



August 2008

Volume 53, No. 8

News

Reaching In . . .
Reaching Out

From the Minister . . .

TWO DAYS HAVE PASSED since one man sought revenge and relief by shooting wildly into the pews of one of our Unitarian Universalist congregations in Knoxville, Tennessee. By doing so, he pierced hatred and horror into the one place that many of us have counted on to experience refuge, beauty, hope and love... a sanctuary.



What is perhaps even more shocking is that his destructive action occurred at 10:18 a.m. on a Sunday morning, during their worship hour, which that day happened to be an intergenerational production of *Annie, Jr.* This week and in the weeks to come, we are left with the task of beginning to comprehend the incomprehensible.

On Sunday afternoon, Rev. Chris Buice from the Tennessee Valley UU Church requested prayers for the members of his congregation, and so a few of us gathered in a circle of prayer, poetry and song in our own sanctuary that evening. The following is a glimpse into that healing circle and an invitation for all our members and friends to join in a widening circle of lament and grief, healing and praise.

Let us create a circle of lament to utter aloud our sorrow and our fear. How could another human being steal the lives of loved ones and the innocence of children?!... Don't those who spew rhetorical words of hate and division see how their words may translate in the hands of one who is capable of shaping them into deeds of deliberate destruction.... Why is it so easy to purchase guns and ammunition?

Let us create a circle of healing and praise. How very proud we are of the calm, caring, quick and heroic way in which the Unitarian Universalists responded to their being in danger.... How we know that our message of unity and love and a willingness to struggle for the rights and cares of all regardless of creed, color, gender, sexual

orientation, and physical and mental ability are more needed than ever.... How we stand in a long line of forefathers and foremothers who have dealt creatively and courageously with the religious callings of their time.

Let us create a circle to care for our wounds of grief and to honor the lives of those whom we have lost. We acknowledge our deep sadness at being targeted for our cherished beliefs.... We pay attention to the fact that this new grief can't help but connect with sorrows from our past and that we must take care of ourselves... And we hold the victims and heroes of this tragedy in our hearts, celebrating the meaning of their lives, and hoping that peace and courage will light the hearts of all those who are connected with them.

Will you join with me in holding the following victims and heroes and their families in your prayers, and please, add any other names or thoughts you wish.

Betty Barnhart, Jack Barnhart, Linda Chavez, Linda Kraeger (deceased), Allison Lee, Greg McKendry, Jr. (deceased), Tammy Sommers, and John Worth, Jr.

In the coming weeks, take care first and foremost to nourish yourself, and then to reach out and be a healer in a world that is desperately in need of your gifts.

In fellowship,

Alison

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Morristown Unitarian Fellowship

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Sunday Services: 10 a.m.

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Wednesday: 1.-7 p.m.

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

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Deeds Well Done

The Fellowship Board commends computer wizard Garry Hodgson for designing the electronic Whiteboard that is so important in our 21st-century communications.

Maggie Chilton Receives Certificate In Church Business Administration



MUF Administrator Maggie Chilton has earned her Fellow in Church Business Administration certificate, awarded at the annual conference of the National Association of Church Business Administration, held in July in Nashville. Requirements for NACBA certification include two 8-day courses, a project for the church- employer, and endorsement by the minister and Board President.

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!

Upcoming Board and Network Meetings

Meetings are at 7 p.m. and open to all Fellowship members. This month's meetings are scheduled on:

Board of Trustees

August 6

Meeting Minutes

Minutes from the most recent 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

I spent my Fourth of July weekend with the members of the Board and Alison at our Board retreat. It was time well spent as we became oriented with our Board roles, shared our expectations of each other by covenanting, did some visioning to lead us to our Board priorities for the year and, most importantly, shared some good food and good conversation as we learned about each other.

To start us on our visioning, we were asked the question: What would we like to accomplish this year with a one-year goal and a five-year goal? We broke down into two groups and worked on these two time frames. One group had difficulty getting past the one-year vision because it was of utmost importance to them, whereas the other group knew the one-year piece would get done and primarily visioned around the five-year question.

This was fascinating to me. I am so grateful that there are those who want to work on our immediate concerns for the upcoming year. Once they are resolved, they will lead to clarity around our long-term goals. Yet I am also thankful that there are others who believe that our short-term goals will be accomplished and are able to look at our long-term vision.

I want to share with you some of my favorites from these two conversations for our five-year vision: We will be a growing congregation that is diverse and inclusive.

We will be more engaged in our neighboring faiths. We will be a community. We will meet the needs of all age groups. We will raise UUs. We will be a movement. We will grow smaller as we grow larger. Our facility will reflect our values. We will minister from a place of health. We will make a notable difference in our members' lives so that they can make a difference in the lives of others.

The seven of us opened up our minds to our future possibilities. It helped us to see what we had in common and to embrace our different visions. When it was time to figure out our Board's one-year priorities, we broke down into two new groups. We came back with the same three priorities: Congregational Vision, Leadership and Committee Development, and Stewardship.

We have a history of shared ministry; thus we are asking you to be a part of our fact-gathering and decision-making processes. Come join us as we journey together and work on our short and long-term goals for our spiritual home.

In faith,

Mary

Mary Hodgson
President

Our Financial Health

	2007-08 Actual	2007-08 Budget
Income		
Pledge Income	\$392,071.86	\$400,000.00
Rental Income	\$37,877.61	\$43,500.00
Fundraisers	\$29,181.77	\$30,000.00
Other Income	\$9,701.71	\$9,500.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$480,484.70	\$493,500.00
Expense		
PAYROLL	\$343,011.57	\$343,411.00
Debt Services	\$21,469.65	\$30,000.00
BLDG MTCE & UTIL	\$66,359.41	\$62,969.00
ADMINISTRATION	\$63,980.41	\$71,632.00
COMMITTEES	\$18,354.24	\$26,275.00
Religious Education	\$12,579.28	\$14,200.00
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$525,754.56	\$548,487.00
Deficit	(\$45,269.86)	(\$54,987.00)

Upcoming Events

Stargazing into Eternity: Exploring the Link between Astronomy and Spirituality

Three Wednesdays at 7:30 p.m. - August 6, 13, 20

Coordinated by Danelle Simonelli

Deadline for registration is Sunday, August 3. Bring binoculars or a telescope.

If you enjoyed the topic addressed in MUF's July 27 Sunday service, sign up for this course! It will examine the connections humans have seen through the ages between astronomy and spirituality. We'll learn some science and history, as well as discussing our own views on these subjects. Topics will include astrology and celestial omens; ancient sites that are aligned with the heavens; Christianity's battle with astronomers such as Galileo; deism's focus on God as creator of the universe; spiritual implications of the Big Bang theory and quantum physics; and the diverse religious views of scientists such as Albert Einstein and Carl Sagan. Weather permitting, we'll include some outdoor stargazing from the Fellowship's grounds.

For more information: Contact Danelle Simonelli at dksimonelli@hotmail.com.

An Evensong Sampler

Thursdays at 7:30 p.m. – August 7 & 21

Facilitated by Rev. Wendy Pantoja, MUF Summer Minister

You are warmly invited to explore personal beliefs and possibilities and to get to know a great group of people as we sample sessions from our denomination's Evensong 1 and 2 curricula. Let us explore together an alternative style of worship in which we sing, share readings, and let our lives be our "sermon." There are no "right answers," only personal and evolving ones.

For more information: Contact Rev. Wendy Pantoja at wpantoja@uuma.org.

GEM (Green Earth Ministry) Summer Field Trip: Thursday, August 28

Come with us to visit a LEED (Leadership in Energy and Design)-certified private elementary school in Gladstone. The Willow School, conceived in 2000, has been built using recycled building materials and stone from the 34-acre site, and furnished with chairs and desks built from trees taken down to build on the site.

In addition, a wetland helps treat sewage, and gray

water and rainwater are collected to use on site. These are concrete examples of the school's mission to incorporate awareness and protection of the natural world in almost every facet of the education the youngsters receive at the school. To join with us, call Linda Clark by August 25 to reserve a spot. We will carpool from MUF at 10 a.m.

First Monday Book Group

Monday, September 8, 7 p.m.

The Group will not be meeting in July and August, but we will be reading! Our next book, *Middlesex*, by Jeffrey Eugenides, is a lengthy but interesting book recommended by a number of keen readers. We should also be reading other books to choose for the year's reading. Used copies of *Middlesex* can be ordered inexpensively from Amazon. Since the first Monday in September is Labor Day we will meet September 8 in Room 208.

Have a wonderful summer! Everyone is welcome to join us in the autumn to discuss your favorite books. Contact Nancy Lee McLure at nlmclure@msn.com.

Cakes for the Queen of Heaven

Part I: In Ancient Times

Five Tuesdays at 7 p.m. – October 14 & 28, November 11 & 25, December 9

Registration for fall programs begins September 7.

Facilitated by Arlyne Dalman, Dee Dasara, Pat de la Fuente, Gloria Jackson, Nina Nemeth, & Danelle Simonelli

Women of MUF, mark your calendars to hold these dates! The newly revised version of this classic UU curriculum on women's spirituality will be offered at the Fellowship in 2008-09. *Materials fee \$5.*

**Save money and energy (CO₂ footprint)!
Use compact fluorescent bulbs.
Sundays, Room 100, or call Fred Mayer.
Large selection, discount prices.**

MUF Hires New Director of Religious Education

We have a new permanent Director of Religious Education! The DRE Search Committee has just announced the hiring of Karen Brown for the post. She has 12 years of experience, the last nine of those years at the UU Church of Indianapolis. An award-winning DRE, she has received the Anne Miller Award from the Heartland UU District, which is "presented to an individual who has made an outstanding contribution to religious education for children, youth and adults over the years."

Karen comes to us with a wealth of experience in all aspects of RE, at both the congregational and district levels. One of the things that struck us was that the people who were her references not only said great things about her work as a DRE but also expressed sadness that she would be leaving them, which speaks to just how valued and respected she is.

Originally from the Boston area, Karen is very excited to be coming back "home" to the East Coast. She was definitely the most qualified of the 17 applicants we had for this position and was far and away our top pick.

Janine Torsiello and David Palmer, co-chairs, and Ken Nemeth, Edith Lee and Elizabeth Bain, DRE Search Committee

AudioVisual Leadership Changes, Volunteers Needed

Venkat Puranapanda is taking over as chairperson of the AudioVisual Committee. Please address A/V requests to him at puranapanda@yahoo.com.

The roster of A/V volunteers needs replenishing. Please join the MUF A/V volunteers to help support our high-quality Sunday programs with video recording, operating the sound system, and projection. We provide the simple training required. 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.

Looking for a Friendly Face?

Joining a community that is entirely new to you can sometimes be an awkward experience, particularly when attending large functions such as social activities, concerts, etc. We would like to offer you the opportunity to attend an event at MUF with one or more of our friendly members.

If this interests you, please let us know when you sign up for an event at the Box Office, or contact Laurie MacGeorge at dllmacg10@aol.com. She will arrange for a member to meet you, sit with you and introduce you to some of our other friendly faces.

New Members

Donna and Scott Best have deepened their commitment to the Fellowship by signing the membership book in June.

"Divas on the Delaware" Comes to MUF Thursday, August 14, at 7:30 p.m.

Singers dressing onstage? Shocking! Instrumentalists walking into the middle of a scene? Unheard of! Performers flirting with audience members? The very nerve!



Don't come expecting opera as usual when the Delaware Valley Opera presents Divas on the Delaware, a program of favorite opera and Broadway highlights by Verdi, Mozart, Stephen Sondheim and others at MUF. Featured will be singers (male and female) from the new DVO Opera Resident Program and instrumental ensemble directed by our own Dr. Jim Blanton in a lively, engaging and unusual program sure to attract opera lovers and novices alike.

Tickets are \$20, \$15 in advance and \$5 for children 13 and under. For information, call Dr. Jim at 845-858-9895.

Social Justice Council - August 2008 Update

Helping Neighbors in Need



Help Our Local Homeless- MUF Co-Host Week – August 24 -31 – MUF will be co-hosting, once again, a week of hospitality for 3 to 5 homeless families at Redeemer Church on South Street. Your assistance is neededand so welcome...to cover specific short tasks (i.e., playing with the children, helping serve dinner, helping with setup or takedown, etc.). Please contact either Bob Campbell at wrobc@earthlink.net or Karen Burns Rutigliano at karenburns@casaessex.org ...we'll find just the perfect way for you to help out.

Looking Forward ...3d Annual MUF Family Day of Peace – on Sunday, September 21 featuring Peace-focused service, workshop activities planned for children/parents, ***Peace Brunch*** ... 3 post-brunch adult workshops including: an art experience, a featured presentation/précis of the incredible book, “The Turning Point,” and a workshop on enhancing your life and effect through nonviolent communication, etc. Loads of fun topped off with Family Peace Sing-a-long concert featuring special guests coordinated with our Folk Project friends. Come with your hearts, minds and appetite open to experience something BIG...and something very nurturing to peace in our times and in our lives. In full collaboration with MUF Seeds of Peace/MUF UUA Peacemaking team! Join us, it will be fabulous. Volunteers needed!! Contact: josippie@optonline.net.

Morristown Community Soup Kitchen – Next Hosting Date: Tuesday, August 12! Thanks, MUF members, for helping cook great summer food for more than 100 neighbors. Cold casseroles, chili, etc., needed. Contact Michelle Kunz to let her know if you can help out...and what you could prepare that we really need ... at mbkunz@gmail.com.

Eric Johnson House MUF Monthly Dinner Teams – Next host dates are Wednesdays, August 6 and 27 (5:45-7 p.m.). A funny, lively and very warmly receptive group of 10 residents. Join other MUF members/friends in hosting responsibilities. Let Susan Spencer know at sespencer@optonline.net if you want to be a part of this very special outreach.

Morristown Homeless Solutions (shelter) monthly dinner commitment (next hosting, Saturday, August 9 (4:45-7 p.m.) continues under leadership of Judy O'Neil Goldberg at judyoneil@optonline.net. If you are an adult, or a family with Jr. High and older children that you can accompany, prepare an easy meal for the 100+ shelter residents.

Next Meeting Social Justice Council – Thursday, August 14, 7:30-9 p.m. – Join other MUF members as we plan how to help Morristown neighbors in need...and help our greater communities across the US and world. Join us and add your ideas and energy to changing the world a little bit every day. Contact karenburns@casaessex.org with any questions.

Eleanor Mason Receives MUF Social Justice Chalice Award; Shari Loe to Be UN Envoy

On receiving the Social Justice Council's Crystal Chalice on Sunday, June ?? to honor her lifetime of service for social justice, Eleanor Mason said she “with warmth and gratitude ... felt honored to accept this award in the name of the Social Justice Council chaired by Karen Burns Rutigliano and Michelle Kunz. May this award serve as a symbol for the outstanding work of all members dedicated to and involved in MUF social justice ongoing projects – locally, nationally, internationally and in the name of the UN.

“We are indeed fortunate,” she noted, “that Shari Loe has come forward to accept the nomination of MUF UN Envoy in my place. She will bring us updates on the many projects of our UU-UN Office. I am grateful to Jo Sippie-Gora and her Seeds of Peace Committee, which will continue to help us with our MUF Peacemaking Ministry, the extension of the UUA initiative, working toward ‘Peacemaking’ as a UUA Statement of Conscience. I believe that we at MUF truly covenant and affirm the principles of our Unitarian faith: respect for all life and the goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all. . Thank you. I shall treasure the chalice always.”

Sharing Our Joys & Concerns

Our deepest sympathy to the family of **Bonnie Franklin**, who lost her battle with cancer July 24. A memorial service is planned for Saturday, August 2, at 2:30 p.m. at the Fellowship.

To assure the privacy of our members and friends, we have removed all other "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

Be sure to send your Joys and Concerns to melodylingers@verizon.net so they will reach all members of the Fellowship.

Contributions to the Celebration of Life

The Endowment Committee thanks the following for their donations:

Paul Mitchell in memory of **Duke Gregg**.

Pat de la Fuente in honor of **Homer Hansen**.

Gail Ellman in honor of **Claire Dixon's** birthday.

The Sunshine Club of Morris Knolls High School in memory of **Walt Stasiak**..

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.

**Morristown
Unitarian Fellowship**
21 Normandy Heights Road
Morristown, New Jersey 07960-4611



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.

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Dated Material – Posted July 30, 2008
Deadline for the SEPTEMBER issue is

AUGUST 15

Sunday Services

Services at 10 a.m. only



August 3 Turning Points

We all have pivotal points in our lives that “make all the difference.” MUF members will speak about their significant turning points and we will all reflect on our own. Music by Kate McAteer and Beth Wilson.

Coordinated by Carol Titus

August 10 Forgiving Our Trespasses

As much as we try to be in right relationship with others, there are bound to be transgressions committed by us and against us. Is forgiveness always an option?

Presented by Rev. Wendy Pantoja

August 17 Leave ‘em Laughing

A look at laughter and its effect on our lives. Participants include George Aronson, Pat Bomus, Betsy Burr, Miriam Congdon, Bruce Daggy, Kel Domovs, Zella Geltman, Drew Hayes, Allen Wells.

Coordinated by Kathi Caccavale

August 24 High Tea at Low Tide

When the tide goes out, it leaves behind wondrous things to explore. What have we discovered in the low tides of our lives?

Presented by Rev. Wendy Pantoja

August 31 How Can I Keep from Singing?

Come for a spiritual journey through music. Prepare for lots of participatory singing and hear from musicians within our congregation.

Coordinated by Music Director Jim Blanton and Marjorie Wormser

Drama, Songs from GAAMC at MUF

***Richard II* – August 4, at 8 p.m.**

Presented by GAAMC as The Shakespeare Theatre of New Jersey's *Next Stage Ensemble*, this poignant and poetic play about English history contains some of Shakespeare's most impassioned descriptions of his homeland ("this earth, this realm, this England") but also the deeply relevant tale of one man's inner struggle between his essential humanity and the absolute power of his office. *Recommended for ages 12 and up.* Tickets cost \$10, or \$8 for GAAMC members. For tickets, e-mail Tickets@GAAMC.org.

***Olympia's Daughters* – August 11, at 7:30 p.m.**

Olympia's Daughters is a women's a cappella choir that builds bridges between communities and cultures. Through song, they challenge attitudes, foster healing, share their hearts, spirits and joyful love of music. They perform all along the East Coast. Their name is inspired by Olympia Brown, the first female ordained by a national denomination - the Universalists. She was also a leading suffragist, a mother, and a business woman. Tickets are \$4 for members and \$6 for non-members. For more info, visit www.gaamc.org.

Peace Conference and Public Forum Saturday, August 9, 2-9 p.m.



A Call to Action: Saving Lives Through Nuclear Weapons Control and Disarmament, and a Remembrance of the 63^d Anniversary of the Bombing of Nagasaki

**First Memorial Presbyterian Church,
51 West Blackwell Street, Dover**

Guest Speakers include Madelyn Hoffman, Director, NJ Peace Action; Father Paul Mayer, Co-founder, Climate Crisis Coalition; Leonor Tomero, Director for Nuclear Non-Proliferation, Center for Arms Control and Non-Proliferation

**No charge to attend; free-will donation.
Co-sponsored by 22 organizations working
for peace and justice**

**INFO: Contact David Mortensen at
dmortnj@hotmail.com**

