



FIRST
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY OF
PLAINFIELD



Minister Tracy Sprowls-Jenks
Religious Ed. Dir Sue Fertig
Music Director Gail Slater
Office Administrator Louise Polli
Phone: 908-756-0750 Fax: 908-769-0452
www.fusp.org (see back page for e-mails)

Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)

December 2009

UPCOMING SERVICES

December 6- Rev. Jackie Lahey

A LIFE WORTH DYING FOR

The late Rev. Dr. Forrest Church defined religion as "our human response to the dual reality of being alive and having to die." The Rev. Jackie Lahey explores what it means to live a religious life in the face of death's reality.

Rev. Lahey is a chaplain with Compassionate Care Hospice and Acting Affiliated Community Minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Montclair.

December 13 - Gail Slater, Music Dir. & FUSP Choir, Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks

MUSICAL SUNDAY

This year the musical offering for the season will be selections of the text "Hodie Christus Natus Est". The translation of the text and how the text relates to Unitarians will be presented using several settings dating back to Palestrina with the most recent composer Visioli. Happy Holidays!

December 20th - Rev. Sprowls-Jenks

CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

Please join us this morning for the annual re-telling of the traditional Christmas story. Various members of our congregation will be in character as Mary, Joseph and the three wise men to tell of the birth of Jesus. There will be music and good cheer to share! This is a wonderful multi-generational event for everyone and so there will be no religious education classes today. Come enjoy the festivities!

December 24, 7 PM - Rev. Sprowls-Jenks

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICE

Our annual Christmas Eve service is led by Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks and Sue Fertig, Director of Religious Education. This multi-generational service is full of traditional as well as contemporary readings to honor the holiday. We will have a band accompanying us in the carols, choir music, and a candlelight ceremony, too. After the service, join us for hot cider and other refreshments.

December 2009

WORSHIP MINISTRY

UPCOMING SERVICES

December 27th - Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks

WHAT WAS THE QUESTION?

January first will mark five months that I have been serving with you as your minister. Surely you have some questions you would like to ask me? This morning is a “question box” type sermon. I will answer the questions you submit to me by December 20. Please submit them in writing to me at revtsj@fusp.org or leave them in my mail folder. I may not answer all your questions, but I will do my very best. Your questions can range from anything about our ministry together to theological questions to politics to questions about the meaning of life. The possibilities are wide open, so go for it! P.S. The idea is not to stump the minister but to explore ideas and topics together.

RICK MCGUIRE: QUILT NERD

The rich, colorful quilts in the sanctuary were made by Rick McGuire, Martha Haviland's uncle. Rick has been quilting since 1987. His first quilt was a baby blanket for a Godchild that was carried all over the world and loved to death. He likes to do all different styles of quilts and hates doing the same thing twice. Many of Rick's quilts incorporate a color wheel of some sort into the color scheme. He hand dyes some of his own fabrics. This is the first ever public showing of this artist's quilts. They will be on display from December 6 through January 17.

CALLING ALL ANGELS, SHEPHERDS, AND WISE FOLKS!!

The Christmas pageant has become an annual event and you're invited to be part of the festivities. The Religious Education Committee are looking for folks of all ages to participate. We have 2 speaking parts; the narrator and the storyteller, and we need others to dress up like Mary, Joseph, angels, shepherds, wise folk, and carolers.

This pageant will happen during the 10 AM service on December 20th. We will have one mandatory rehearsal on Saturday, December 19, from 9 AM-noon. Even if you have a walk-on part you need to attend the rehearsal. Please contact Sue Fertig if you are interested in participating. This will be a multigenerational service for all to enjoy.

WORSHIP MINISTRY

OFFICE HOURS

Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks is in the office on Tuesdays & Wednesdays from 10:00 AM until 3:30 PM. She works from home on Thursdays and will answer calls & emails. On days when there is an evening meeting at FUSP that she needs to attend, Rev. Tracy may come in later that day. Please note that Rev. Tracy will occasionally be away from the office for meetings and visits during office hours so it is best to call and make an appointment to see her. On Fridays, Rev. Tracy writes her sermons from home. Monday is her day off. In an emergency, the office administrator (M-Th, 9AM-3PM) will be able to reach her & she checks voice mail on days she is not in the office.

These hours are flexible and experimental. Please be patient as Rev. Tracy adjusts her schedule to best fit the needs of FUSP and her travel time. Please feel free to call Rev. Tracy at the office or to e-mail her. The best e-mail to use is revtsj@fusp.org. She will return your call or answer your e-mail as soon as she can.

BEYOND THE PULPIT— REV. TRACY SPROWLS-JENKS

Have you felt it? There is some incredibly good energy at the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield these days. There are so many good things happening in our congregation:

1. The Membership Committee has planned a Path to Membership class in January (10th or 23rd). This class will introduce prospective members to our society and to Unitarian Universalism. In addition, packets for visitors and new members will be available soon. The Welcome Brochure is being updated (again). Finally, the process by which visitors are integrated into our community is being reviewed and improved.

2. Guy Mastroianni, the President of the congregation, has assembled a team to take over for Gerry Heinzer. Gerry was handling all the grant paperwork and much of the restoration information was going through him. This new team is making sure we dot all the Is and cross all our Ts. They will also be revitalizing the capital campaign and making sure the restoration project stays on target.

3. Our Small Group Ministry will have a new face in January. There will be a kick-off dinner on January 27th to introduce interested persons to the concept of small group ministry (some call these covenant groups or Chalice Circles). An article will be online soon giving more details.

Continued on next page

WORSHIP MINISTRY

BEYOND THE PULPIT— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 3

4. The Committee on Ministry is actively taking a wider look at the ministries of our congregation and will make recommendations to the Board as they see the need.

5. The Anti-Racism Committee has partnered with Angels in Action to take a look at youth violence in the city of Plainfield. They have reached out to several congregations in the area as well as the local government to see how FUSP can partner with them to keep the youth of this town free of violence.

I could go on and on. There are so many good things happening! I am excited to be in a congregation that has the energy and commitment to do our very best for this community and for the one in which we are located. I hope that each of you feels this like I do! Please feel free to share what you are seeing with this energy in our congregation. And if you have ideas or dreams you want to share or put into action—let's go!

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WHAT ARE YOU CELEBRATING?

The fall season may have fooled us with its warm days. The leaves on the trees may have stayed around longer than usual, but make no mistake the holiday season is upon us.

Before my anxiety takes over my inner convictions to simplify the holidays let me pause and reconnect what is important. In the past I've shared with you the "Four Things Children want for Christmas" from the book, *Unplug the Christmas Machine*, by Jo Robinson and Jean Coppock Staeheli. This year I'd like to share with you from the same text, the chapter entitled "The Gift of Joy." Included in this chapter is an exercise called, "What are you celebrating?" This values clarification exercise gives the following instructions; read through the value statements, cross off the ones that have no importance to you, add any equally important ones that have not been included. Then assign numerical value to the others, 1 being the most important and 10 being the least important. Here are the value statements:

- Christmas is a time to be a peacemaker, within the family and the world at large.
- Christmas is a time to enjoy being with my immediate family. *Continued on pg 5*

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

WHAT ARE YOU CELEBRATING? — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

- Christmas is a time to create a beautiful home environment.
- Christmas is a time to celebrate the birth of Christ.
- Christmas is a time to exchange gifts with my family and friends.
- Christmas is a time for parties, entertaining and visits with friends.
- Christmas is a time to help those who are less fortunate.
- Christmas is a time to strengthen bonds with my relatives.
- Christmas is a time to strengthen my church community.
- Christmas is a time to take a few days off from work and have a good time.

The next step is to rewrite the statements in order starting with number one first and so on and leave space in between to list ways you will accomplish the statement. Adding in a time frame as to when the list will be completed is also helpful. Completing this exercise will give you a clearer picture of your values and priorities.

The message I received from Unplug the Christmas Machine was to "create holiday traditions that mean something to me and my family." To engage in the activities that will nurture and nourish my soul. Being clear about what I value and how I choose to celebrate enables me to really appreciate the joy and good will of the season. I wish you and your family a happy, healthy, and meaningful holiday season.

Peace to all, Sue Fertig, Director of Religious Education

LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

SOMETHING IN THE AIR

So now it's falling leaves "in the air", as well as leaves on the driveway, leaves in the gutters, and leaves in the yard. If you're the outdoorsy type, with a devil-may-care attitude about dirt under your fingernails and a strong sense of responsibility for the upkeep and stewardship of our humble church then I thank you for participating in last month's fall clean-up.

there are a few other efforts underway to shape up and spruce up other parts of our property as well. Many of you have been participating in the —Continued on
page 6

LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

SOMETHING IN THE AIR— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 5

“Building Use Task Force” spear-headed by Melissa Logan. Melissa’s group has been identifying many issues related to improving the look and use of our shared space; and the committee will report their recommendations to the Board at the December meeting.

The Property Committee has coordinated the removal of the partition walls that once defined a closet in the Sanctuary basement. It seems that well intentioned efforts to devise storage space by a FUSP congregation from yesteryear, effectively weakened the foundation support for a portion of the south stone wall. While the repairs to the foundation are included in the building restoration plan, the partition wall removal was necessary to accommodate that proposed restructuring.

Did I hear someone say Building Restoration? I am delighted to report the formation of the “Building Restoration Committee” created to effectively administer all aspects of the project. This behemoth of a task was previously performed primarily by Gerry Heinzer, who has recently been confronted with serious health challenges and has stepped away from the project. Many thanks to Gerry, and many thanks to Alice Logie, Jody Hey, Jack Schrum, Sandy Kaplan, George Gowen, Angela Goldman and Debbie Gordon for their commitments to see Phase 1 of the project through to its’ completion.

If you’ve been milling about the Parish Hall at coffee hour, like every good FUSP’er should, then you’ve probably seen the newest additions to our eclectic furniture ensemble. A generous donation from Hansy Mayer and additional funding from Book Table proceeds, has enabled us to purchase (6) comfortable armchairs to meet the needs of some of our older members. Everyone is welcome to enjoy the new chairs but remember your task is only to keep the seat warm until a senior member enters the room!

Comfortable Parish Hall seating was available for many theater goers, as ACT IV played to a packed house in their most recent presentation of “Steel Magnolias”. I hope you took the opportunity to enjoy one of their performances last month as I have, and I look forward to enjoying their next spirited production.

Adult RE seems to have taken the place by storm in recent weeks with the “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven” program. This well attended series has been coordinated by Denise Soppas, and Meredith Slotteroff,

- Continued on page 7

LEADERSHIP MINISTRY

SOMETHING IN THE AIR— CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6

inspiring many FUSP women including my partner Sue Krisburg, to get a deeper understanding of the inner goddess that exists within. I'm not quite able to definitively identify god in my life, but I damn well know I need to recognize my goddess!

Reverend Tracy has been quenching many a congregant's thirst for a deeper understanding and recognition of the various sources that UU'ism draws upon. She has provided a great deal of flexibility by offering Thursday evening or Sunday afternoon course schedules. The final installments of the series will be Sunday 12/13, and Thursday 12/17.

Four members of the Board also pursued some UU enrichment last month, attending a leadership workshop held at Shelter Rock UU church in Manhasset, Long Island. The workshop featured a morning session with Laurel Hallman (last year's UU presidential candidate), who challenged each of us to define and understand the spirit that moves within our congregations and recognize how it affects us and how we affect it.

The afternoon sessions were more specific to our own areas of individual interest and engagement, but also helped us focus on identifying and nurturing the sense of spiritual fulfillment attained through our activities at FUSP.

While leadership has its price paid out in time and commitment, it also has its benefits, redeemed in soulful satisfaction and a strong sense of fellowship. I am enjoying my work as president of the Board, and I hope that some of you reading this might one day also feel inspired to step up to the task of serving this Congregation in a meaningful and rewarding way. Job available 7/1/2010!

Guy J Mastroianni, Board President

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!

Congratulations to our youthful members celebrating a birthday in December:

Claire Evans

David Budiansky

Diego Murillo

Carolyn Reading

Emma Reading



MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

THE PATH TO MEMBERSHIP

Have you been visiting with us for awhile? Are you exploring joining the congregation? We have developed a "Path to Membership" to help you learn more about Unitarian Universalism and to find out what becoming a member means. Whether you have been attending for a few weeks, a few months or longer, we would like you to consider becoming a member of the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield.

You are invited to register and participate in the next Path to Membership class on January 10th or January 23rd (no need to attend both - just two chances to participate!) It is designed for people who are considering joining the congregation and who want to know more. The class is one of three steps recommended as part of becoming a member. Your participation in the class does not obligate you to join our congregation.

The Path to Membership class will acquaint you with the First Unitarian Society of Plainfield and more. In this class you will

- share your personal religious journey
- learn about the history of Unitarian Universalism
- hear how generations of Unitarian Universalists have contributed to our religious community
- discover the church's many programs & activities & history
- learn how you can share your talents & treasures
- enjoy lunch with other prospective members
- be invited to become a member

There are THREE STEPS to becoming a member of the congregation:

STEP 1: Make an Appointment to meet with the Minister - Rev. Tracy meets with all interested prospective members. This is an opportunity to get to know her better and for you to share your stories and your questions. Please make an appointment to see Rev. Tracy. She will meet with you at a time convenient to you.

Continued on next page

MEMBERSHIP DEVELOPMENT

THE PATH TO MEMBERSHIP — CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

STEP 2: Attend a Path to Membership Class (see above) - In addition to the above, the class introduces you to what it means to be a member:

1. Attend worship services regularly
2. Work on your own spiritual development
3. Be involved in service to others in the greater community
4. Be involved in service within the congregation
5. Connect to the wider Unitarian Universalist movement
6. Pledge and make a meaningful financial contribution

STEP 3: Sign the Membership Book and be recognized at New Member's Sunday Service - the next membership Sunday will be in January.

We look forward to you joining us in January and to joining this community!

CARING COMMITTEE

Our thoughts are with **Gail Sweeney** whose aunt is dying.

Wishes for a speedy recovery to **Audrey Richards** who fell and broke her wrist.

Good luck to **Alice Logie** as she prepares to go for her second eye operation.

Our thoughts & good wishes are with **Karin Harris** whose co-worker's husband has cancer.

Congratulations to **Al & Margarita Varon** who celebrated their 57th wedding anniversary.

Our sympathy to **Diane Sciortino** whose dog died this month.

Condolences to **Allan Reading** whose father died this month.

Wishes for a speedy recovery to **Shirley Wren**.

Good luck to **Jane Gowan** in her new home and as she starts this new phase of her life.

Best wishes to **Gail Slater** whose friend is seriously ill.

Rev. Tracy visited **Martha and Terry Duval** recently and they miss their friends at FUSP. Martha looks great and was full of smiles! They would appreciate a call or a card from those who know them.

SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

LAST CFL BULBS FIND A HOMEFIRST

Last year's Environmental Justice project, in which the Green Sanctuary committee raised money, purchased Compact Florescent Light bulbs, and then handed them out to needy members of the Plainfield community, finally came to an end this October. After handing out Compact Florescent Bulbs, along with information about their energy saving benefits and proper disposal, to Food Pantry clients at Thanksgiving in 2008, and guests at both our Christmas and Easter dinners, we still had one large case of bulbs left over. These bulbs finally found a home with Homefirst, who will use them in some of their transitional housing units and give them to families as they move out of the program and into their new homes. Our initial analysis indicated that this project would save the recipients a combined total of \$30,000 on their energy bills, and prevented the release of over 200 tons of CO2 over the lifetime of the bulbs. Congratulations to everyone who participated for a job well done. --Submitted by Heather Brown

REVERSE TRICK-OR-TREATING A HIT WITH CHILDREN AND ADULTS

FUSP was part one of the thousands of UU individuals and groups, across the United States, Canada and Puerto Rico, that participated in Reverse Trick-or-Treating this Halloween. Participants handed out samples of fair trade chocolate, along with information about the social and environmental costs of corporate chocolate, as they went house-to-house on Halloween. FUSP members and friends reached 350 households in our communities. All together Unitarian Universalist Service Committee members and supporters helped bring a message about the importance of fair trade to over a quarter-million households this year! Thanks to all the following people who took part in that effort:

Christiana Dobrowski, Breda May, Tyler Baglieri, Kathy Weldy, Amy Garcia Philips, Priscilla Hockin Brown, Daria Monti, Parker Bianey, Megan and Aidan McCrory, Issac Schrum, Theresa Jefferson, Maya Sutterlin, Chris Walsh, Tyler Stafford, Jessie Braham, Nava Caluori, Madeleine McCrory, Valerie Neuhaus, Ian Cauley, Zach Schahz, Chloe and Charlotte Williams, Robert Reading, Emma Budiansky, Spencer Gowen, Mellisa Dormoy, The Carvalho family, Chandler and Connor Maguire, Julian Lance, Cole Ungar, Alsan Diouf, Andrew McCarthy, Heather Brown, and Rowan, Forest, and August Hinds-Brown

December 2009

SOCIAL JUSTICE & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

CELEBRATE THE GUEST AT YOUR TABLE!

Our Guest at Your Table program is going strong. So many families and friends have brought human rights home and welcomed Guests into their lives!

Thanks to our support, our Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is working throughout the United States and around the world to advance human rights. Your beautiful Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope booklet introduce you to people whose lives have been changed by this work. This program is meant to be ongoing throughout the holiday season.

Each week, with family and friends, we can focus on a different person's story of hope as we sit down to meals together and consider our many blessings. You can learn more about UUSC's work to defend rights in times of crisis online at www.uusc.org/humanitariancrises.

If you have not yet picked up your Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope, you can do so in the Parish Hall on any Sunday or by talking with Heather Brown, our UUSC local representative. Your generosity with the Guest at Your Table is tax deductible! Be sure to complete the form on your box. And remember ... gifts of \$100 can be matched by the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock!

On January 10, we'll close our Guest at Your Table program with an intergenerational worship celebration.

FOOD PANTRY IN NEED OF DONATIONS

The Food Pantry account is getting low, and the Holidays, and our free Thanksgiving dinner are coming soon. We need donations to be able to provide families in need with turkeys as usual. Please consider picking up a few extra cans of food as you do your shopping this month and place them in the food pantry basket in the vestibule as you enter the building. If everyone buys a little something this decreases the shopping load for volunteers. Cash donations can also be made by placing cash or checks in the offering plate. Be sure to specify the food pantry on the memo line or envelope.

FINANCE MINISTRY

HISTORIC BUILDING PRESERVATION PROJECT

Fortunately, money collected for the Capital Building Fund increased in October and November. All those who have not pledged will be contacted soon so that you can contribute to the repair of our treasured building. Watch the bulletin board behind the piano in the Parish Hall to see Property Chairperson, George Gowen's commentary and torn fabric on the current state of our building. Sandy Kaplan has passed along an article on the beauty and variety of Unitarian Universalist churches. Our own 'castle' ranks with the rest as a historical treasure. The contract with the state has been signed and may the work begin. Alice Logie, CFO Historic Building Preservation Project

HOLIDAY SHOPPING & GIVING

Give your church a gift when you do your holiday shopping. Supermarket Gift Cards for Stop&Shop, Kings, Pathmark and ShopRite are for sale in the Parish Hall every Sunday during Coffee Hour. Amazingly for every \$20 that you spend on gift cards \$1 goes to FUSP at no expense to you. Use these Gift Cards for your routine grocery shopping, for holiday "extras" and gourmet gifts, as stocking stuffers and as gifts for our Plainfield neighbors who come to our annual Christmas dinner. Gift cards to be given at the Christmas dinner can be bought at the table in the Parish Hall and put in the basket there. We will deliver them for you. Make your holidays brighter and your church richer. Buy Gift Cards on Sunday!! Any questions, see Ralph, Sandy or Pat.

TIMES CALL FOR CAREFUL PLANNING!!

The final months of the year can be a good time to review your financial and personal goals. One way is to purchase a UUA issued high yield annuity. A large portion goes to the First Unitarian Society and the balance to the UUA. You will receive a tax deduction for some of the principal and some of the interest payments. Every quarter you will receive a guaranteed interest payment for the rest of your life by the UUA.

There are many other plans the Endowment Committee offers through the UUA. Please contact a member of the Endowment Committee: Herman Bieber, Rupert Crawford, Fred Lange or Alice Logie.

FINANCE MINISTRY

CELEBRATION SUNDAY

Celebration Sunday, also known as Canvass Sunday, is February 7, 2010. Rev. Tracy Sprowls-Jenks will deliver an inspiring sermon and a lunch will follow in the Parish Hall. Traditionally this is the Sunday we hope everyone will pledge generously for the 2010-2011 fiscal year. Things are looking up!!!. Attendance at Sunday services is up and there are a lot of younger faces in the audience. Volunteers are needed to have a successful campaign. We need people to help with the luncheon, call people for pledges and help in many other ways. If you can help in any way please contact Fred Lange - Canvass Chairperson.

GREAT PANCAKE BREAKFAST EXPERIENCE!

The fundraising committee would like to thank everyone who helped out with the pancake breakfast on Sunday, Nov. 15th. It was a tremendous success. Special thanks to George Gowen, Lois Laning, Guy Mastroianni, Bob Obester, Iris Ivaniuc, Charlie Neiss, Denise Soppas, Ronni Buffington, Dean Leistikow, Karin Harris, and our Pancake Coordinator, Sue Krisburg. Thanks to all who attended!

Don't forget our upcoming fundraising events in December: Craft Fair Dec. 6th, Spaghetti dinner Dec. 11th, and Pancake breakfast Dec. 20th. Join us for fun, fellowship, and fundraising! Sincerely, Melissa Logan and Julie Walsh, Fundraising Co-chairs

HOLIDAY CRAFT FAIR

The FUSP Holiday Craft Fair will be held on Sunday, December 6 from 9 AM until 4 PM. This year we will be opening it to local members of the crafting community. Perhaps you know someone who would like to sell their handmade or creative wares. Tables will be \$25 for FUSP members and \$35 for non-members. If you would like to participate or need additional information, please contact Barbara Rall at barbararall@gmail.com or at (732) 690-7857.

GRATITUDE

Thanks to Hansy Meyer who contributed money to the church to honor Fred & Doris Lange for the many of rides they have given to FUSP members. This gift has been used for six stacking chairs for the Parish Hall. They are soft and have arms to support those of us who have difficulty getting in and out of chairs.

FINANCE MINISTRY

YOUR ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE

For the future of FUSP, your endowment committee wants you to remember us in your will. On February 28, 1986 the Heritage Fund was established. Three Restricted Endowment Funds were set up in the early 1990's for non operating uses, communications, and scholarships for RE graduates. Combined, the funds have grown to a value of \$456,865. In addition the Society has received \$114,216 since July 1, 2001 from the endowment funds. These funds have been used to enhance our building, help pay for leadership leaves and many other uses.

We need to prepare for the future of the Society. The children in our religious education classes represent our future. Let us provide them with a legacy. Contact a member of the endowment committee. They can help you with your financial plans.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Take a break from your busy holiday schedule to relax and recenter. Back by popular demand, professional Yoga teacher, Betty Butler, will lead us in a session of gentle yoga and meditation. You are guaranteed to feel better after this meeting! We will meet in the **Steven's room, Saturday, December 19th from 10 to noon**. Please bring a yoga mat if you have one. (We'll have a few extras on hand.) If childcare is needed, please notify Bonnie Rowan several days in advance.

FAMILY GAME NIGHT

Join us for our next game night on **Friday, December 11 from 7:30 to 10 in the Steven's Room**. Game night is held on the second Friday of each month and is a great opportunity to meet new friends or get to know some old ones better. Once again, this game night will immediately follow the spaghetti dinner in the Parish Hall, so join us for dinner and stick around to play some games and socialize a little longer. Friends of all ages are welcome, and a variety of card and board games are played. You can bring a game you love, or just come ready to learn a new one. Contact Heather Brown for additional information.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & EVENTS

MEN'S BREAKFAST

Our next breakfast will be at **9 AM in the Stevens Room on December 12th**. After our check in, Rev. Tracy will join us for the discussion, hosted by our good friends, Jack Limpert and Guy Mastroianni. The topic is "Looking at Four Parables from the Standpoint of UU and Our Personal Experiences." The parables to be discussed, time permitting, are The Prodigal Son (Luke 15: 11-32), The Talents (Matthew 25: 14-300), The Workers in the Vineyard (Matthew 20: 1-16), and The Shrewd Manager (Luke 16; 1-15. Materials for each parable will be handed out at the Men's Breakfast. We expect that this will be a non-theological discussion, based on our individual feelings.

PARISH HALL FURNITURE MYSTERY

Look around the Parish Hall. What do you see? There is a grand piano, and there are three antique tables. The Building Use Task Force wants to know: Where did these come from? Who donated them? If these items left the Parish Hall, how would we honor those people who came before us and donated these beautiful items? If you know the story behind any of these items, please contact Melissa Logan.

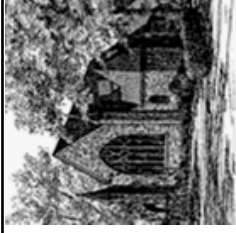
BRING-A-DISH DINNER - DECEMBER

The Bring-A-Dish Dinner for December will be at the **home of Theresa Jefferson**. It will be on **Saturday, December 19th at 6:30pm**. We especially welcome new members and friends. It's a great way to get to know others. RSVP with Theresa at 732-672-9147 what dish you plan to bring. Please bring your own wine, beer or soda. This is a family friendly dinner. Child care will be available. There will be a small charge to cover expenses.

We still need people to host our dinners in March, April and May. It's an easy way to entertain since everyone else does the cooking. The dinners are usually the fourth Saturday of every month with some adjustments to work around holidays. If you are interested or have questions, please contact Daniel Zucker.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINES FOR JANUARY

Print/Advertising: Noon, Dec. 7 **Electronic: 5 PM, Dec. 11**
Assembling : Dec. 22 Submit to newsletter@fusp.org and
website@fusp.org to be included on the website & in the newsletter. —
Priscilla



FIRST
UNITARIAN
SOCIETY OF
PLAINFIELD

Established 1889 (Unitarian-Universalist)
724 Park Avenue
Plainfield, NJ 07060

NON-PROFIT ORG.
US POSTAGE
PAID
RAHWAY, NJ
07065
PERMIT NO. 699

FUSP Email Addresses:

- info@fusp.org
- newsletter@fusp.org
- membership@fusp.org
- president@fusp.org
- publicity@fusp.org
- music@fusp.org
- minister@fusp.org
- website@fusp.org
- dre@fusp.org
- fuo@fusp.org
- finance@fusp.org
- property@fusp.org
- worship@fusp.org
- Canvass@fusp.org



DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE RUSH