



December 2006

Volume 51, No. 12

News

Reaching In . . .  
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

“EACH NIGHT A

CHILD IS BORN IS A HOLY NIGHT” - Sophia Lyon Fahs, Unitarian Religious Educator (1876-1978)



December is the month in which many of us celebrate the birth of the great teacher and social justice activist Jesus. No, we do not regard Jesus as the son of God, but rather as the proof of the “divine” capabilities of humankind. The Christmas story reminds us that the birth of each new child represents the possibility of a future prophet who will help us be builders of peace on earth. That is also why we don’t limit our religious exploration to the story of one man’s life at a particular point in history and continue to seek out prophets and wise teachers in every age.

This month also marks the birthday of one of the Universalist sages, the Reverend John Murray, often touted as the father of Universalism in America. John Murray was born in Alton, England, on December 10, 1741. His father was a very strict and devout Methodist, who demanded that his entire family attend two services every Sunday, the first of which began at 5:00 a.m.! John had a reputation for being an excellent preacher even as a teenager and was recruited to evangelize to and debate with members of a heretical sect called “Universalism.”

John came into contact with the writings of James Rely in the 1750s and eventually joined the heretics he had been fighting. James Rely was a Universalist theologian who persuasively argued against the notion of a God who would force his son to die for sins he had not committed and that Jesus’ death led to the salvation of all humankind, not just a small group of Christian believers.

John Murray’s life was not without its struggles. His first wife, Eliza Neale, and their son both died. John fell into debt and was sent to prison. He contemplated suicide more than once. Luckily for him a friend put up his bail. John decided to set sail for New York and, thoroughly disheartened, planned to leave behind the life of an itinerant preacher forever.

The fates had something else in store. His boat ran into a sandbar off the coast of New Jersey, and the winds

died down. He came ashore in search of food and a place to stay. It just so happened that there was a farmer who lived in the town of Good Luck, where he landed, that was in search of a teacher like John Murray. This farmer, Thomas Potter, a Quaker Baptist, started to believe in some radical teachings spreading in Pennsylvania at the time about universal salvation for all humankind. In fact, he decided to build a church and wait for the right minister to come along to fill the pulpit and help spread this new gospel.

As soon as he met John Murray, Thomas Potter was convinced that the great teacher had finally arrived. John had no intention of staying, but agreed to preach on Sunday only if the winds did not pick up. Indeed, he was stranded through Sunday and delivered a sermon on universalism on September 30, 1770, to Thomas Potter and his friends. The winds picked up later that Sunday and John Murray set sail. He did return and preached about universalism in New Jersey and beyond for many years, changing forever the map of religion on our continent.

Happy Holidays!

Alison

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## You can help make ~Happy Holidays~ for those most in need!

This winter, the Community Soup Kitchen of Morristown would like to give our guests some much-needed items to help them through the cold and wet season. Many times we see people who have frostbite, upper respiratory infections and other exposure-related problems. Alone, we cannot meet the incredible demand each winter for the things we need to combat this problem.

We hope to present our homeless guests with backpacks or small carry bags containing men's work gloves, insulated underwear, size L, XL, or XXL; knit hats and scarves, warm socks. This would be an excellent group project for a class, youth group, church or civic organization. Each bag will be given to a person who desperately needs it.



We are so thankful for our supportive community members who make our jobs possible. Many blessings to all of you this holiday season! Contact Elena at the CSK at thecommsoupkit@aol.com for questions or to coordinate a drop-off!

*See Our Website (Members Only) for Reminder on Pledging/Financial Support*

### Our Financial Health (Figures may not add up exactly due to truncation and/or rounding.)

	Oct. 06	Budget	Variance	TOTAL Jul-Oct 06	Budget	Variance	Annual
<b>INCOME</b>							
Pledges	35,674	29,583	6,091	123,209	128,332	-5,123	365,000
Building Use	4,928	2,604	2,323	13,950	10,417	3,533	31,250
Fund Raisers	840	1,417	-577	-592	3,664	-4,256	26,500
Sunday Morning Contributions	957	900	57	2,889	2,800	89	10,000
Other Income	250	1,250	-1,000	4,182	5,000	-818	15,000
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>42,649</b>	<b>35,754</b>	<b>6,894</b>	<b>143,638</b>	<b>150,213</b>	<b>-6,575</b>	<b>447,750</b>
Misc. Fundraising Expense	0			157			0
Personnel Expenses	23,942	26,739	-2,796	86,642	101,072	-14,431	318,283
Facilities	2,459	6,808	-4,349	18,376	27,472	-9,095	84,748
<b>EXPENSES</b>							
Building Improvements	975	292	683	975	1,164	-189	3,500
Office Expense	1,864	1,321	542	7,052	6,875	177	17,650
Fellowship Expenses	1,676	3,941	-2,265	13,291	12,481	810	39,689
Committee Activities	2,799	2,238	560	5,394	8,313	-2,920	24,420
Religious Education	665	590	75	2,164	1,180	984	6,900
Uncategorized	0			105			0
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>34,380</b>	<b>41,929</b>	<b>-7,549</b>	<b>134,156</b>	<b>158,558</b>	<b>-24,402</b>	<b>495,190</b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>	<b>8,269</b>	<b>-6,175</b>	<b>14,444</b>	<b>9,482</b>	<b>-8,345</b>	<b>17,827</b>	<b>-47,440</b>

### NOTES

1. We have healthier reserves than we had last month.
2. For the first four months of our fiscal year, we have a net income of \$9,482.
3. We received excellent pledge income in October. Thank you!
4. We are in need of an Assistant Treasurer who will be Treasurer next year.
5. We are also in need of a coordinator of the Pledge Drive this spring.
6. Fundraising income is behind our budget. If you have good fundraising ideas, please contact the Board.

*Submitted by Anne Paust, Treasurer*

## Faith Developments

**EVERY TIME I MOVE**, I come to the conclusion that I have too much stuff. This usually occurs to me about  $\frac{3}{4}$  of the way through packing, when I just can't tape up another box/ make another run to U-haul/ wash newspaper ink off my hands yet again... It also occurs to me during this season of giving.



Don't get me wrong – I love presents as much as you do – but I also have to agree with the observation that more and more people are making about the out-of-control consumerism that marks the winter holidays.

A former partner's answer to too much stuff at Christmas was a stipulation that he wanted nothing that he had to dust, feed, water or tend to in any way. That year we got several gourmet food baskets. Our grocery bill went way down! The next year he said he didn't want things – not even food. That year we got movie passes and Blockbuster certificates. We had entertainment for weeks.

Then his church held an alternative fair for the holidays. And in addition to not receiving stuff – he didn't give stuff either. He gave donations to the American Cancer Society and to Heifer International, among others, in the name of friends and family members. It made his holiday celebration much more meaningful to think that his money was going to help someone.

For me, my holiday giving has always been more meaningful when I could make the gifts I gave. Of course that requires time and some years it happened more than others! But I enjoyed making the gift as much as the recipient enjoyed receiving it – and what I was giving them had real value.

Yet, each year around the winter holidays I struggle. Christmas is my favorite holiday and I love the decorations and the parties and the gifts. But I also recognize that more and more it has come to mean sales figures rather than community – busyness and buying rather than family and friends and time off.

The book *Unplug the Christmas Machine*, by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli, takes a look at the history of Christmas, how we celebrate Christmas



now, and concrete ways in which we can make a more meaningful winter holiday season. It starts with the Christmas Pledge:

Believing in the true spirit of Christmas, I commit myself to:

- Remember those people who truly need my gifts,
- Express my love in more direct ways than gifts,
- Examine my holiday activities in the light of my deepest values,
- Be a peacemaker within my circle of family and friends,
- Rededicate myself to my spiritual growth.

The appendix of the book has pages and pages of how to simplify your holiday season, from decorations and cooking to gift-giving and even church celebrations. As you look forward to this holiday season, take a minute to think about why it is that you celebrate the way you do. Are you excited about the holidays? Does your celebration bring love and joy into your life? Here at the Fellowship, one way that we're "unplugging" the Christmas machine is with our Alternative Gift Fair. So visit the Fair the first two weekends of December. And if you have some extra time, come by the RE library and take a look at *Unplug the Christmas Machine*. Maybe you'll take home some ideas for a less stressful winter holiday season.

In faith,

*Kim*

*Kim is in the office Sunday through Thursday.*

### UNICEF Card Sales - End of a Tradition...

Despite the interest in UNICEF cards and products at the recent coffee hour display, I am sorry to report that UNICEF cards will no longer be available at MUF. UNICEF has ended card sales through consignment programs such as ours and is instead selling cards this year at Hallmark stores, as well as at IKEA and Pier 1 stores.

Or to order online, go to the website [www.shopcardsandgifts.unicefusa.org](http://www.shopcardsandgifts.unicefusa.org). Thanks to all for the many years of support of UNICEF at MUF!

*-Helene Ferm*

## The Power of the Covenant

Does your group have a covenant, and what is it anyway? A covenant is a shared understanding of how members of a group will operate with each other in right relationship. Why is a covenant so important? Our covenant is meant to create a safe and healthy space for all the members of the group. It is our way of fostering an environment where all of us are respected and valued and our opinions are heard.

Many of our committees have adopted covenants of right relationship. Creating the covenant allows the group to have agreed upon behavioral expectations and remind us that we all have ownership of our committees and our meetings. A covenant is a shared agreement among the group members; it is not something imposed from above. At the start of the Fellowship year, the covenant is reviewed by the group to ensure that they continue to meet their needs. In some cases the old covenants are thrown out and a new one is written. The end result is an agreement by all about how they will interact with one another. This is how the group creates and maintains a healthy, safe space for all.

Many groups begin their meetings by reading the covenant. This helps to remind the group of their commitment to work together in a respectful manner. It enables members to enforce the rules if they are being violated. Covenants may cover expected behavior, ways to make sure all voices are heard, and subtle ways to remind one another when we stray, without interrupting the flow of a meeting. They remind us that disagreements are with ideas and not individuals. A covenant empowers all of us to set the ground rules for our committee, our meeting, and our space.

*The Committee on Ministry: Ron Corey, Pat de la Fuente, Beth Hayward, Mary Hodgson, Don Preziosi and Toby Tyler*

**Pick Up Your OFB DIRECTORY by Year's End!**

The 2006-08 edition of the *Our Favorite Businesses Directory* is in a big box in the office. Member copies are in envelopes arranged alphabetically by last name. If you have not already picked yours up, please do so by December 31. In the future, additional copies will be in storage and available for sale for \$2 each. Questions? Ask Christine Frederick.

## Help Wanted: Assistant Treasurer

The Board has reluctantly accepted the resignation of Stu Sendell as our Assistant Treasurer. Stu has served us tirelessly and generously in this important position.

We urgently need a person with financial talents to serve in the position of Assistant Treasurer, with the intent of taking over as Treasurer next July. If you are interested, or know of someone who might be able to fill this position, please contact our Board President, Joe Uhrhane, at [joeuhr@optonline.net](mailto:joeuhr@optonline.net). You may also consult our current Treasurer, Anne Paust, for more details of the job duties. She can be reached at [annedes@att.net](mailto:annedes@att.net).

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**New Members**

Please welcome the following new members who deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book in November:

- \* Hazel Bell
- \* Venkat Puranapanda
- \* Bianca and Mark Wright

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## Welcome to the Washington Office for Advocacy!

The mission of the Washington Office for Advocacy is to influence public policy decisions made by the U.S. Congress and Administration on issues of concern to the Unitarian Universalist Association. The Washington Office is proud to announce the launch of its online action campaigns. You spoke your "piece" on November 7. Keep the "peace" rolling by putting [www.uua.org/uuawo](http://www.uua.org/uuawo) in your search engine -- and see how easy it is for you to make your voice heard in the halls of Congress with just a few clicks of your mouse.

*Rita Morris, Denominational Affairs*

## Upcoming Events



### *Minstrel Coffeehouse*

**Fridays, 8:30 p.m.**

**December 1, 8, 15, 29**

More information from 973-335-9489 or  
www.folkproject.org/fp\_minstopen.html.

### *Pianist Angela Jia Kim/Violinist Sharon Roffman*

**Saturday, December 2, 8 p.m.**

The second of our Saturday Evening Concert Series. Tickets \$20 from Pat Baxter at melodylingers@verizon.net.

### *First Monday Book Group*

**Monday, December 4, 7 p.m.**

We'll read *Peace Like a River*, by Leif Enger, and on January 8, *The Color of Water: A Black Man's Tribute to His White Mother*, by James McBride. We meet in Room 208, and we welcome new members. If you have read a great book you would suggest for the future, or just want company to discuss a great book, please join us. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com for more details.

### *EVENSONG*

**Wednesdays, 7:30 p.m.**

A lay-led small-group service offering an opportunity to explore individual life journeys in an intimate and supportive setting. Through readings, song, quiet reflection and sharing of experiences, we will explore the following topics:

**December 6 Simple Gifts**

At this holiday season let us share thoughts of gifts that may be given and received.

**December 20 Sharing the Holidays**

We invite participants to bring two items to share with the group: a story, song or object that has holiday meaning for you. Please join us for a holiday party following the service.

For more information please contact Drew Hayes.

### *Film "Why We Fight"*

**Wednesday, December 6, 7 p.m.**

This film will be presented by the Seeds of Peace Committee.

*Why We Fight* launches a bipartisan inquiry into the workings of the military-industrial complex and the rise of the American empire. Inspired by Dwight



Eisenhower's legendary farewell speech (in which he coined the phrase "military-industrial complex"), the film is an unflinching look at the anatomy of the American war machine, weaving unforgettable personal stories with commentary by a "who's who" of military and beltway insiders.

Is a peace economy viable? Can we create companies where peace is good business? Must we compromise our UU values to be Americans?

Refreshments are free. Suggested donation is \$5 (reduced for limited income & students). For more information, call Jo Sippie-Gora.

### *Normandy Chorale*

**Sunday, December 10, 1:15 p.m.**

The group will perform Mozart's *Missa Brevis in F Major*, Haydn's *Te Deum*, and *Songs of the Season*. The donation at the door is \$8 for adults and \$5 for students and seniors. Refreshments will be served. The music will be performed under the direction of Bruce Sidelnik and accompanied by Beth Wilson on the piano.

### *Deeds Well Done*

The Board acknowledges and gratefully thanks the following members for their service to the Fellowship:



Green Earth Ministry (especially **Linda DeLap, Caroline Gower, Bruce Daggy**) for winterizing the building.

**Maggie Chilton** for supervising the kitchen and food service during the Sunday evening Covenant Circle Kickoff Dinner.

**Ken Nemeth** for helping out with Senior High for many weeks.

**Eleanor Mason** for the forums on Islam.

The Covenant Circle facilitators planning & implementing both the Kickoff Dinner October 15 and launching 11 Covenant Circles: **Betsy Burr, Arlyne Dalman, Kyle Gustafson, Gloria Jackson, Noelle Jensen, Kim Mason, Danelle Simonelli, David Snedden, Carol Todd, Sandra Van Nest, Jerry Weinstein.**

## ***New Short-Term Tax Law for IRA Withdrawals Benefits MUF***

If you are 70 1/2 and are having to take more from your IRA than you would like, recent legislation has a solution to your problem. The Pension Protection Act of 2006 has made it possible for owners of an Individual Retirement Account (IRA) to request distributions totaling up to \$100,000 to be made directly to qualified charities such as the Fellowship. MUF has already received \$10,000 as a result of this new law. The window for such distributions is for the rest of 2006 and for the year 2007.

Any such distribution counts toward the owner's required annual distribution without adding to taxable income (it will also not qualify as a deductible gift against other income.) To make this happen, do not take the distribution yourself because that would add to taxable income. Instead, notify your IRA administrator to make the gift directly to the Fellowship (or other charity).

NOTE: Only funds in traditional and Roth IRAs are eligible. The rules do not apply to funds in 401(k)s or other qualified retirement plans.

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## ***Sinkford Praises NJ Ruling Supporting Same-Sex Rights***

The Rev. William G. Sinkford, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations, welcomed the October 25 ruling by the New Jersey Supreme Court in which it was decided that "the unequal dispensation of rights and benefits to committed same-sex partners can no longer be tolerated" under that State's Constitution.

"The citizens of New Jersey should be proud that their State is a leader in the growing movement to extend basic civil rights to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender citizens," he continued. "We encourage them to urge their legislature to act swiftly to end discrimination in the State's marriage laws."

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## ***MUF's Senior High Youth Group Is Hard at Work***

"Love is the spirit of this youth group and service is its law." Every MUF youth group meeting begins with this statement. The Youth Group has been showing its commitment to these words through action and personal exploration.

The Youth Group is in our MUF community. The teens take part in discussions that encourage them to think about their lives in significant ways. Topics range from what prayer is to the concepts of fate and free will. It's a guarantee that there's always a spirited discussion going on up on the third floor.

For Halloween the group decorated a suite in Embassy Suites in the Charlotte's Web theme, complete with farm animals, trees and pumpkins. Dressed as farm animals and farmers themselves, Youth Group members greeted the children from PG Chambers (a school for children with multiple handicap conditions) with Halloween candies and toys. Words could not express their joy. It was on the face of every child who walked into our farm. It was a delightful and moving experience.

Next month, the Youth Group will be cooking for the Soup Kitchen and will throw a holiday party for the children in a homeless shelter in Morristown.

Andras Kiss videotaped the Peace Day celebrations. Erin Hodgson led a discussion with the junior high students about their activities. Erin is also on the RE Council. Sarah Goldberg-O'Neil, Adam Rice, Sunday Essig, Erin Hodgson, Cody Schafer and Emily Denton are members of the newly established Youth Adult Committee, or YAC, which supports all aspects of the Youth Group.

The MUF Youth Group is strong. It is dynamic and it is involved. Its law is service and the spirit of the group is love.

## Social Justice Council

December 2006 Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need




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### 3<sup>d</sup> Annual MUF Alternative Holiday Fair -- "Gifts of Conscience"

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Sundays, December 3 & 10 – 10 a.m.-1 p.m.

Saturday, December 9 – 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

"Ten Thousand Villages" Artisans & Heifer International Project and 10 other Alternative Holiday Gift Tables! Give a gift with a "special" message that provides poor people with a future! (Bring your checkbook and tissues—you are going to feel very bountiful!)

Change the world this Holiday Season...one meaningful, yet economical, "gesture of conscience" at a time. Honor friends and family by buying lovely handcrafted items made by third world artisans and at great prices, at that! Or, give food and income-producing animals like pigs, bees, chicks & heifers for struggling hungry families working to improve their lives. Great additional ideas for *purposeful giving!* Gift cards and tags for all donation gifts provided. Combine a donation gift with an artisan craft gift. *Bring your children and neighbors. This lesson speaks loudly and contagiously.*

- **"Ten Thousand Villages" Artisans**—Beautiful, high quality, value priced toys, lovely jewelry, tasteful home decorative items, baskets and personal articles that make fabulous gifts for family and friends. We remit 90% of price to Ten Thousand Villages which provides vital, fair income to Third World people by marketing their handicrafts and telling their stories in North America. Long-standing program with retail outlets across U.S./Canada. Visit [www.tenthousandvillages.org](http://www.tenthousandvillages.org) to learn more. Remaining funds to be distributed to MUF-sanctioned local charities. Win, Win, Win!
- **Heifer Project**—selling whole gift animals and "share" gifts of sheep, chick flocks, water buffalo, llamas, pigs, cows, honeybees, and more!! Change the world by changing a family's or a village's life. There's even an "Ark" challenge! Symbolic "stuffed animal" presentation gifts along with beautiful gift cards, buttons, catalogs describing the use of the gift, etc., available! These are stunning gifts of life-altering impact and of eye-opening symbolism and pride for your gift recipient.
- **Wind of the Spirit**— "selling" English Scholarship Lessons for new immigrants to Morristown. Your support for our hard-working neighbors has never been needed more and Wind of the Spirit does fabulous service/ outreach!
- **Peaceworks**—selling fuel-efficient cooking ovens, donations for Inhijambia, the Managua center that works with street children, donations for the Masaya Women's Collective providing literacy training and counseling against domestic violence and donations for the ongoing work of Peaceworks to help the oft-forgotten people of Latin America.
- **Green Earth Ministry**— Selling canvas bags for only \$5 to hold your purchases at the fair and your groceries later on. Give-A-Tree Cards, New Jersey wildflower seeds, polycarbonate water bottles, LED holiday lights, etc. See our table for other environmentally friendly gift ideas.
- **Seeds of Peace & "Bibliotherapist" Bob Blumenthal**— Selling our popular organic cotton, U.S.- made Peace tee-shirts (all sizes/infants/toddlers). Can a computer game help people learn how to defeat dictators, military occupiers, and corrupt rulers—not with laser rays and AK47s—but with a non-military strategy and nonviolent weapons? Yes! **A Force More Powerful – the Game of Nonviolent Strategy**, the first and only interactive teaching tool in the field of nonviolent conflict, will be on sale at a discounted price. Also, cool **buttons & bumper stickers, RE/Bromirski Peace Mural bookmarks and terrific holiday cards from the UU Service Committee and The Peace Company.** A second table enables you to learn about the time-honored procedure of **bibliotherapy**—involving books to help children deal with emotional issues. Modify behavior - reduce aggression, bullying and promote a mindset of cooperation and acceptance. Bob Blumenthal, the author of *A Parent/Teacher Guide to Children's Books on Peace and Tolerance*, will be at the holiday sale displaying a wide range of **children's and young adults' books** for sale.
- **Eric Johnson House**— donation cards with Red ribbons and briefing booklets on the status of AIDS/HIV work

in our area. We help these recovering neighbors feel optimistic and appreciated in a society which would reject them. Be a part of providing love and support for this great “home.”

- **MUF Prison Ministry–“Dignity Essentials”**–helping inmates in the Morris County Correctional Facility to have new undergarments and toiletries – you can give the cost of a gift that signifies your contribution to this very basic and human need of prisoners.
- **MUF Senior High Youth Group**–Donate the costs of a Habitat House’s components – i.e., gift tags signifying you bought tools, joists, windows, flooring, etc. For their build in Sumter next summer. They need many thousands of dollars to do a “build” – you can help tremendously!
- **Christmas on the Pine Ridge Reservation** – Make a donation in your loved one’s name that will cover the cost of buying a modest holiday gift for a Native American child on one of the poorest of reservations in America. Gift presentation cards and information provided for all donations! This will be the only gift this child will get. Their poverty is extreme.
- **Morristown Soup Kitchen** – Donate for the vital work of the Morristown Soup Kitchen (with a symbolic wedge of cheese gift tag!) One of MUF’s most appreciated and needed outreaches.

**Morristown Community Soup Kitchen** – Thanks, MUF members, for nearly 40 Thanksgiving baskets that we provided for their Thanksgiving distribution project. GO MUF! And thanks to Sharon Glickman and the MUF host teams every second Tuesday!... The MUF freezer is now waiting for your soups/casseroles for our January hosting. A big thanks to our Senior High Youth Group who are preparing the food for our December 12 hosting!

**Eric Johnson House MUF Monthly Dinner Teams** are out in force now twice monthly bearing great food and warm conversation to these valiant people who need and value our friendship. We are in the process of outfitting two graduates from the EJH who have gotten an apartment (goal!) and purchasing holiday presents for the residents from the members of MUF.

**Morristown Homeless Solutions** (shelter) monthly dinner commitment continues under leadership of Judy O’Neil Goldberg.

**Morristown Habitat for Humanity Builds –Calling our menfolk** (and womenfolk!). MUF has signed a agreement of support/participation along with a group of 20 other Morristown Interfaith Council faith-based communities to support our local Morris County Habitat organization this year. (This is an additional “build” commitment to that which our Senior High Youth Group makes to support Habitat work for Sumter, SC). Joe Uhrhane is our MUF Coordinator. We will need to “field” three Saturday work parties during the springtime—at a Morris County location. And we must also raise a \$2,000-\$3,000 support fee by MUF as part of this commitment fee. Be a part of this great work!

**Next Social Justice Council Meeting – Thursday, December 14, 7:30 p.m., Dining Room**

### ***Sunday Services Committee – Task Force on “Meeting Room Readiness”***

Volunteers are needed to serve as Meeting Room preparers each Sunday. The job is to hang banners and arrange the chalice table and seasonal items so that we can evoke a sense of “sacred space” each Sunday morning for our services. You could be part of a team so that you might take responsibility for the choices and arrangements on a rotational basis only. It’s a fun task and you get to express your creativity! We are also looking for people to help create items for this purpose, but on a regular basis we draw from both new and existing items/banners. Contact Tony Rutigliano at arutigl@optonline.net if you would like to serve as a Meeting Room Readiness team member.

# Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

To assure the privacy of our members and friends, we have now removed all “Joys and Concerns” and personal telephone numbers from the online newsletter. A copy of the Newsletter in the Members Only section of our website includes the complete information.

## *Upcoming Joys & Concerns*

*If you have a joy or concern that you would like to share with other members of the congregation – whether or not you announce it on Sunday morning – please send it to Newsletter editor Pat Baxter at [melodylingers@verizon.net](mailto:melodylingers@verizon.net). Specify that it is for Joys and Concerns.*

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## *Contributions to the Celebration of Life*

### **To the Endowment Fund:**


**From Steve Rice and Karen Burns and Tony Rutigliano, as a beneficiary in their wills.**

**From Richard and Debra Bunce in memory of Aaron Goldberg.**

*Contributions to the Endowment Fund, the Memorial Garden Fund, or the Celebration of Life Fund are special ways of honoring family and friends. Your gifts will be acknowledged and appreciated.*



## *Upcoming Events Calendar*

<b>Date</b>	<b>Time</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>Details</b>
Friday, December 1, 8, 15, 29	8:30 p.m.	Minstrel Coffeehouse	p. 6
Saturday, December 2	8:00 p.m.	Angela Jia Kim, Piano, and Sharon Roffman, Violin	p. 7
Sunday, December 3 Sat.-Sun., December 9-10		Third Annual Alternative Holiday Gift Fair	p. 8
Monday, December 4	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Wednesdays, December 6	7:00 p.m.	Film: <i>Why We Fight</i> 	p. 6
Wednesday, December 6 & 20	7:30 p.m.	EVENSONG	p. 6
Sunday, December 10	1:15 p.m.	Normandy Chorale	p. 6

### ***MUF Holiday Party and Hanging of the Greens!***

***Sunday, December 3, 3:30-5:30 p.m.***

Members and friends of all ages are invited to join us for a holiday party hosted by the Board and our Staff. There will be fun activities for children and adults, goodies to eat and drink, carol singing, and we will festively decorate our spiritual home.

### **Mark your Calendars!**

***Martin Luther King, Jr., Events at MUF***

**Sunday, January 14, and Monday, January 15**

Many different activities are being planned, including a special film on Sunday at 1:30 and selections all day Monday featuring area leaders and activists who have moved MLK's dream forward in their communities; video highlights of the Civil Rights movement; children's movies, crafts, stories and songs; MLK Day of Service signup opportunities (such as Habitat for Humanity and the Fresh Air Fund); carefully selected books for sale; a chance to share past and present experiences and memories about the Civil Rights movement – and more, such as a blood drive etc. Every bit of assistance will be appreciated. For more information, please contact Stacey Gregg.



**TO ASSURE PRIVACY** of our members and friends, all "Joys and Concerns," personal telephone numbers and home addresses are removed from the *public* online newsletter. This Members Only copy includes the full information.

## December 2006

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Dated Material – Mailed: November 29, 2006  
Deadline for the JANUARY issue is

**DECEMBER 10**

*Sunday Services* (9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.)



**December 3 The Art of Waiting**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**December 10 The Re-emergence of Hope**

Sister Miriam Therese MacGillis, co-founder of Genesis Farms in Blairstown, will address the fact that the human community is slowly awakening to the extent of our ecological crisis. "We have two choices: continue to believe we are separate from nature or realize that we are embedded in it."

*Coordinated by Pat de la Fuente and Kathi Caccavale*

**December 17 Rededication**

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**December 24 Family Christmas Eve**

**10 a.m.** featuring our new Children's Choir

*Rev. Alison B. Miller and Kim Mason*

**9 p.m. Candlelight Christmas Eve Service**

featuring our new Adult Choir

*Rev. Alison B. Miller*

**December 31 Turning Point**

New Year's Eve and Day are a time that many of us make resolutions or remember some of our regrets. During this service we will reflect on those important times in our lives when we confront momentous change and make important decisions.

*Coordinated by Tony Rutigliano*