



The Communitarian

Toms River, NJ

November 2013



Building Our Future

As temperatures drop and photos of beautiful Thanksgiving pumpkin pies grace the covers of the latest magazines, we find our thoughts often turn toward warmth and gratitude. At these times, we can't help but remark how it's these very two feelings that envelop us when we think of the community we've all worked to build at UUOCC—and of what we share:

The joy that a loved member can—finally--legally marry...our anticipation of the dedicating of two young girls, seventh-generation UU's... our long-held dream of a return to Murray Grove finally in sight...the sorrows made bearable by sharing...the passing of loved ones...the burden of serious illness...the unspoken concerns we take to our hearts each Sunday...and, of course, the mixed emotions...the news that a beloved couple, members for 30 years, will relocate in retirement. We share their delight in reaching this goal, and our sorrow at their leaving...

Yet we also share pride in what we've achieved: our own home, a central meeting place for the events we sponsor, a place to relax and chat, to break bread together, and to share our faith. We have founded a religious education program for the children and a community garden to feed both the body and spirit.

There is now a new goal we're working toward, one also to be shared. For the first time in several years, UUOCC is looking to members and friends for full funding of our operating expenses--\$68,000.

Yes, that's quite a sum. Now more than ever we need all of you to provide the funds that will keep UUOCC going. We hope that your commitment and dedication to your congregation will result in an extraordinary response. For your convenience, attached is a pledge form. Please fill it out and bring it to service with you or mail it to our P. O. Box.

Contact Us:

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Growing Stronger Retreat



UUOCC Hosts Growing Stronger Retreat

by Linda Kay, Bonney Parker and Gail Marsh Saxer

Growing Stronger teams from seven congregations--UU Fellowship of Hunterdon County; 4th Universalist Society, UU Congregation of Somerset Hills, UU Church of Loudoun, UU Fellowship of Poughkeepsie, Unitarian Church of Staten Island and us for a total of twenty-four attendees--came to UUOCC for a Friday evening and all-day Saturday Retreat facilitated by Mark Bernstein of Central East Regional Group (CERG) in early October.

On Friday after snacks, teams reported on their previous six-month goals and other accomplishments. We reported on our new Relational Covenant and the process by which it was created and the Wrangle Brook Community Garden.

On Saturday the discussion centered on conflict resolution and stewardship and the various methods used by different congregations. Then the teams discussed and developed their goals for the coming six months.

UUOCC's goals are: 1. Continue to establish a Leadership Development Council, with the assistance of a consultant from CERG; 2. Continue with the Wrangle Brook Community Garden; 3. Create a Caring Committee, which will include an Emergency/Disaster policy and; 4. "grow" our Growing Stronger Team.

May thanks to Bonney for taking charge of the delicious food and beverages that were served--Friday night snacks, Saturday breakfast and then luncheon. Thanks to Linda for assisting Mark during the retreat and for helping out whenever a hand was needed. Thanks, too, to all those who came early on Friday to set up--Jim McMurray, Elaine McConnell, Joe Swain and our Church Administrator Jodi Burlett, and a big thanks to Jim who came back at the end of the day on Saturday to set up for Sunday worship. As usual we couldn't have done it without you all.



President's Report

Gail Marsh Saxer



Shakespeare, Me and UUOCC

I've just returned from England and a marvelous visit with Peder, my youngest son, and Dawn, my daughter-in-law. In the land of kings and queens, I was treated like royalty.

I'm thankful for my sons and daughter. They are generous and caring. Our relationships have grown stronger as the years go by and I'm closer to them now than ever. This increasing closeness is in some way a result of my involvement with UU, discussions with other members and my own yearning for spiritual deepening.

After spending three days with the revered Shakespeare in Stratford Upon Avon, I have been reminded how many of his words have become a part of our everyday language--so much so that many are now clichés—and such wonderful clichés.

As with all sayings, because we are familiar with them, we tend to dismiss them as too simplistic to be of value. However, it is in the living of them that we realize the boundless impact they can have on our lives and our interactions with others. "Ah, there's the rub."

Mulling over Will's pithy words leads me to wonder about how we will approach our new UUOCC covenant. Like Shakespeare, we have written pithy words with what could be considered cliché-like sentiments. We have created this document as a reminder to interact with each other as our best selves' mandate.

Of course, the challenge is to actually live the covenant. To do so takes constant reminders and, most of all, the awareness of our own behavior, i.e.,

"To thine own self be true, and it must follow, as the night the day, thou canst not then be false to any man."

However, sometimes we really do not know ourselves and through the living of our values, we begin that journey to self-knowledge. Then we find that ". . . joy's soul lies in the doing."

My "joy's soul lies" with my children and grandchildren.

To have a warm, thoughtful and honest relationship is my covenant with them. Is it easy? Not always. Is it worth the effort, absolutely.

And so as we contemplate Shakespeare's writings and/or consider our covenant, let me end by reminding us all that "To be (our best selves) or not to be? That is the question."

As UUs, as parents, as friends, we strive to be our best selves at all times. But we are human and are dependent upon each other. Let us intentionally sustain and support one another as we live out life's most important clichés.

How do we do this? We "Go to your bosom: Knock there, and ask your heart what it doth know." Because "It is not in the stars to hold our destiny but in ourselves."

May it be so.



Stewardship Kickoff

**Barbara
Diamantopoulos**



Frank Kowalczyk, Finance Committee/Building Committee Chair, acted as host and introduced Pat Robison, immediate past Stewardship Chair; Barbara Diamantopoulos, current Stewardship Chair and Vice President; Joe Swain, Treasurer; Shirl Giles, member of the Building Our Future Committee and Investment Committee; and Bonney Parker, Secretary, to explain the purpose of the meeting.

Frank said that “we look forward to an enthusiastic and successful Stewardship Campaign. During this past year, the 30th anniversary of our congregation, with the help of all of you, we have indeed, achieved numerous accomplishments”:

Our Worship Committee, spearheaded by Barb Antolick, has provided a variety of spiritual messages for our Sunday services including guest speakers as well as our own lay contributions.

Our President, Gail Marsh Saxer, in addition to her role as our leader, has been involved in the UU Legislative Ministry of NJ, alerting us to areas where we can support justice and compassion for our fellow human beings.

Bonney Parker has initiated a project, the Wrangle Brook Community Garden, to transform a vacant lot into a potential recreation spot.

Frank further listed other Committees working to improve the lives of our members as well as those beyond our congregation including Resilience Circle, Meditation, Growing Stronger, Book Discussion, Sunday lunches, and humanist and earth-centered activities.

This year, we also hired Jodi Burlett, to assist us with our many and important administrative duties.

Joe Swain explained the draft summary budget for 2014 and reviewed in detail our budget cutting and new expenses and responded to questions.

Pat Robison described the need for increased pledges because we cannot go to our savings to cover the deficit and explained the Steward’s responsibilities.

Bonney Parker and Shirl Giles added to the kickoff program with remarks which covered their various past experiences with supporting pledge drives.

Barbara Diamantopoulos displayed a thermometer which will be used every week to display the rise in pledge totals. The goal shown on the thermometer is \$68,000, the bottom line is \$6000.

Frank concluded the meeting with thanks and appreciation to all.

Membership Report

Eileen Fallon



A recent highlight for the Membership Committee was the well-received Getting to Know UU and UUOCC held on Sunday, September 29th at UUOCC. Congregation members presented the history of both UU and of our congregation in particular, and were proud to point out that 2013 marks UUOCC’s 30th anniversary. Then presenters discussed UUOCC’s varied activities and interest groups. As it has frequently in recent months (and rightly so), Wrangle Brook Garden, our recently founded community garden, took center stage first. Attendees then heard descriptions of our other activities/groups, among them the Social Justice Committee. Particularly appealing to those present was the work this committee does with the homeless families taking shelter in St. Paul’s Lutheran Church in Beachwood. The every-other-Monday meditation meeting, book club, the dream discussion and our pagan group, Spirit of the Earth, were also among those presented. Our president,

Gail Marsh Saxer, discussed the important work of UULMNJ, the UU Legislative Ministry of New Jersey. Participants contact state legislators on behalf of measures important to UU members, such as gun control and women's health initiatives.

The committee anticipates hosting our next Getting to Know UU and UUOCC this upcoming winter, and to repeating an event enjoyed by many this past spring, Invite a Friend Sunday.

As the month of November begins, the Membership Committee looks forward to a special event to be celebrated at UUOCC on the second Sunday of the month, November 10th. It is on this day that Alexis and Emily, the daughters of our member Barb Antolick and her husband Eric, will be dedicated, acknowledged as belonging to the UU tradition. This is the UU version of the baptismal or christening celebrated in many churches; UU prefers that children choose their religion at a later date when they can make the decision themselves. Reverend Julie Newhall will perform the dedications, of special significance because the girls are the seventh UU generation in their family. Such a long-held tradition is rare in UU, as so many members come to it during a period of seeking after no longer actively practicing the religion in which they were raised. We extend a warm welcome to the many non-members who will attend the service.

Finally, UUOCC also welcomes with pleasure latest members, Jim McMurray and Janice and Richard Saylor.

Worship Committee

**Barbara
Antolick**



It's already November... time does fly! This fall we've had some great Sunday services. We started

them off with Water Communion. It's always one of my favorite services. I like hearing where people have travelled and why the water is symbolic to them. We've learned about Buddhism and the Autumnal Equinox. Rev Edward Frost came and spoke about "the hardest thing". UUOCC joined the move and helped UUA in the move to their new headquarters. Rev Susan Karlson made us "dance" and think about where we all were a year ago during Superstorm Sandy and how far we've come since then. We've had some spectacular services and there's many more to come.

I end as I do all my articles... Do you have an idea for a Sunday service? Whether it's a song, a poem, or even a sermon idea we'd love to hear from you. We meet the first Thursday of every month at 7PM at the church. If you can't make a meeting please feel free to talk to me at any service. In trying to get to know all of you better than we already do, we are asking for your help. You are what makes each and every Sunday service special in some way.

Thanks

Why did the UU cross the
road?

To support the chicken in
its search for its own
path!

Spirituality Discussion Group Gail Marsh Saxer

In lieu of a report, here are the sentiments of three members about the new spirituality discussion group.

“After reading our spirituality assignments, I look forward to sharing with our group. There is an intangible, but spiritual connection among us.” Simone F.



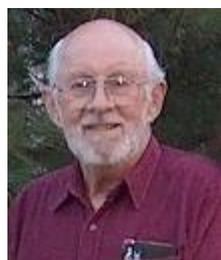
“Nine of us sit in a circle with dim light. We like it that way for intimacy is invited. On Wednesday, we read about loss and grief. The author of this essay felt “crying is the greatest of all spiritual practices for releasing grief and heeding from loss.” Each member shared the role of crying in their life.



“Underlying a spiritual practice is “intentionality, regularity and depth.” We are committed to making the activity a regular and significant part of our lives. I haven’t selected my spiritual practices/s yet. I sense it will be a return to outside activity (walking etc.) when my health improves.” Pat R.

“What makes this a great group is not just the emphasis on spirituality, but the way it is designed, the formatting if you will. The covenant of the group to which we all commit ourselves is vital to its success and benefit for all of us. We commit ourselves to deep listening and total respect for what each person says.

“We begin, after important announcements, with opening words and the symbolic candle lighting, followed by a brief “check-in” from each member.



This settles us down with an initial sense of who

and where we each are at that moment. This is the beginning of trust. Then a period of three minutes of silence moves us to an even deeper level of heartfelt relatedness.

“Next we go around our circle, each speaking briefly of an important response to the reading. Anyone can pass and there is no response to the comments. We just listen. This deepens our emotional connection to each person. We can then broaden our discussion but we avoid crosstalk. This means that there is only one conversation going on at all times. We remain united in a spirit of love and understanding. This is an important aspect of spirituality.”
Hank D.

The discussions are based on essays on Sacred Reading, Creating an Altar, Living by Heart and Loss and Grief from the book, *Everyday Spiritual Practices*. Each session has resulted in the group fostering a deeper knowledge about one another and creating a safe and trusting community.

Let’s Talk Sustainability

Bonney Parker



For over two years the “Sustainability Discussion” Group has been meeting in the hospitality room on Sunday mornings before the worship service. Beginning in September this year we are reading **YES! Magazine: A Journal of Positive Futures** for our discussions. In the past years we bought books from the Northwest Earth Institute that captured many thoughtful ideas, essays, and discussion questions related to the environment. Having gone through almost every book they offered we decided to subscribe to **YES!** which also

offers topics of relevance to our world's well being and solutions to the challenges we all face.

Two years ago after reading the book, **Menu for the Future**, the group decided to host a film showing of **Forks Over Knives**, a documentary about the benefits of a plant based diet. Afterwards, we offered a pot luck dinner with vegetables taking a starring role. This year we are planning to take a trip to Philadelphia for lunch at the White Dog Café, a restaurant founded by Judy Wicks, a woman who started a business in the kitchen of her home and vowed to make it "beautiful". In every way, from the food that is purchased (from local sources in humane ways), to a living wage for every worker, to the food that is lovingly prepared, Judy has brought her philosophy of creating a beautiful business into a reality. Judy was featured in the summer issue of **YES!**

Every series of discussions runs about 6- 8 weeks, every other Sunday morning from 9:00 to 10:00 a.m. If you are interested in joining our group, please contact Bonney Parker at 732-505-3026. We welcome new members!

This Month In UU History

Frank Kowalczyk



THIS MONTH IN UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST HISTORY

In his book "A History of Unitarianism", written in 1925, Earl Morse Wilbur, a dean and president of what is now the Starr King School for the Ministry, describes religion as a heritage. Here is what he had to say.

Religion as Heritage

Our religious faith is a heritage. We did not form it independently for ourselves. Many of us did not even choose it, but instead received it as a precious legacy, bequeathed to us by those who have cherished it before us. Of course it ought to be much more than merely this. If it is to amount to

anything vital, it should include at least these three elements: a profound conviction on some of the greatest subjects of thought, a sacred personal experience hallowing the deepest part of our lives, and above all a way of living as children of God. Yet none of even these things wholly originated with ourselves; for to no small extent our convictions were implanted in us, our experiences were cultivated within us, and our way of life was trained into us, by others. The religion of some people, indeed, seems to be an inheritance and little else, a tradition handed down to them by others, rather than a matter of personal conviction, experience, or principle; although even such a religion may yet make a very important difference in their lives.

Inasmuch, then, as our religion has to a very considerable degree come down to us from the past, we must, if we would appreciate anything like its full meaning, know its past history. We shall appreciate more deeply the value of our religious faith if we once come to realize how much it has cost others to win what they have freely bequeathed to us: the thinkers who have labored over its problems, the apostles who have spent their lives in spreading the knowledge of it among men, the saints who have made its history sacred, the confessors who have endured reproach and loss, persecution and exile for it, and the noble army of martyrs who have suffered death rather than be untrue to it. The meaning of the religious faith we hold, and the price it has cost to secure it to us: these are the two points most strongly suggested by the title, "Our Unitarian Heritage," and it is these that we shall try to keep constantly in view as we follow the course of its history.

We are familiar enough with this point of view in connection with our national life. As mere citizens we might in any case have been fairly satisfied with our native land, even though we had done nothing to make it what it is, but had simply entered into it as an inheritance from our forefathers. But when we read the history of our country, when we see how our fathers had to toil to subdue the wilderness, how they fought and bled to make it free, strove to develop its institutions, and struggled to defend it against its enemies, that they might leave it free and strong to their children — it is only then that we begin to appreciate what our country really means to us, to realize what its free institutions cost, to love it with patriotic love, and to feel that if need be we too would gladly suffer and

die for it; and that in any event we will do all in our power to keep it forever a land of freedom and justice to all.

It is quite the same with regard to the inheritance we have received in our religious faith. We may have been simply born into it, and may always have taken it for granted. We may never have had to struggle to win religious freedom, nor to sacrifice or suffer to maintain it. But when we have once read its history, and have seen how in earlier generations many men in many lands had to struggle, to sacrifice, to suffer, and in not a few cases even to die, before we could inherit our free faith, and how earnestly even in happier times and at smaller cost devoted men have labored to make religious faith purer, more reasonable, and more inspiring with each new age; then we can- not fail to appreciate as never before the faith which we hold, and we shall our own selves wish to be loyal to it, and to prove ourselves worthy of the freedom it gives us.

For this is the story of a progressive movement toward perfect freedom of thought and speech in religion, a freedom which has been won only in the face of odds sometimes overwhelming, and at a cost that no one, thank God, is in our time called upon to pay. It is a history rich in its saints and sages, its heroes and martyrs, and it is full of deeds of bravery that kindle the blood. The roots of this religious faith go back, of course, to earliest Christian times; and the glory and the inspirations of fifteen centuries of the history of the undivided Christian Church belong to it in common with all Christendom. But the story of this particular religious movement begins scarcely four hundred years ago, early in the period of the Protestant Reformation.

In tracing the story of the development of our faith during these four centuries, it will not be enough for us merely to get hold of the facts of a past history. Our study of these will be to little purpose if we do not at the same time get a proper sense of what they mean for us in our own time, and of the obligation they lay upon us as possessors of a heritage that is precious and costly. As an early Christian writer wrote of a similar situation, we ought to realize that, although these heroes of our faith bore a good witness in their day, God has also placed upon us a sacred duty to continue and

complete their work, since without us they will not be made perfect.

As Unitarian-Universalists, most of us are “come-outers”, having been born to other religions, requiring us to make a reasoned judgment to accept what this religion has to offer and to “convert” to this form of worship. But whether UU from birth or from personal selection, we have a wonderful heritage to uphold. May we be worthy of this legacy. And, through this column, may we come to know more about its evolution and details.

Greetings

Annette Bergins



Greetings from The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Athens (Georgia)

If any of you are thinking of becoming "snow birds," here's some advice from a person who has been doing it for ten years: (1) Find a place that offers something that brings you joy. For me I find joy in music. I've been to 8 concerts in the past 21 days. Two I paid for, all others were free. (2) Find a place that has a college or university. The stimulation of an educational facility is amazing, lectures, classes and intelligent people make for an exciting home-away-from-home. (3) Choose a place that has a comfortable climate. It doesn't have to be tropical, just minus the snow and ice of my New Jersey home works for me. And last, but very important for me is (4) Choose a place that has a UU presence. I miss UUOCC and my friends there, but the fellowship has been a welcoming community for many, myself included.



P.S. I'll be back for the holidays and look forward to seeing you all.

P.P.S. If you find yourself in the mood for a change of scenery, come on down. I have a guest room waiting for you. You can e-mail or call the NJ phone number. All calls are transferred to GA.

Creating our UUOCC Covenant and Setting Priorities



Our September 15 Congregational Meeting was held to review the process by which the relational covenant was developed at our July 27, 2013 Congregational Retreat and to accept the final version that was completed by a committee consisting of Elaine McConnell, Shirl Giles, Annette Ross and Gail Marsh Saxer.

Elaine read the covenant aloud and requested comments. She noted that there was very little change to the wording as drafted at the meeting and accepted as a first draft. The word "Sacred" was felt to be problematic so it was agreed to change the word "sacred" by eliminating the capital "S".

With that adjustment, the relational covenant was accepted by all. It is published here for your easy reference and reflection.

Then congregants reviewed the essential and desired activities and projects undertaken or planned by UUOCC. Each was described by a committee chair or a member. Participants were given ten stickers and asked to vote for their top five priorities in each of the two categories.

The results of the vote, in order from most to fewest votes, were as follows:

Essential Activities:

Aesthetics (7)
Capital Campaign (7)
Childcare (12)
Social Justice/Interfaith Hospitality (10)
Membership (9)
Worship (9)
Finance (4)
Fundraising (4)
Public Relations (4)
Board/Nominating (3)
Legislative Ministry (3)
Bylaws Review (1)
Human Service Committee (0)

Desired Activities:

Community Garden (10)
Spirituality Discussions (7)
Book Discussions (5)
Earth-Centered Spirituality (5)
Prayer Shawls (5)
Dream Circles (4)
Sustainable Living (4)
Leadership Development (4)
Art Exhibits (3)
Meditation/Buddhist Study (3)
Cook Shop (2)
Resilience Circle (1)
Policies/Procedures (0)

The Board will review these results with an eye toward making the best use of our resources and then report its recommendations to the congregation.

For the more detailed reports on these two events, please contact me at gmsaxer@comcast.net and I will be happy to email them to you.

In faith,

Gail Marsh Saxer

Love is the spirit of this church, and service is its law; this is our great covenant: to dwell together in peace, to seek the truth in love, and to help one another. James Vila Blake, 1894

UUOCC RELATIONAL COVENANT

We covenant to embrace the sacred in our midst and affirm a commitment to build loving, healthy and trusting relationships. We make these promises in order to love better, relate more compassionately and feel the power of our human connections:

- A. We will treat everyone with love, respect, compassion and dignity, reaching out to members who may be in need.*
- B. We will accept the individuality and diversity of each other and engage one another with sensitivity.*
- C. We will use "I" statements when sharing experiences, feelings and opinions. We will seek permission before sharing the personal stories of others.*
- D. We will work toward creating a safe space in which we all feel comfortable asking questions and seeking clarity.*
- E. We recognize that the work we do together is sometimes challenging and opinions differ. We agree to "stay at the table together" to find a resolution that is satisfactory to the majority.*
- F. We will be supportive and respectful of people who have taken on leadership responsibilities.*
- G. We will serve our spiritual community with generosity and joy.*

We act to keep this covenant alive but when we fall short, we forgive ourselves and others and begin again in love.

Approved at UUOCC Congregational Meeting on September 15, 2013

Sunday Services

Nov. 10th

Rev. Julie Newhall
Dedication of Alexis and
Emily Antolick

Nov. 17th

Jon Mundy
Workshop following
service 12:30 – 3:30
Thanksgiving Raffle
Drawing

Nov. 24th

TBA

Dec. 1st

Rev. Phil Passantino
“The Yule Log and the
Seventh Principle”

Dec. 8th

Rev. Julie Newhall

Dec. 15th

Gail Marsh Saxer
Reading “You can believe
anything and be a UU”

Dec. 22nd

“Christmas Carols”
presented by the Worship
Committee

UU Ocean County Congregation

Presents



Sunday, November 17, 2013

10:30 am Morning Sermon on:

*I'm Nobody, Who Are You?:
On the Mythology of Self*

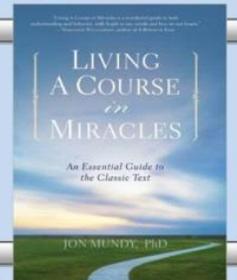
Followed by a 12:30 – 3:30 Workshop on:

What is Mysticism?

& Standup Philosophy as Dr. Baba Jon Mundane

With Jon Mundy, Ph.D., author of: *Living A Course in Miracles*,
What is Mysticism? *Missouri Mystic*, *Awaken to Your Own Call*,
The Ten Laws of Happiness & Listening to Your Inner Guide

Jon Mundy, Ph.D. is an author, lecturer, the executive director of All Faiths Seminary International in New York City, and the publisher of *Miracles* magazine. His newest book, *Living A Course in Miracles* is published by Sterling Publishing, a division of Barnes & Noble. Jon taught university courses in Philosophy from 1967 to 2009, with a specialization in Mysticism. He met Dr. Helen Schucman, the scribe of *A Course in Miracles*, in 1973. Helen introduced Jon to the Course and served as his counselor and guide until she became ill in 1980. He also appears occasionally as Dr. Baba Jon Mundane a stand-up philosopher-comedian.



\$25 w/Advanced Registration/\$30 at the Door
~ No one turned away who cannot pay ~

At: Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation

734 Rte. 37 West (in the Holiday Mall/Aldi's Shopping Center), Toms River, NJ 08754

Phone: 732-244-3455; For Directions, see www.uuocc.org

(From the North and South - Garden State Parkway South to Exit 82/82A. Proceed West on Route 37 for 1.7 miles to Holiday Mall/Aldi Shopping Center. Right turn. Then right turn into Holiday Mall/Aldi Shopping Center. We're next to the Peking Chinese Restaurant.)

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

On Tuesday, November 5 we will be electing our Governor;
the entire State Senate and Assembly and local offices.

A referendum on the minimum wage combined with an
automatic cost-of-living increase will be on the ballot also.

VOTE! VOTE! VOTE!

What's Happening

- **BOOK SALE**

Our book sale is well under way and will continue until Sunday, November 10th. We have already raised close to \$100! If you haven't already browsed our books, why not? There are books that cover almost any topic, so there's something for everyone. Please be generous when purchasing since all profits benefit us, UUOCC. Happy reading!



- **A THANKSGIVING RAFFLE**

Thanksgiving is coming and brings with it the memories of luscious dinners over the years--the joy of family and friends sitting down to a feast of all our favorite foods and beverages. UUOCC wants to help you re-create those dinners and so is raffling off a \$100 grocery card in time for your Thanksgiving Dinner. For only \$10, you could win \$100 worth of goodies for the holiday. Buy one for yourself, as a gift for a loved one or sell a few to your friends and neighbors. This raffle not only helps the winner but also helps UUOCC.

- **ART EXHIBIT**

Here is one of the paintings on our rotating art exhibit. Jim McMurray, a new member, is sharing the artwork of his late wife, Esther, with us. Visit us and enjoy.



A traveler couldn't find the local Unitarian Universalist Church. After looking in the center of town, in the suburbs, and out in the surrounding countryside the traveler asked a farmer "Am I too far out for the UU church?" The farmer's reply: "Nobody is too far out for that church!"

- **START OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

As you may have heard, we have started an RE class during the service for the children. We are using RE Express which is a curriculum published by the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) that we subscribe to each year. Each month there is a general topic and then lessons each week that help support that topic. In October, the theme was “dedication” and the children worked on a special project that will be presented to Alexis and Emily at their dedication on November 10th. Each week a story is read and then a project is done based on the story. Each lesson also helps to promote one of our seven principles. Ken Baxter and Tina Stephan, with the help of Hannah Stephan, have been working with the children. And of course there’s always a snack...



- **OUR THERMOMETER**

Have you noticed the thermometer on the wall in the sanctuary? It is a visual reminder of how UUOCC is doing in reaching our goal of \$68,000 to cover our operating expenses for 2014. Watch our temperature rise! And thank YOU!

- **LIKE US ON FACEBOOK**



Unitarian Universalist Ocean County Congregation

Profile in Service

HELENE HAUSVATER

Helene Hausvater, a dedicated congregant, supporter of many of our programs and member of the Wrangle Brook Community Garden and the Sustainability Discussion Group has generously offered to be the Hospitality Coordinator for Sunday morning fellowship after the worship service. Helene will be coming in before the service to set up coffee and snacks. She will need help cleaning up after hospitality and she will be calling on you from time to time to help out. Two people emptying and cleaning the coffee pot, loading and running the dishwasher and putting away perishables can make quick work of this necessary task, so please find the time when Helene calls. The same folks should not be doing it every Sunday. Leaving it up to Chance doesn't work. Chance leaves right after the service, so we can't depend on him/her.

UUOCC buys the coffee and tea you drink from Equal Exchange, a Cooperative business that specializes in buying Fair Trade products and selling to organizations through their Interfaith Program. We buy organic coffee and tea which costs a little more but we know that the farmers are getting a fair price for their products through Equal Exchange, in keeping with our Principles.

Please be generous when you have a cup of coffee or tea and a bite to eat on Sunday. Helene purchases the snacks, and we will reimburse her. Coffee, tea and chocolate bars are also available for sale in the hospitality room.

UUOCC WELCOMES OUR NEWEST MEMBERS



Jim McMurray



Janice Saylor and
Richard Saylor (not pictured)