Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley

Newsletter • December 2010

TRANSFORMING LIVES: THE 2011 CAMPAIGN TO EDUCATE GIRLS IN MOZAMBIQUE

It's hard to believe that we are beginning our 7th campaign to support education for girls in Mozambique. If we reach our bursary campaign goal of $24,000, over 100 girls from the Zambézia Province will be able to attend school in 2011 while living in residences at three school centers. A number of new girls will be joining the program in 2011 now that many of the girls who have been in the program for the past 5 or 6 years have completed their studies.

Karen and Bill Butt, overseas personnel from the United Church of Canada will visit Central Pennsylvania from December 10th through 14th to help launch our campaign. They have ten years of experience working with girls from rural villages in Mozambique.

The Butts' appearance begins at 6pm on Saturday December 11th with a traditional Mozambique Dinner at our Meeting House followed by a presentation on how AIDS education and school opportunities empower girls from small rural villages and transform their communities. The dinner is "$0 a plate" and will feature several large pots of "Moz Stew" along with beverages, bread and dessert. If you plan to come contact Priscilla Laws at lawsp@dickinson.edu before Thursday December 9th and let her know how many will be in your party.

In 2007 two Bursary Girls enjoy heaping plates of Moz stew while wearing new UU tee shirts. These girls are just graduating from high school this month after 6 years in the Bursary Program.

On Sunday morning, December 12th, Karen and Bill, along with Priscilla Laws and Terri Smiley, will present a service on "Feeding the Seven Billion." Other appearances include a presentation at Londonderry School in Harrisburg, and a luncheon presentation at the Carlisle Kiwanis Club. Their local tour culminates with a "Girl Power" presentation to over 100 young people from four local teen groups, sponsored by the Carlisle YWCA. Local teens will hear and see what it's like to be a teenage girl in Mozambique.

Donation packets can be picked up at the Meetinghouse starting on Sunday December 5th. This year each packet contains an "honor card" enabling contributors to dedicate their donation to a family member or special friend as a meaningful alternative to a material gift.

We hope that everyone who knows about this program will be motivated to contribute to this year's campaign. All gifts, large and small, will be appreciated. As Greg Mortenson wrote in his recent book *From Stones to Schools*:

"Powerful social and economic changes are brought about when girls have the opportunity to participate in their society. Why girls? Adolescent girls are uniquely capable of raising the standard of living in the developing world. Girls are the most likely agents of change . . ."

Our bursary "graduates" are already change agents! We are proud of the fact that during the past six years twelve of our girls completed a three-year teacher-training program and have been teaching elementary school in villages near their family homes for the past two years. Some of these new teachers have started PEDRA clubs that promote AIDS prevention in the communities where they teach. In addition, four girls are just finishing 12th grade so some can apply to University and others to Nursing School. Another girl is just finishing a three-year agricultural school and two more girls have been studying to be elementary school teachers.

— Priscilla Laws and Terri Smiley

MINISTER'S COLUMN

From the Well

I've been thinking about mentors lately. With the start-up of the Coming of Age program, there are six people among us who have agreed to be mentors for the six 7th and 8th graders involved. It's a big time commitment, but mentoring could be just the right level of involvement in a teenager's life to bring a different adult perspective to the issues these kids are dealing with. Please thank Char Klein, Jill Kachmar, Paul McAnulty, Karen Walborn, Gail Black and Nate MacDicken for their willingness to step forward to mentor our coming-of-agers.

As a result of their generosity, I've also been thinking about mentors I've had over the years, and reflecting on some of the lessons I've learned from them. In no particular order below, I'd like to lift up some of the people I've learned from, and what their lessons are which I continue to carry forward in my own life.

Til Evans (a professor at Starr King seminary) – Make the effort. Even if something is going to cause some minor pain or inconvenience, do it anyway. Hampered by serious arthritis, Til still gardened (using a cane) and traveled cross-country by train when she was well into her eighties. From Til I have also learned the importance of keeping in touch with the people who mean the most to you. She writes letters, talks on the telephone, and visits her dear ones frequently. This keeps her informed, engaged, and opinionated!

Joanna Macy (Buddhist/activist/environmentalist) – Always care deeply; don't shrug anything off. But don't let the depth of your caring and concern paralyze you from taking action. Things may look terrible (indeed, many situations *are* terrible), but there's probably something you can do to address the situation that might make a difference.

Deena Metzger (feminist author) – Bring nature into your life. Deena had a wolf as a companion animal. (I'd never belittle their relationship by referring to Timber as a pet.) She respected him for what he was — a wolf, not a dog — and was always open to learning by observing him. She saw him as a creature of dignity, worthy of her respect and admiration.

Diana Clymer (my sister-in-law) – Bring beauty into your life. She has an eye for color and design that astonishes me, and I always feel peaceful and calm when I'm surrounded by the beauty of her house. Fresh flowers, food served attractively on a plate, just the right artistic touches here and there. She lives in beauty, and she carries it with her.

Geneva Politzer (needs no introduction) – Find something to be grateful for. In a life with a lot of hardship and challenge, Geneva remembers to give thanks for what sustains her. I have learned a lot from accompanying her on her journey these past thirteen years.

Russ Clymer (my Dad) – Lots of important lessons! If something isn't working, don't force it; study it to see how it works, and then gently attempt to see where it isn't working. Forcing something often breaks it. Fix things that are broken rather than throwing them away. Don't waste resources — be frugal. These lessons work as metaphors, too…

Berry the dog (dearly departed animal friend) – Always forgive, always love unconditionally. And remember to put on your seat belt.

My love to all of you at year's end.

— Judy

You Are Invited!

All members and friends of UUCV are cordially invited to Judy's and Duane's annual Holiday Open House on Sunday, December 12 from 1:00 to 5:00 p.m. Come and enjoy a holiday buffet at 145 East Pomfret Street, Carlisle. We look forward to a house full of guests and a joyful celebration of the holidays.

Letter from the President:

Greetings and happy holidays to all of you at UUCV from your Board of Trustees. I am impressed and sometimes overwhelmed by how much is happening at UUCV. We are a very active, high energy, creative congregation that is involved in many projects and is planning even more. I would like to lift up some of the efforts that are in the planning stage.

Many things are underway to plan for our transition as Judy and Duane retire in June 2011. The Board is planning for our transition to a full-time "settled" minister by first contracting with an accredited Interim Minister for 2 years. We have set December 5th after our service to meet with you and share what we have learned and why we are convinced that this is the best option. We will also describe the processes for both the Interim search, which the board conducts early next year, and the Settled search to which the congregation elects members and conducts the yearlong process to begin in the fall of 2012.

There is a task force that is developing a plan for further improvements in the sanctuary. We have wonderful new windows that now "shed light" on the flaws that need attention----like the need for ceiling repairs, paint, and carpeting. A donor has emerged who will be contributing start-up funds.

In the Spring, we will be establishing a Memorial Garden outside the Social Hall. At the November meeting, a commitment was made to do the garden, and in the December meeting, we will appoint the task force that will develop the plan to be implemented in the Spring. Initial discussions lean toward a minimalist approach.

Lay leadership development is the focus of a collaborative project among four key groups in our congregation. The ministers, the board, the lay leadership development committee, and the nominating committee are seeking a district grant to sponsor scholarships to attend events such as Healthy Congregations held monthly in Lancaster from January through June. Additionally, other leadership development opportunities such as regional and national conferences and skills training offered locally are also being considered. Ten people signed up for Healthy Congregations series and others may be interested when the make up session is held for people who couldn't come to the first gathering. If you are interested, please contact Anne Gero at: annegero@mac.com.

We have so much to be grateful for at UUCV!!!

— Anne Gero, Board President

From the Music Director:

"The best time to plant a tree is 20 years ago. The second best time is now." – Chinese Proverb

It was the late 1990s when I first watched the Roy Scheider/Helen Mirren film based upon Arthur C. Clarke's novel *2010: The Year We Make Contact*. It may have been just youthful naïvete, but at that point 2010 was still far enough away in my mind that I could easily picture us sending a manned mission to orbit Jupiter by… well, by this year. Time flies, though, and I'm skeptical there will be humans among the gas giants even by 2061, the titular date of the next book in Clarke's series. Humankind has focused its energy on more terrestrial concerns, and the cost of research into space travel has begun to seem… impractical. That's the problem with long-range goals. They're so easy to postpone in light of more immediate concerns.

So here we are on the cusp of another new year. How will this new year be different than the last? We know that Judy and Duane will be retiring, and our December 5 congregational meeting will help us clarify our communal vision for the best next steps in securing our next clerical leadership. We've begun conversations about an anticipated "face-lift" for our Sanctuary that may mean our Tolling of the Bells service in 2012 will take place in a very different space than the one we'll commemorate just a few weeks from now. These things seem to possess, if not a certainty, then at least a kind of momentum: the energy of our community drives these projects forward, and makes optimism possible even in the longer term. But the important thing to remember about these community goals is that they don't actually happen without individual people stepping forward to do them.

Is Social Action the most important ministry we offer at UUCV, in your eyes? Then join the Social Action Committee and get involved! Do you lie awake nights thinking of ways to raise money for the church? Ask about getting involved in Finances & Fundraising!

And if the music of worship touches your heart, and you want to make sure that magic is present from week to week through 2011 and beyond, I hope you'll think seriously about joining the choir. One 90-minute rehearsal each week (Mondays at 7:00) is all that's required.

After all, we'll never get to Jupiter if we don't start building the rocket.

— David M. Glasgow

All in the UUCV Family

Congratulations to *Rick Heckman*, who has been promoted to the position of Director of Financial Aid at Dickinson College. *Hailey Freeman* was accepted to University of Pittsburgh! We send our deepest sympathies to the *Campbell family — Val, John, Justine* and *James* — on the sudden death of their husband/father, *Glenn*. It's a huge loss to everyone. Congratulations to *Dot Everhart* and *Kay Eaton*, who are celebrating 33 years together. Fingers crossed for *Michael Politzer*, who was in the hospital at press time but hopefully will be home for Thanksgiving. Our sympathies to *Jill Kachmar*, who fell upstairs and broke her finger. Whew! A big construction project has been completed at *Ann Berger-Knorr's* house so that her parents can move in with them.

Wheel of Life

Glenn Campbell died on November 4 from cardiac arrest. Glenn was born on June 10, 1945 and raised on a dairy farm in Newport. He is survived by his wife, Val and by his children Matt, Sarah, John, Justine, and James. He also had one granddaughter. He was an Air Force veteran of the Viet Nam War. Glenn was a member of the Finance and Fundraising Committee and part of the grocery store gift card sales team.

* The image is a representation of the Buddhist wheel of life

"End of Life Issues" Workshop

In talking about death, Hamlet said "The readiness is all." If we are to be ready for death, there are matters we should take care of while we are healthy and vital, such as financial and legal issues, suggestions for our memorial service, health and respite care, and all the emotions entailed in facing our own mortality. This five-session workshop will offer resources and exercises, as well as a safe place to talk about our concerns and fears.

The workshop will be held on Wednesday afternoons January 12 through February 23 (with one week off and a planned snow day) from 1:30 to 3:30 p.m. Look for a sign-up sheet in the Social Hall starting December 5. Minimum registration is 5 people; there is no maximum.

—Judy Welles

UUSC'S "Guest at Your Table"

As we begin our time of holidays and feasting, we as Unitarian-Universalists are reminded that we are the lucky ones. Much of the world's population must struggle to keep body and soul together. Natural disasters, poverty, and oppressive regimes all bring misery to innocent people. For seventy years the Unitarian-Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) has tried to address the needs of people all over the world, but it can only do so if we step forward to help.

That is why once a year the UUSC asks you to invite a "Guest to Your Table" - a colorful box which many of us put on the dining room table to fill with our gifts of money when we sit down to eat. It is a wonderful way to teach our children about the need and joy of sharing the gifts that are given to us. (For those who do not have children at home and/or would rather write a check, we will try to provide envelopes.)

The UUSC's vision and mission statements read:

UUSC envisions a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights.

UUSC advances human rights and social justice around the world, partnering with those who confront unjust power structures and mobilizing to challenge oppressive policies.

The mission of UUSC is guided by the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as UU principles, which affirm the inherent worth of every person. They receive no funding from state or national governments or other institutions, thus insuring their independence. They are associated with the UUA, but do not receive funding from them, either. They must depend on each of us to do their humanitarian work.

Won't you invite a Guest to Your Table this year? Our collections began on November 21, but our display table will remain in place in the Social Hall until after the New Year when we will collect your boxes. Learn more about the UUSC and share the gifts you have been given.

—Kit Franklin

In Tribute

To my wonderful and caring UUCV family for all the love and support you have given me in the last couple of months since Alan and Mary died. I don't know what I would have done without you all.

And a word to all those who have given donations to UUCV's Alan Franklin GLBT Justice Fund. I really wanted to send each of you a hand-written note of thanks, but I found there were too many of you. My old arthritic hands just can't do it. Please know that my gratitude is overflowing. It brings tears to my eyes to think that so many have loved Alan so much. Thank you.

—Kit Franklin

In Tribute

In memory of Glenn Campbell, a donation was made to the Religious Education Fund by the Finance and Fundraising Committee, on which he faithfully served.

Note:

If you would like to honor a fellow UUCV member in the Newsletter, drop in the offering plate---or send to the UUCV office---on or before the second Sunday of the month an envelope addressed to "In Tribute" with a check inside made out to UUCV. Enclose with the check a note designating who is being honored and the reason; and say whether the check is to go to the Building Fund, the Music Fund, or the RE Fund.

From the Treasurer

As of the end of October, the pledge income we had received was only a few thousand dollars below where it should have been for this time of year ($56,135 vs. $62,564). A big thank you to those of you who have brought your contributions up to date. Although we won't know the final tally for several months, it is clear that our recent auction was a success; the income should meet or exceed the budgeted amount of $14,000. This money brings much needed relief to our cash flow concerns.

We have made the final draw from our construction loan with F&M Bank for the recent improvements to our building. The loan now has been converted to a mortgage ($275,000) with our first payment of interest and principal due in December.

As the end of the year approaches, please consider an extra gift to your congregation. For those of you who own stock or other equities, there are great tax advantages to making a gift of appreciated stock. Please consult your tax advisor for details. Our broker (Avis Graham at F&M Trust—261-3585) will be happy to assist you with the transaction.

—Rick Heckman

Sanctuary Improvements, Phase Two

With Phase One of our Sanctuary Improvement Project now completed on time and under budget, we are eager to begin Phase Two. This phase of our sanctuary improvements will involve repairing the plaster cracks; painting the room, including the ceiling; replacing the carpeting; and streamlining the chancel, choir, and organ areas at the front of the room. We must also consider pew seating or new movable sanctuary chairs.

A task force has begun to meet to brainstorm ideas for these improvements. Its goals are to improve the look and function of our sanctuary while respecting the architectural integrity of the room and the building. Within these goals, they expect to come up with some suggestions for congregational consideration that are modern, clean, neutral and attractive, with at least two choices of color palette — warm and cool. The fundamental concept under which they are operating is that the sanctuary should offer an attractive but neutral canvas on which a variety of worship functions, from memorial services to Story Sundays, weddings, and weekly worship, can be created. The task force will present their ideas to the congregation for full consideration and final selection.

Don and Sally Beaver have donated a significant gift to UUCV which will pay for more of the project improvements. Stay tuned for more information about how you can contribute financially to help move this project along. The anticipated start for this phase, with successful fund raising, may be as early as February, 2011.

The task force members are: Jan Ruby, Katie McFarland, Paula Terry, Nancy Tarrant, Missy Molino, Bobbi Bassett, David Glasgow, Duane Fickeisen, and Cathy Bell.

—Dave Molino
Sanctuary Task Force Coordinator

Next Newsletter Deadline
Thursday, December 16 by 10 p.m.
Please send your submissions to newsletter@uucv.net
Feel free to include photos or graphics.
Remember: articles should not be longer than 420 words.
Questions? Contact Gisela Roethke at
245-2360 or roethke@dickinson.edu

Auction Wrap-Up

A big THANK YOU to all who helped out with the auction. The Hoedown Showdown was a rootin' tootin' wonderful success raising over $13,300. Thank you to all the donors and buyers; special thanks to Geneva Politzer, Missy and Dave Molino, Rita VanAlkemade, Tim Tilton, Char Klein, Devonna Jonsson, Neil Campbell, Brad Whitlock, Dot Everhart, Marilyn Durr, Megan Edmonson, Mike Ehret, Hannah Seelig, Marc Renault, Bev Motich, Katie McFarland, Sylvia Hardman, Bee Miller, Beth Shank, Terry Wise, Carole DeWall, Nancy Imphong, Laurel Belding, Will Guilliams, Sunny Hettenshuler, Keith and Nancy Bittinger, Carla Claycomb, Ellen Lyon, Lenore Garder, Greg Bear, Nathan MacDicken, Susan Vernon, John Kallmann, Carolyn Hocker, Paul McAnulty PLUS all those who helped out the night of the auction. We can all yell a big 'Yahoo'!

—Devonna Jonsson

Our ministers, Judy and Duane, at the live auction photo by Bobbi Bassett

Post Auction Sales

There are openings for a few of the great auction sign-ups coming up this month. Dan Bechtel is offering a song writing workshop. Open to anyone with a little rhythm and a desire to create your own music. The first workshop will be November 30th at 7:30 and the second workshop will be on January 4th. Individual working sessions with Dan and a final workshop to share songs will be scheduled at a later date. The final product will be a printed copy of your song with lyrics, tune and chord designation. Cost: $20

Spend a warm, mouth watering afternoon with Carol McAnulty on December 4th from 2p.m. exchanging recipes, baking cookies, listening to holiday music, munching on snacks and ending up the afternoon with a wonderful variety of cookies to take home. Bring your favorite recipes. Most ingredients will be provided. Cost: $8 for adults and $2 for children.

For questions or to sign up for any of these events, contact Carol McAnulty 249-4433 or paulandcarol913@embarqmail.com

—Carol McAnulty

Nurse's Notes

Aww, the holidays are fast approaching. I always look forward to decorating the house, the first snowfall, baking, and getting together with friends. Too many holiday parties are always a concern for the waistline; however a few extra sweets teamed up with a little extra exercise may help keep things at bay. Here is part of an interesting little quiz I found in my edition of the Nutrition Action Healthletter this month:

1. To burn off the 450 calories in a Panera muffin, a typical 150 lb person would have to walk briskly for roughly how long? a.) ½ hour b.) 1 hour c.) 1 ½ hours d.) 2 hours
2. Which is least likely to protect your memory? a.) take ginkgo biloba b.) lose excess weight c.) exercise at least 30 minutes a day d.) stay mentally and socially engaged
3. Which of these Italian restaurant dishes typically has the fewest calories? a.) spaghetti and meatballs b.) lasagna c.) eggplant parmesan d.) chicken parmesan e.) cheese ravioli
4. Coffee drinkers have a lower risk of all but one of these conditions. Which one? a.) Parkinson's disease b.) arthritis c.) kidney stones d.) type 2 diabetes e.) gout
5. Which of these desserts typically has the fewest calories? a.) brownie sundae b.) plain cheesecake c.) apple crisp a la mode d.) tiramisu e.) chocolate lava cake

—Carol McAnulty

Change for the World

December's Change for the World recipient is Girl Power! It is run by the YWCA of Carlisle in collaboration with the Carlisle Area School District for girls who are at risk. The groups consist of girls in grades 7 through 12 with approximately 85 girls as members. At the meetings we address topics such as communication styles, drug and alcohol awareness, sexual assault issues, healthy relationships and healthy decision making. They also set personal and academic goals each semester and participate in community service projects.

In the last couple months we have sent $217 to Habitat for Humanity and $246 to CARES. And that's just in two little months. Thanks to all of you for your pocket change—it really can make a difference.

—Carol McAnulty

Answers: 1. C; 2. A; 3. E; 4. B; 5. D

Sunday Worship Services • December 2010

December 5 — "We Wait" The Rev. Duane Fickeisen and Nathan MacDicken, Worship Associate. Music by Pat Spader.
We are waiting for the solstice to mark the return of sunlight and for the miracle of lamps steadily burning despite a paucity of sanctified oil. And for the anniversary celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth who was a primary exemplar of universal love. We yearn for the imagined perfect holiday, we imagine miracles, and we long to be there already, even as we are overwhelmingly busy with preparations. Can we pause to find spiritual value in our waiting?
(The Unsung UU Award will be given during today's service.)

December 12 — "Feeding the Seven Billion" Jill Kachmar, Worship Associate, with Bill Butt, Karen Butt, and Priscilla Laws. Music by David M. Glasgow and a special "Ensemble."
In a well-known bible story, Jesus and some disciples with very few resources manage to feed about 20,000 people. In 2011 our planet's population will reach 7 billion. If all are to have food and shelter, health care, education, employment--all that God intends for us—then each of us is called to pitch in as we can. With faith and will, this is do-able. Mozambique offers some examples as to how.

December 19 — "The Best Christmas Pageant Ever" Rev. Judy Welles; Julie Ham, Worship Associate; and a cast of thousands! (Well, many.) Music by David M. Glasgow and the UUCV choir.
This STORY SUNDAY service, adapted from the book by Barbara Robinson, demonstrates that all of us, even the most hard hearted, with many mistakes in our past, can be affected and find renewal in the message of Christmas. Come prepared to laugh and cry.
Children of all ages are welcome to remain in the sanctuary for the full service; the nursery will be open for our youngest children.

December 24, 7:30p.m. — "Christmas Eve Lessons and Carols" The Revs. Judy Welles and Duane Fickeisen. Music by David M. Glasgow and the UUCV Choir.
Our annual family Christmas Eve service at 7:30 p.m. includes the Nativity Story from the Gospels of Matthew and Luke, modern stories on the same theme, and traditional carols. We end in candlelight. Bring your family and visitors, and stay for cider and cookies afterward.

December 26 — "Why A Buddhist Loves Jesus" Dan Cozort and Jill Katchmar. Music by David Glasgow.
With a title like that, we must be in a UU church. The world-wide celebration of the birth of Jesus of Nazareth is a good time to step back and ask what it really is about, this most famous of all famous persons that demands our respect and admiration. Forget the manger and the star and the magicians; for that matter, forget the cross and the empty tomb. What did Jesus really teach? How did he call upon us to live our lives?

Other Events in December 2010

(Be sure to check the on-line calendar at http://www.uucv.net/calendar.html for other information and details.)

Saturday, December 4, 9a.m.-12p.m.: Soul Collage at the Meeting House.
Sunday, December 5, 12-1:30p.m.: Town Meeting in the Sanctuary. Discussing transitional ministry.
Monday, December 6, 7-8:30p.m.: Choir Rehearsal in the Sanctuary. (And every Monday of the month after that except for Monday, December 27)
Tuesday, December 7, 6-8p.m.: Coming of Age. Mentors and Mentees supper meeting in the Dining Room.
Tuesday, December 7, 6:30-9p.m.: B&G meeting and work session.
Tuesday, December 7, 7-8:30p.m.: Adult R.E. "House for Hope." In the Board Room.
Wednesday, December 8, 12-3p.m.: Knitters & Stitchers in the Meeting House, Room # 1.
Saturday, December 11, 6:30-8:30p.m.: Mozambique Dinner and Presentation by Bill and Karen Butt.
Sunday, December 12, 12-1p.m.: Karen und Bill Butt will meet informally with congregants who have questions. In the Library.
Sunday, December 12, 12-1p.m.: Music Committee in the Board Room.
Sunday, December 12, 1-5p.m.: The Ministers' Open House at their home.
Tuesday, December 14, 7-9p.m.: Social Action Council in the Library.
Thursday, December 16, 7-10p.m.: Board of Trustees meeting in the Board Room.
Thursday, December 16, 10p.m.: Deadline for submissions to the January Newsletter. Send contributions to newsletter@uucv.net

UUCV Contacts and Resources

Meetinghouse and Office

2 Forge Road, Boiling Springs • 717/249-8944
www.uucv.net • uucv@pa.net

Staff

Ministers: Duane Fickeisen, Judy Welles
E-mail: ministers@uucv.net, duane@uucv.net, judy@uucv.net
Phone: 241-0410 (home study)

Office Assistant: Jim Coolsen
E-mail: uucv@pa.net
Phone: 249-8944 (office)

Religious Education Coordinator: Willa Jessee, willa@uucv.net

Phone: 860-6384

Music Director: David Glasgow E-mail: david@uucv.net

Phone: 580-2432 (cell)

Board of Trustees

Anne Gero, President: annegero@mac.com
Dave Mooney, V.P.: jdavemoo@comcast.net
Ben Cohen: bac3917@yahoo.com
Rick Heckman, Treasurer: heckmanr@comcast.net
Jill Kachmar, Clerk: jill.kachmar@gmail.com
Ellen Lyon: emlyon1@gmail.com
Katie McFarland: kpmcfar@gmail.com
Dave Molino: davidmolino@embarqmail.com
Rachel Teates: teatesrl@gmail.com

Committee Chairs and Other Leaders

Building & Grounds: Paula Terry
pterry@embarqmail.com

Coffee: Joyce Lukima, Gail Witwer
joycelukima@hotmail.com

Committee on Ministry:
Carol McAnulty,
paulandcarol913@embarqmail.com
Jon Tarrant, jwtarrant@comcast.net
Marc Renault, MSRenault@ship.edu

Communications Council: Megan Edmondson
megan@gbsartdepot.com

Compassion and Caring Circle: Anne Gero,
annegero@mac.com

Finance & Fundraising:
Missy Molino, quiltodyssey@embarqmail.com

Flowers: Nancy Tarrant
ntarrant@comcast.net

Greeters: John Kallmann, roethke@dickinson.edu

Membership: Gail Black, gailblack@comcast.net

Music: Mary Lynn Lynch, marylynn_lynch@yahoo.com

Newsletter Editor: Gisela Roethke, newsletter@uucv.net

Pledge Administrator: Drew Lynch,
dlynch2010_65@yahoo.com

Religious Education: Nancy Bittinger, nbittinger@comcast.net

Small Group Ministry:
Anne Gero, annegero@mac.com
Rebekah Feeser, rf@gbmediadesign.com

Social Action Council: Jackie Page
pagejackie@comcast.net

Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley
2 Forge Rd
PO Box 207
Boiling Springs PA 17007

Unitarian Universalists of the Cumberland Valley

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Financial Advisor
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In Tribute…

Honor a special someone in the UUCV Newsletter with a $10 donation to the UUCV Building, RE, or Music funds!

Mail or place in the offering basket an envelope addressed to Marilyn Durr % UUCV, containing your check and a note with your name, the honoree's name, name of fund, and a one-sentence tribute, by the second Sunday of the month preceding publication.

Carol J. Lindsay
Attorney at Law

Saidis, Flower & Lindsay

2109 Market Street
Camp Hill, PA 17011
Tel: (717) 737-3405
Fax: (717) 737-3407

26 West High Street
Carlisle, PA 17013
Tel: (717) 243-6222
Fax: (717) 243-6486

clindsay@sfl-law.com

JON W. TARRANT
Certified Educational Planner

College Admissions Consultant

136 W. Pomfret St., Carlisle, PA 17013 717-258-5906
jwtarrant@comcast.net

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