



September 2007

Volume 52, No. 9

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

“Welcome the task that makes you go beyond yourself.” -Frank McGee



WELCOME TO THE START of another vibrant year at the Morristown Unitarian Fellowship. I can't wait to see you at our first fall service on September 9. You may have heard the following, which serves as a kind of maxim in congregations: "The best way to get connected and to meet people in a congregation is to join a group." Some of you already know this and are already involved. Others are new to congregational life, and I wanted to share this truth. We have covenant circles, classes, social justice committees, the beautification and preservation committee, the caring committee and many other ways you can become involved. Below are a few ideas to entice you.

The Sunday Services Committee (co-chairs: Jane Baldwin Shivas and Kathi Caccavale), Jim Blanton and I plan services that touch the spirit. We welcome your participation whether you wish to usher, videotape, or share the spoken word, photography, a theme, or music.

The Adult Programs Committee (chair: Elizabeth Bain), Kim Mason and I have developed—with the help of many of our other committees—a schedule that includes opportunities to deepen your theology, to tap into your artist, to enhance your parenting, to tend the earth, to strive for peace, to join a covenant circle, and much more.

The Youth Adult Committee (co-chairs: Erin Hodgson and Alyse Kalas), Children's Religious Education Council (co-chairs: Jami Thall and John Franklin) and Kim Mason are brimming with energy and focus coming out of the first year of the interim period. A major goal of the year is nurturing, supporting and equipping our teachers and advisors for ministry with children and youth. If you've been on the fence about whether or not to teach, this might just be the year to go for it.

The Social Justice Council (co-chairs: Karen Burns Rutigliano and Michelle Kunz) is planning a focus for the fall on creating peace in our lives and in the world beginning with an intergenerational Peace Festival on Sunday, September 23. An interfaith leadership group, including myself and other lay-leaders, are meeting at the Neighborhood House in Morristown to strategize how our community can deal with growing diversity and immigration

in ways that benefit and preserve the human dignity of all. We are developing programs to understand the legacy of racism and how it affects us in all the spaces of our lives, including here at the Fellowship. Maybe one of these issues or another will serve as a call to put your faith into action this year.

Our overarching theme for the year is "Call and Response." You will be hearing more about this on a personal spiritual level in sermons and as a leadership theme that will guide our congregation-wide efforts. We have hired a consultant to help the congregation (you) articulate our calling – our common vision of living out Unitarian Universalism in Morris County at the start of the 21st century. We will then respond to that call by clarifying our commitment in terms of directions, strategies, time and funds to make our call come to life.

May this season of new beginnings bring with it the chance to rekindle your spirit, mind, heart, commitment and friendships.

In faith and fellowship,

Alison

IN THIS ISSUE	
From the Minister	1
Deeds Well Done	2
President's Corner, Memorial Garden Care	3
RE: Faith Developments	4
Democracy on the Move, MUF Anniversary Bash	5
Upcoming Events	6, 12
Town Hall Meet, Fall Leadership Retreat, Finances	7
Social Justice Council	8
Tax Laws, COM Seeks Concerns, New Name Tags	9
Joys and Concerns	10
Calendar, High Holy Days, Building Your Theology	11
Sunday Services	12

Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611
President: Carol Todd

Minister: Rev. Alison B. Miller
Interim Director of Religious Education: Kim Mason
Music Director: Jim Blanton
Editor, Layout and Graphics Design: Pat Baxter
(melodylingers@verizon.net)

Summer Sunday Services: 10 a.m.

Office Hours:

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday: 10 a.m.-5 p.m.

Wednesday: 10 a.m.-7 p.m.

Friday: 10 a.m.-2 p.m.

Tel: 973-540-1177, ext. 201

Fax: 973-539-8218

www.mUuf.org



Mission and Covenant Statement

WE, the members of the **Morristown Unitarian Fellowship**, mindful of the rich diversity and essential oneness of human experience, covenant to weave the fabric of community from the strands of our separate lives.

This is our pledge:

- To create for ourselves and our children a spiritual home which will nurture, challenge and offer us renewal.
- To seek what is true even as we celebrate the mystery of existence.
- To reach out to all who share our liberal religious values and participate in the broader Unitarian-Universalist movement.
- To work for social justice and the well-being of our planet Earth.

Please E-Mail All NEWSLETTER Articles
—both print and online versions—

to editor **PAT BAXTER** at
melodylingers@verizon.net

by the **15th** of the month
preceding the one in which they will appear.

Thank you!

From the Board of Trustees

Deeds Well Done

The Board wishes to recognize the following persons for their contributions to the Fellowship:

The incomparable **Pat Baxter** for her 26 years of producing the Saturday Evening Concert Series, which introduced Fellowship members, friends and others to outstanding musical talent; hers was a labor of love and hard work, and she will be a very tough act to follow.

Barbara Pecca for over 20 years of leading and doing so much work to run the Service Committee Action Network (SCAN), formerly Central American Study Group, Coffee Houses and also for her many years as liaison to the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC); she introduced many of us to and encouraged us to join this worthy organization.

The **Gathering of Men** for painting the Chapel.

The Big Kids—**Alyse Kalas, Garry Hodgson, Kris Johnson, Ken Nemeth, and Cintra Fricke**—for their toil in the noon-day sun (and much more) on the latest Senior High Habitat trip.

Diana West for her stint as our webmaster.

Upcoming Board and Network Meetings

Meetings are open to all Fellowship members. The meeting time is 7 p.m. *It is especially important for committee chairs and members who participate in Fellowship administration and programming to attend and participate in the Network meetings.*

This month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees	September ??
Administrative Network	September 19
Program Network	September 26

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the July meetings have been approved and are posted on the bulletin board in Room 100 and on the website in the Members section.

Be a knowledgeable member of your Fellowship!

The President's Corner

By the time you read this, the kids will be on their way back to school and the halls of Morristown Unitarian Fellowship will be buzzing with excitement in anticipation of all that's planned for the fall.

The Board is delighted to share with you that the Fellowship has been awarded a Historic Preservation Grant by the Freeholders of Morris County for replacing the roof. Kudos go to Steve Rice who put an incredible amount of effort into this project over the past two and a half years. If you haven't seen the binder that Steve prepared with the detailed documentation required for the grant application, take a moment to stop by the library to see the excellent work that he's done. Thank you, Steve, for your dedication and generosity in sharing your remarkable talents with the Fellowship.

Although we've successfully repaired it several times over the past 20 years, the time has come to decide whether to replace the nearly 100-year-old roof which, as you can guess, is a major investment. We, your Board of Trustees, take our fiduciary responsibilities seriously and are doing the research needed to fully understand the terms and conditions of our accepting the grant – its benefits and obligations. Considerations include:

- Terms of the Historic Preservation Grant agreement with the County
- Long-term restrictions of an easement that the County requires for the grant and our ability to negotiate its terms
- Implications for building on the property in the future and ability to sell in the event we decide to relocate
- Implications for renovating the building for energy efficiency
- Source of matching funds required of MUF and additional financial considerations
- Opportunity for additional funds in the future to complete this project as well as others

While still in fact-finding mode, we want to engage the congregation in conversation: to provide you with all available information surrounding the grant, to begin discussing together the broader issues around the needs of the building and our future here, and to envision not only our longer-term building needs but who and what we want to be in five or ten

years. This is a lot of territory to cover – it won't happen quickly so we want to get started right away.

We begin the conversations on September 16 with Town Hall Meetings at 10 a.m. and 12 noon (after each service). The purpose of these first meetings is to present at a high level the information that we have thus far about the grant as well as our initial thoughts about the larger questions that need to be asked. It's critical that everyone participate! Activities for children will be provided after the first service until 11 so that all parents may attend.

Very soon after those meetings, we'll open a dialogue about the space in a way that allows and encourages everyone to be heard. How does the building and property serve our needs? In what ways do they not? How can a building/location/property support our mission? What is your vision for the future of our congregation – our ministry and our presence in the community?

I look forward to sharing with you the excitement and challenges of this time in the life of our congregation, regardless of where it leads us. After all, "Life is a journey, not a destination."

On the path,

Carol

Carol Todd, President

*Vivian and Jules Lipcon's new address:
5989 Hollyhock Way
St. Luis Obispo, CA 93401*

They'd love to have visitors!

Memorial Garden Needs Loving Care

We all admire the beauty and serenity of the Memorial Garden. The garden needs loving care to keep it that way. The committee is seeking to expand its membership with MUFers interested in helping to maintain the garden. Please contact Carolyn Schwartz if you would like to help, at CAS6666@aol.com.

Faith Developments

AS WE HEAD INTO ANOTHER YEAR at the Fellowship, I am thinking a lot about commitment. We have a lot of projects going on here. We have painting projects and task forces. We have fund-raisers and habitat builds. We always need people to cook for the Soup Kitchen and teach RE. But why do we do all this?



We each have issues that we are passionate about. We each have responsibilities that are meaningful in our lives. If you are committed to social justice then maybe you cook for the Soup Kitchen. If you are passionate about this building then maybe you come out for the building and grounds cleanup days. If you believe that religious education is the foundation of our denomination then maybe you choose to be involved in RE. What is it that you are committed to?

A lot of parents tell me that they come here because they think it's important that their children receive a well-rounded perspective on major world religions and participate in a grounded faith community. If this is what brings you here, are you committed to it? How do you show your commitment? Others say it's important that our children develop a Unitarian Universalist identity. What do you commit to?

Now is the time of year when teacher recruitment is really important and the RE Council spends a lot of its time identifying people who are committed to providing excellent religious education and committed to the spiritual development of our children. But here's the thing – you don't just have to teach in order to be committed to RE here at the Fellowship!

Do you know how many other projects and groups we have right now?

- Painting the RE classrooms
- Reorganizing and cataloging the RE library
- Serving as a Class Parent
- Cooking for an event
- Setting up or cleaning up from an event
- Volunteering in the nursery
- Serving as an RE Greeter
- Serving on RE Council

The list goes on! As we return from our summer vacations and our time away, we'll be thinking about how we are involved here at the Fellowship. RE needs ongoing support to ensure that this program is as amazing as we can make it. When you think about what it is that you are committed to here at the Fellowship, if RE is one of them, give me a call. We have a variety of needs and a variety of ways you can be involved. All we need is you!

In Faith,

News and Dates to Remember:

- We are looking for painters to complete several classrooms before RE starts. Contact Diana West at dwest@bfar.org.
- Back-to-School Sunday is September 9 following the 9 a.m. service. Look for more details soon.
- RE starts September 16!
- Peace Festival for all ages, September 23!
- We have a new RE Assistant! Chelsea Hartmann starts September 6. Be sure to say hello when you see her.

Being a UU Parent

**First Wednesday of the Month, starting October 3
Facilitated by Kim Mason, IDRE**

This is a participatory RE program from the UUA aimed at enhancing the religious dimension of family life. Each session is divided into three sections: theological concerns and terms, Unitarian Universalism in the home, and parent support group.

Goals for the participants include: To review Unitarian Universalist history and principles in terms understandable to children; to discuss Unitarian Universalist views of theological concepts such as God, heaven and hell, Jesus, the Bible, etc.; to explore ways to model and nurture Unitarian Universalist values in the home, and to address the child-raising concerns and challenges of group members. There will be five Sessions and 17 Handouts. The class is capped at 15 participants.

Democracy on the Move at MUF

As incoming chairman of MUF's Administrative Network, I am elated and honored to be part of the Board's efforts to help the Fellowship do great things in the coming year. One such initiative that I want to highlight involves improving the way the Fellowship makes decisions.

Foremost, we will be looking for ways to ensure that *all* points of view are considered and decisions are made with the benefit of our congregation's great diversity of talent and experience. At the same time, we need to improve the efficiency and transparency of the decision-making process. While these goals may seem at first blush to be incompatible, they are really part of the same process of improving our democratic structure.

The key to avoiding the pitfalls that undermine our democratic ideals – dwelling on minutiae, short-circuiting the decision-making process, or drowning out the viewpoints of the less vocal – is to delegate ministerial tasks to smaller representative groups, while ensuring that larger tasks that require broader participation are assigned to larger groups, including, in some cases, the entire Fellowship.

When broad participation *is* required, we need to look for ways to ensure that all viewpoints are taken into consideration and incorporated into the decisional framework. We should also look for avenues for all members of the congregation to provide input into all decisions in a way that does not bog down the process.

So how does an organization increase democratic participation in decision-making while simultaneously increasing its efficiency? In the coming weeks and months, we will be looking for solutions, relying, of course, on the democratic process to find them. Some early ideas we have discussed include:

- **Gatekeeping:** distinguishing between “big picture” tasks that require broad participation and those of a ministerial nature that are more appropriately assigned to a representative group, such as a committee, one of the networks or the board;
- **Transparency and input:** creating a more transparent decision-making process and more opportunities for getting congregational input by putting working documents like meeting agendas, action items, calendars, etc., on a kind of internet-based bulletin board (known as “wiki”), then inviting all members of the congregation to provide comments, suggestions and thoughts;

- **Reading room:** for those who are less adept at using computers, putting a hard-copy version of the internet-based information in a public reading area, such as the library, for all members to review and provide comments on at their convenience, and
- **Fora selection:** using town-hall type meetings and information workshops to better communicate information to the congregation and get feedback.

None of these initiatives will work, though, without the active participation of the entire MUF community. Great things are indeed happening at MUF, and they begin with *you*.

– Steven Humphreys, Chair, Administrative Network

Coming Saturday, October 27!

A Betsy Burr/Carol Titus Production

“THEY LIVED THIS LAND”

Our History in Nine Vignettes

Celebrating the 50th anniversary of the purchase of our mansion and grounds

This will be a fundraiser for MUF. It will include an intermission party—with Michelle and Gary Kunz providing dessert—where you will get to meet “Mr. and Mrs. Thorne,” the original owners of the mansion, as well as Isabel the ghost. This will truly be an evening to remember, so mark this date on your calendar **NOW!** Tickets will be available at the Box Office in September.



Cast Call!

We're still looking for some good actors to play parts in this gala celebration of the 50th anniversary of our purchase of our mansion and grounds.

Needed: Someone to play

–“a prosecutor, mid-60's,” a man who was elected to the Supreme Court, and so was able to stay serious!

–“a craftswoman, age 35ish” to play Peggy Karr.

Interested? Contact Betsy Burr at burrs@att.net for more information.

Upcoming Events

Minstrel Coffeehouse

**Fridays, 8 p.m. [Note Change in Time]
September 7, 14, 21, 28**

More information from www.folkproject.org or 973-335-9489.

Choir Rehearsals Resume

Sunday, September 9

The Children's and Adult Choirs will rehearse at 8:30 a.m. and 10:15 a.m., respectively. Their schedules will resume on the following Tuesday, September 11—children at 6:15 p.m. in the Terrace Room and adults at 5 or 7:15 in Room 207. Details in the Bulletin.

First Monday Book Group

Monday, September 10, 7 p.m.

We will be meeting on the SECOND Monday this month in Room 208 to discuss *The Glass Castle*, by Jeannette Walls. Come and help us start the year off right, and bring suggestions for future books to read and discuss. Any questions or suggestions, please contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com for details.

Create Beautiful Floral Arrangements

Friday, September 14, 7:30-9:30 p.m.

Remember how much fun we had this past spring making wreaths and other craft projects to raise money for the Senior High's habitat trip? Beginning on this date, we will be having a monthly evening of crafting and socializing with wonderful desserts.



Please join us for our first craft night in the Terrace Room. We will be making beautiful fall floral arrangements for our homes. A professional floral designer will teach us and provide us with a variety of supplies to use for our pieces. Cost will be \$20-40, depending on the supplies chosen.

Please register by contacting Donna Becker at writeme79@juno.com by **September 10**. Please bring a potluck dessert to share.

Friday, October 19 – We will learn how to knit and crochet. Please join us at the same time and place to enjoy these yarn crafts. Contact Donna if you can help teach those who are new to these crafts (or if you know of someone else who might be able to help).

Normandy Chorale Seeking Singers

Tuesday, September 18, 7:30-9:45 p.m.

The Normandy Chorale is a group of approximately 20 mixed voices singing a variety of music, both with accompaniment and a cappella. Rehearsals begin at MUF on the above date. Singers in all parts are welcome; no formal audition is required. Please contact Normandy Chorale Director Bruce Sidelnik.

The Hero's Journey

Sunday, September 23

This course in painting is not for the faint of heart. Each painting is a tool for communication and introspection, delving into the unexpressed and nonverbal. There are seven three-hour painting sessions plus time for discussion. No previous painting experience needed. We will schedule dates and times convenient to all. You will need a masonite board 23" x 26". All other materials will be provided. There is a \$20 materials fee. Maximum eight people.

Contact Elizabeth Bain at elizabethbain@hotmail.com.

GEM Hosts Earth Dinner

Saturday, September 29, 6 p.m.

GEM invites you to be a "Locavore." What's that, you say? Any relation to a herbivore, carnivore or omnivore? Could be to all three!

A locavore is someone who seeks to eat as much locally produced food as possible. Come to our potluck Earth Dinner, children welcome, with food that fits this bill (limited to 50 participants). You'll not only eat well and have fun but you'll learn why eating locally produced food is good for your tastebuds and for a multitude of other reasons. Buy your tickets at the Box Office (\$6 for adults, \$3 for children 12 and under) or call Claire Mayer. A list of resources for food products including farmers' markets and local shops and stores will be available at the Box Office. We'll even have NJ beer and wine!

MUF Blood Drive

October 21, 8 a.m.- 1 p.m.

Your valuable pint of blood will be collected in the Terrace Room. In order to be eligible, your last donation elsewhere must have been donated by August 25. Call Zella or sign up with her at MUF to register.

Announcing...

Town Hall Meeting
Sunday, September 16

Choice of two times:

10:00 a.m. (after the first service)*

12:00 noon (after the second service)

The summer has been a busy time at the Fellowship. The Board of Trustees would like to share with you what we've been working on and begin a dialogue about our future. We will provide more detailed information about the Historic Preservation Grant for replacement of our roof and the implications of that for our future. This is a year of visioning – come take the first step with us.

* Children's activities and nursery care extended until 11 a.m. to allow parents to attend the first session.



Calling all leaders and aspiring leaders...

Join us for the

Annual Fall Leadership Retreat

October 19 - 20

(Friday Evening - Saturday)

Worship

Fellowship

Learning

Possibilities

- No travel or overnight stay required.
- Reserve the date.
- Watch for more detailed information.

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

	June 07	Budget	Variance	TOTAL Jul. 06-Jun.	Over Budget	Annual
INCOME						
Pledges	17,485	29,587	-12,103	351,912	-13,088	365,000
Building Use	2,768	2,604	164	32,993	1,743	31,250
Fundraisers	1,438	1,417	21	15,885	-10,615	26,500
Sunday Morning Contributions	631	900	-269	10,397	397	10,000
Other Income	24,023	1,250	22,773	41,530	26,530	15,000
TOTAL INCOME	46,345	35,758	10,587	452,717	4,967	447,750
EXPENSES						
Personnel Expenses	36,714	26,739	9,975	308,381	-9,902	318,283
Facilities	5,003	7,160	-2,157	72,665	-12,083	84,748
Building Improvements	0	292	-292	6,929	3,429	3,500
Office Expenses	1,810	1,521	289	22,547	4,897	17,650
Fellowship Expenses	3,966	2,280	1,686	39,162	1,273	37,889
Committee Activities	2,313	2,238	75	17,436	-8,784	26,220
Religious Education	231	1,590	-1,359	7,586	686	6,900
Uncategorized Expenses	0			105		0
TOTAL EXPENSES	50,038	41,820	8,218	474,811	-20,379	495,190
NET INCOME	-3,693	-6,062	2,369	-22,095	25,345	-47,440

- NOTES**
1. We are tracking quite well against our plan. While we did finish our fiscal year with a deficit, it is substantially smaller than the shortfall projected in our five-year plan.
 2. A number of pledge payments are outstanding. In addition, we are slightly short of the pledges we need for this current fiscal year. Please submit your pledge payments and cards as soon as you can.

Respectfully submitted by Tony Rutigliano, Treasurer

Social Justice Council

September 2007 Update -- Helping Neighbors in Need



2d Annual MUF Festival of Peace – Sunday, September 23

A fabulous fun and educationally packed day devoted to heightening an awareness of how we can be peacemakers in a world that needs us! For families and adults...and all guests. Rain or Shine! All activities FREE OF CHARGE.

9:00 & 11:00 Sunday Service: Rev. Alison Miller & Children’s “Time for All Ages”

9:15-10:30 Children’s RE Classes

10:15-11:00 Coffee Hour & Peace Brunch, featuring bagels, quiche, vegetarian snacks, fruits, juices galore.

11:00-12:15 Three Adult Peace-Themed Workshops:

- 1) **Compassionate Communication** – Peace begins within cultivating honesty, empathy and connection in your interactions with others. Facilitator: Author/Teacher: Genie Bane
- 2) **Reconciliation - Let Peace on Earth Begin with Me** - Explore how reconciliation works, or might work, relating to desire for apologies/forgiveness. Facilitator: Gloria Jackson
- 3) **Touch Drawing**- Hands-on, mono-print, creative, expressive process to explore mystery within you and have fun. No talent required. Facilitator/Artist: Linda Howe

11:15-12:15 - Children’s Peace Craft Activities –In Each RE Class: Make Peace Flags

12:15- 12:30 – Mini-Break for “Peace Dessert & Coffee”

12:30- 2:00 –MUF Outdoor Peace Concert – Bring a blanket (we’ll have chairs), sit on our great lawn (sunny) or Meeting Room (rain). Featuring debut of the band “Willow Road,” which will play well-known, peace-themed songs by Bob Dylan, John Mayer, Gnarl Barkley, The Beatles. Band enters on singing of Jean Sara Rohe, NYC-based artist, bassist Jeff Desmedt, guitarist B.D. Lenz and drummer Tom Papadatos.



Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – Next Hosting Date: Tuesday, September 11! Thanks, MUF members, for helping cook great summer food once more for 150 neighbors. Cold casseroles, chili, etc., needed. Contact Sharon Glickman at foxwood2@optonline.net to let her know if you can help out...and what you could prepare that we really need.

Eric Johnson House MUF Monthly Dinner Teams – Next hostings: Wednesdays, September 5 & 26 (5:45-7 p.m.). Join other MUF members/friends in hosting family- style dinner for 10 residents of AIDS/HIV restorative home. Join in by possibly cooking or by attending with MUF’s party for the evening. To help: sespencer@optonline.net.

Morristown Homeless Solutions (Shelter) Monthly dinner commitment (next hosting: Saturday, September 8 (4:45-7 p.m.). If you are an adult, or a family with Jr. High and older children that you can accompany, help prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents. Contact: judyoneil@optonline.net.

Next Meeting Social Justice Council – Thursday, September 13, 7:30-9 p.m. – MUF Dining Room. Join other MUF members planning help for neighbors, near and far.

MUF Peace Commission- Next Planning Meeting, Thursday, September 20,-7:30-9 p.m. MUF Room TBC. Help plan full year’s peace activities as a UUA priority.

Help Wanted: A/V Volunteers Needed

Please join the MUF audiovisual (A/V) volunteers to help support our high-quality Sunday programs. We need people to run the sound board so that all can hear, and to do video recording so we can make DVDs available for people who missed the program. Sometimes a program requires projection of photos or video. Occasionally we are asked to support additional programs held at MUF. We provide the (simple) training required. Anyone can do it. It’s a fun and low-intensity way to provide a valuable service to MUF, particularly recommended for new members. Scheduling is online or via e-mail and phone calls. Contact Gabor Kiss at muf-av@gaborkiss.com.

New Tax Laws for Contributions

Administrator Maggie Chilton reports two changes in the IRS code that affect charitable giving in 2007:

1. Any gift (cash or check) over \$250 must be substantiated with a receipt. Canceled checks are no longer acceptable. That means you should save your quarterly giving statements with your tax files.
2. Non-cash contributions, if totaling over \$500 in a tax year, require documentation (Form 8283) to be filed with your 1040. This includes gifts of stock, as well as any other objects (e.g., artwork, furniture, clothing, vehicle) and out-of-pocket purchases made on behalf of the Fellowship which you want to count as a contribution (e.g., supplies). Non-cash gifts valued at over \$5,000 must, in addition, have a qualified appraisal (Maggie has Form 8283 in the office).

If the Fellowship sells your gift at any time within three years, the Fellowship has to file Form 8282 with the IRS (we will need your social security number), showing the proceeds of the sale. A copy will be sent to you, and you will have to file an amended tax return if the proceeds to MUF differ from what you claimed as a charitable deduction. In the case of a gift of stock, it is our policy to sell the stock immediately, so you will get both forms in the mail at the same time.

Maggie and the Stewardship Committee will have to decide how to record non-cash gifts and whether or not they go onto the quarterly statements.

Beautiful New Name Tags

Beautiful new name tags will be ready for use on Sunday, September 9. Several people on the Welcoming & Membership Support Committee have been busy all summer preparing them. One benefit of the new name tags is that you will now have the option of clipping or pinning them to your clothing. If by chance yours is missing, please contact Susan Oxman at soxman13@verizon.net.



COM Seeks to Hear Concerns About the Health of Our Ministry

The Committee on Ministry (COM) monitors the health of the overall ministry at MUF. If the individual parts aren't working, then the whole is not working. If something is not working in your part of the Fellowship, we would like to hear about it. The philosophy of COM is grounded in a redemptive process whereby everyone has an opportunity to be heard in a constructive, respectful forum, whether it is a larger congregational issue involving differing opinions, or concerns of a more personal nature. Anyone having concerns about the health of our ministry, or the MUF community in general, is encouraged to contact any member of the Committee on Ministry.

Committee on Ministry: Ron Corey, Pat de la Fuente, Paul Ferm, Beth Hayward, Gloria Jackson, and Don Preziosi

Thanks from the Caring Committee

The Caring Committee recently thanked the committee's service providers for their unequalled generosity towards MUF members and friends in need with a Bar-B-Q, co-hosted by Catherine Corey and Laurie MacGeorge.

To all who attended and those who were otherwise committed, we would like to extend a sincere thanks to all of you who have been so giving of your time, energy and concern to the members and friends of the congregation who may have been in need of a kind word or deed.

It is very rewarding to be able to pick up the phone and request that one of our service providers extend a helping hand to someone who is in need of assistance.

You are to be commended for demonstrating that the Caring Committee is truly a group that is always, and we mean always, ready to assist, no matter what the problem or circumstances may be. It is so heartening to know that each and every one of you is ready to bring a little sunshine into someone's life.

Hospitality Welcome!

If you would like to show some hospitality to our members, friends and guests, consider hosting a coffee hour this year. It is easy to do (the coffee is set up for you!) and only requires minimal time to set up whatever snacks you'd like to share with our congregation. Contact Dan Cohen for more information: danielcohen@optonline.net.



haring 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.

Tell Us Your Joys & Concerns

Remember—the joys and concerns you write on our “Milestones and Passages” cards to be read on Sunday mornings do not reach other members of the congregation unless you specifically authorize their listing in this newsletter by checking the “Newsletter” box or by sending them to melodylingers@verizon.net.

Contributions to the Celebration of Life

The Endowment Committee thanks **Pat de la Fuente** for her August donation honoring the ordination of **Gloria Jackson**.

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

Date	Time	Event	Details
Fridays, September 7, 14, 21, 28	8:00 p.m. [New time]	Minstrel Coffeehouse	p. 6
Monday, September 10	7:00 p.m.	First Monday Book Group	p. 6
Friday, September 14	7:30-9:30 p.m.	New Crafters Group: Floral Arranging	p. 6
Sunday, September 16	10 a.m. or 12 noon	Town Hall Meeting	p. 7
Tuesday, September 18	7:30-9:45 p.m.	Normandy Chorale Rehearsals Begin	p. 6
Saturday, September 29	6:00 p.m.	Earth Dinner	p. 6
October 19-20		Annual Fall Leadership Retreat	p. 7
Sunday, October 21	8:00 a.m.-1 p.m.	Blood Drive	p. 6
Saturday, October 27		50th Anniversary Fête of Building Purchase	p. 5

High Holy Days

A Free Faith Observance of the beginning of the Jewish High Holidays, or **Rosh Hashanah**, will be held **Wednesday, September 12, at 7 p.m.**, in the Meeting Room, followed by honey, challah and other goodies.

Observance of **Yom Kippur (Day of Atonement)** will be held **Friday, September 21, at 7 p.m.**, in the Terrace Room. Contact Gloria Jackson at gloriajcksn@aol.com for more info.

Rev. Barent Johnson Speaks on September 2

The Rev. Barent Johnson is an ordained minister in the United Methodist Church and served as a parish minister in conjunction with graduate study in theological and philosophical subjects at Garrett Theological Seminary, Yale University Graduate School and the Graduate School at Drew University. Since his retirement in 1986 from Drew, where he served as University Registrar for many years, he has been involved in Adult Education programs in the Madison United Methodist Church and with Current Issues discussion groups at the Madison Senior Center and at Fellowship Village—a retirement community in Basking Ridge.

Building Your Own Theology: Exploring (Level 2) First and Third Tuesdays (except in January), September 18-February 5, 7-9 p.m.*

Join the Rev. Alison Miller and David Snedden in this 10-session sequel to the prerequisite BYOT introduction class, which continues the credo-development process beginning with a look at the often neglected six sources of our UU faith. The goal is to help participants grow in their ability to understand and clearly articulate their own belief system. It will meet on September 18, October 2 and 16, November 6 and 20, December 4 and 18, January 8* and 15 and February 5. There is a book fee of \$16. Registration required – class size limited to 15 participants.

Transylvania Tidbit: Partner Church Visit Next Summer?

I am thinking about taking another trip to visit our Partner Church in Transylvania next summer. If anyone is interested in coming, we would fly to Budapest and drive about eight hours over two days. I would probably spend a week in Budapest and a week in Transylvania, but you are welcome to spend less time in Budapest. If you are interested, contact Gabor Kiss at gabor@gaborkiss.com.



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

September 2007

Volume 52, No. 9



Posted: August 28, 2007
Deadline for the OCTOBER issue is

SEPTEMBER 15

LATE ARRIVAL—

Triumphs of Nonviolent Resistance

Tuesdays, September 25, October 9, 23 and 30, 7:30-9 p.m.

Learn how entire societies have been transformed by nonviolent strategies that destroyed their opponents' ability to control events. View and discuss short films of passionate, popular 20th-century movements that battled entrenched regimes or military forces with weapons very different from guns and bullets. See *Moral Victories of the 20th Century: An Examination of the Triumphs of Nonviolent Resistance Movements*. Contact Allen Wells (facilitator) at 973-539-0301 or awelink@verizon.net.

Sunday Services

One service at 10 a.m. Sept. 2; services at 9 and 11 a.m. the remainder of the month.



September 2 Images That Hurt, Images That Heal

Today's presentation seeks to lift up the fact that we live in a world of dynamic images, or metaphors, which energize and give direction to our lives. Some of those images energize limiting and often destructive forces, while others invite and energize us to travel in constructive, more inclusive, joyful and fulfilling paths. *Presented by Rev. Barent Johnson; introduced by his daughter, MUFer Kathi Caccavale*

September 9 Homecoming Sunday: Holiness and Happiness

Members and friends, adults and children of all ages are welcome to join us at both services for our first fall Sunday Service. Don't forget that today the schedule returns to two services at 9 and 11 a.m.

Led by Rev. Alison B. Miller

September 16 An Unexpected Call

Led by Rev. Alison B. Miller

September 23 Anger's Antidote

Today's Sunday Services will be followed by an intergenerational Peace Festival with a concert and insightful and creative workshops to choose from.

Led by Rev. Alison B. Miller

September 30 Why Are We Here?

Coordinated by Members of the Board of Trustees