at the donation drop-offs and on the UCH web site
- ☘ Do not wrap the gift since children will shop and select gifts for loved ones
- ☘ Please drop off donations at either church by Dec. 8:
 - In the Clover Lane Common Room near the bottom of the main stairs
 - At the back of the Market Street sanctuary

Then VOLUNTEER at Santa’s Shop, Youth and Adults Welcome

Contact Wendy Shaver wendyshaver@verizon.net or Wanda Abou El Nagga wabouelnag@pa.gov to help:

- ☘ Supervise children’s service work during a breakfast (Nov. 9 or Nov. 30)
- ☘ Shop set-up (Friday, Dec 13)
- ☘ Shop volunteers (8:45 a.m. to noon, Dec. 14)
 - Be a Santa’s Helper– help a child identify gift recipients and shop for gifts
 - Wrappers – help shoppers wrap and label gifts

Sunday, Nov. 3: Clover Lane Leaf-Raking and Jumping

Children will be working outdoors on Nov. 3 to rake leaves at Clover Lane. Dress warmly and bring gloves!

Sunday, Nov 10: Greenbelt Clean-up

Everyone is welcome to work on the UCH-adopted section of the Capital Area Greenbelt. Participants will clear leaves from the trail and remove trash. Meet at 11:15 a.m. at the Dauphin Manor Rd Greenbelt Access Parking Lot between Turkey Hill and McDonalds just off Paxton Street and 29th Street.

Or meet at Market Street at 11:00 a.m. to carpool. Children need completed permission forms if unaccompanied by a parent or guardian; forms will be available at the church. Market Street participants will return to Market St at 12:15

Please bring work gloves!

—Submitted by *Trish Brandon*

High School Youth Group Program Highlights for 2013-2014:

Our work every Sunday is devoted primarily to relationship-building activities, sharing through discussion, and affirming each other in a positive way. Thank you to the youth leaders, parents, teens, church folk, and Trish Brandon who give time and good ideas to ensure a vibrant Youth Group program! Parents and teens at the Family Meeting in September voted for the following themes for our 2013-14 Faith Exploration:

- Sessions from the *Building Bridges* curriculum, which looks at world religions, specifically those grounded in UU faith sources. We recently began our discussions of religious versus spiritual.
- Topics from a curriculum called L.I.F.T (Life Issues For Teenagers). The teens asked for help with time management, peer relations, and academic pressures.
- You Tube Theology, where teens will share videos and lead discussions based on how the video speaks to his/her spirituality.

Our social action trip this year is to Heifer International Farm in Rutland, MA, from June 20-24, 2014. The mission of Heifer International is to end hunger and poverty and care for the Earth through teaching sustainable farming practices. This trip will build on the insights we learned about hunger and poverty in Washington, D.C., this past summer and our work with organizations in the Harrisburg area.

Our best bonding is done while on the mission trips, where we work, live, and play together in a learning environment away from home. We learn so much about how to deal with each other's moods and talents.

Our first fundraiser to provide scholarship for Youth Group activities is a soup luncheon for the statewide UUPlan Annual Meeting on Dec. 7, followed by our annual soup sale at Deck the Halls on Dec. 8. Save your dollars for scrumptious belly-warming soups.

—Submitted by *Leeann Rhoades*

Affiliated Organizations

News from organizations affiliated with the UCH or its lay-led ministries.

Ecumenical Food Pantry

UCH members can support the Ecumenical Food Pantry by making food donations, volunteering, and sharing the collection plate. The Pantry now serves 2,700 people each month. Many clients get their Pantry vouchers at our Market Street campus. Help our neighbors by participating in a Pantry fund raiser: dine at one of three area Hoss's Steak and Sea House restaurants anytime on Sunday Nov. 10, and the Pantry will get 20 percent to 25 percent of your total check. Use the special coupon available at www.ecumenicalfoodpantry.org and present it at Hoss's (Enola, Hummelstown, Mechanicsburg) anytime Sunday Nov 10. Bring a crowd and enjoy your meal while you support the Pantry.



— Submitted by *Michael Mark*

