

# The Spirit of Celebration

United Church of Christ in Warminster

February 2010

## TRANSITION MEETINGS:

### A New Building Project for Our Church



It's been 10 years since the major church expansion and renovation project was completed. In June 2000, we dedicated our new church with a new cornerstone. This year, we are faced with another major building project . . . building the future of our church.

There won't be any construction costs for this project. We do not need to hire a contractor. We (the UCCW congregation) are the construction crew and our task is to assemble the building blocks that represent our church. This includes the discovery (or re-discovery) of our church, its purpose and mission, and the importance of our church in our lives. These things are very important for any church. But, for our church, these items are also timely because we are searching for a new pastor.



As such, we have scheduled a series of small informal group meetings over the next three weeks, called "Transition Meetings." At each meeting, the group (consisting of about 8 to 10 UCCW Members) will discuss the church by

sharing thoughts, ideas, and concerns in an open and encouraging environment. At each meeting, this current period of transition will be explained such that the group will go home with a better comfort level of understanding. And, this unique opportunity will help you and some other members get better acquainted.

"From my own experience, I can say the meeting was very worthwhile" stated Linda Mangle, after attending one of the meetings last fall.

Dale Taylor said: "I wasn't really sure "why" (we were having these meetings), so I didn't really have any expectations . . . but I was pleasantly surprised. We talked about everything I've been thinking (and concerned) about since Pastor Spink-Winters left."

Why have these meetings? Why should you attend? Your voice is very important and needs to be heard. These meetings provide that opportunity. Let's face it, today we are in a much better position to understand and come to terms with transition than we were 4 or 5 months ago. As a result, we can address our individual needs from the church and can make a better assessment in finding the right pastor. These "Transition Meetings" are an open forum to share your thoughts and ideas. Furthermore, we know they are effective.

#### The Details:

Calls are being made. Announcements are circulating. All you have to do is sign-up.

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*"When Pastor Spink-Winters left, we (all UCCW Members) knew it meant some very big changes. Now, we must accept these changes and embrace the opportunity to make our church even better.*

*It is upon all of us to engage and participate in the transition process . . . the church's ministry and fulfillment of its purpose belongs to everyone in the congregation."*

*-Wayne Killingsworth,  
President*



## The Pastor's Pen

Why does it take time to reach the vision that moves us? That question can be as irksome as why do we have to use 1/3 of our lives sleeping? Why is the Sabbath so central to the Way of God? Perhaps answers are to be found in how we “wait upon the Lord,” as the scriptures say, more than in how we seek to compel the Lord to wait upon us.

Each of us has gone through many periods of struggle with uncertainty before achieving something held out as hope for our happiness and wholeness. Life—is it not a series of transitions, never static for long? One achievement leads to new challenges. An end is but the next step to a new beginning. Whether the transitions last 24 minutes, weeks, or years, they are all part of holy transitions. The Bible teaches us to separate the joys and sorrows that touch all living creatures from the realm of God, where there is wholeness (peace) and justice (right relationships); where forgiveness is the oil of healing for the damages of violence.

Lent, a penitential season beginning February 17<sup>th</sup> this year, follows Epiphany, the joyful season of Jesus’ life and ministry, and is followed by seasons of Easter (resurrection) and Pentecost (the embodiment of Jesus in the Church through the Holy Spirit). During this transition, The United Church of Christ in Warminster is examining its call to model the Way of Jesus not just to the well, but to those who suffer from many causes including such social stigmas as those who understand themselves to be lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transsexual (LGBT). God is still speaking a love that will not let us go; a love that cannot be content with self-congratulation, privilege or dominant status.

Our spiritual ancestor Rev. John Robinson told a band of pilgrims departing for the New World (1620), “We limit not the truth of God to our poor reach of mind, to notions of our day and place, crude, partial, and confined; No, let a new and better hope within our hearts be stirred: O God, grant yet more light and truth to break forth from your Word” (New Century Hymnal, #316).

Since my first Sunday on September 27<sup>th</sup> so much

has happened over these 4 months. I was called here for six months and feel called now to return to retirement with Carol in Florida. The leadership of this church, with the help of the Penn Southeast Conference, will continue to guide this congregation during this time of transition. Although my six-month covenant with UCCW ends on March 28, I will ever wish you all the peace and joy of Jesus.

*Pastor Robert*

### **Transition Meetings (Continued from Page 1)**

Calls are being made. Announcements are circulating. All you have to do is sign-up:

**Sign-up:** (or if you have any questions/need more information)

1. Call the UCCW Office @ 215-675-8808
2. Send an e-mail message to: [uccw@juno.com](mailto:uccw@juno.com)
3. When someone calls you, simply let them know which meeting you plan to attend.
4. If you’ve been contacted already, simply return the call with your meeting choice (and/or contact the UCCW Office).

\*The 12:15 pm meetings on 2/7 & 2/21 will start immediately following the Worship Service.

Drinks & Light Refreshments will be served at all meetings.

All meetings are approximately 1½ to 2 hours long.

#### **Schedule:**

DATE	DAY	TIME	WHERE
Feb. 1	Mon.	7:00 pm	TBD
Feb. 6	Sat.	4:00 pm	Church
Feb. 7	Sun.	*12:15 pm	Church
Feb. 8	Mon.	7:00 pm	TBD
Feb. 10	Wed.	7:00 pm	DeHaven’s
Feb. 15	Mon.	7:00 pm	TBD
Feb. 21	Sun.	*12:15 pm	Church

## Preaching Schedule

### February 7, 2010

#### 9 AM Service:

Scriptures: Isaiah 6:1-13; Psalm 138;

1 Corinthians 15:1-11; Luke 5:1-11

Sermon: The Wake-up Call and the Snooze Button

#### 11 AM Service:

Scout Sunday. Nancy DeHaven, Girl Scout Troop Leader, guest speaker.

### February 14, 2010

Scriptures: Exodus 34:29-35 and Luke 9:28-36

Sermon: The Veil over Holy Splendor

### February 17, 2010

Lent Begins

Ash Wednesday Service 7 PM

### February 21, 2010

9 AM Pancake Breakfast

11 AM Worship

Scripture: Deuteronomy 26:1-11 and Luke 4:1-13

Sermon: The Time of Testing

### February 24, 2010

Hatboro-Warminster Ministerium Ecumenical Lenten Service at St. John's Lutheran, Hatboro

Rev. Wendy Bellis, "Wrestling with God," Genesis 32

### February 28, 2010

Scriptures: Genesis 15:1-12, 17-18 and Luke 13:31-35

Sermon: Allow Time to Reach Your Destination

## February Birthdays



Jeanette	Kling	2/1
Stephanie	Christman	2/1
Sue	Murphy	2/1
Callan	Daley	2/2
Deborah	Rogers	2/3
Matthew	Christman	2/5
Allen	Schmidt	2/7
Sharon	Bleiler	2/7
A. Jean	Campbell	2/8
Alberta	Banford	2/8
James	Mason	2/9
Wayne	Killingsworth	2/11
Dorothy	Merkel	2/12
Ryan	Murphy	2/12
Dominick	Errico	2/13
Fay	Maurer	2/14
Mary	Bates	2/14
Margaret	Clark	2/15
Marsha	Lance	2/17
Vicki	Brzoza	2/17
Julia	Camasso	2/18
Vanessa	St. Pierre	2/19
Franklin	Renner	2/20
Leslie	Volk	2/20
Sara	Taylor	2/21
Carole	Preston	2/22
Daniel	Mangle	2/24
Allison	Sands	2/27

## February Anniversaries



Ed and Evelyn Guthier	Feb. 10
Fred and Mary Rohrer	Feb. 21
Harold & Christine Schlessman	Feb. 28

### **Greeters**

Feb. 7	9 AM Patti Leamon
	11 AM Maggie Thome
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>9 AM Betty Geiger</b>
	<b>11 AM Linda Mangle</b>
Feb. 21	9 AM Janet Bowlby
	11 AM Rosalie DeMichiel
<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>9 AM Steve Tassone</b>
	<b>11 AM Terry Bryan</b>

### **Ushers**

Feb. 7	Terry & Jim Bryan
	Linda & Dan Mangle
<b>Feb. 14</b>	<b>Ricks Sands/Jeff DeHaven</b>
	<b>Sara Taylor/George Miller</b>
Feb. 21	Dale Taylor/Harold Schlessman
	Harry Parker
<b>Feb. 28</b>	<b>Maggie &amp; Mike Thome</b>
	<b>Glenna &amp; Dale Taylor</b>

# news

## from the Church Council Meeting

Thanks to Mari Errico and her all volunteer team for their tremendous efforts at the "Home for the Holidays" Christmas Dinner. There are many volunteers who make this Christmas Dinner work. UCCW congregation members provided dishes and desserts. The workers in the kitchen cook, heat, and prepare the delicious feast. Servers work the tables making sure everything runs very smoothly. It's no small task to set up the tables, chairs, and settings . . . and then clean-up! And, volunteer drivers go out into the community to pick-up and take home dinner guests in need.



Over the years, the UCCW's "Home for the Holidays" Christmas Dinner has built a great reputation in the community. Each year, the annual Christmas Dinner gets better. Thanks to the efforts of Mari Errico, the "Home for the Holidays" message is sent out to various media outlets in the Delaware Valley—a substantial public relations effort with little or no money. Just about all newspapers are contacted to publish the event in their calendars (and perhaps an article); many radio stations receive requests to broadcast the event's time, location, etc., on their community announcements; and other media outlets are contacted for more coverage. Most of this effort is unseen and unnoticed. The UCCW has taken notice and appreciates the hard work.

Finally, the "Home for the Holidays" dinner resulted in 92 "Aid for Friends" meals. These are meals packaged at the end of the day for distribution to other organizations, making their way to those in need. This means 92 others enjoyed a great Christmas meal as a result of the volunteer efforts at the UCCW.

Congratulations and thanks to all!

## A Busy Winter for the Youth Group

The UCCW Youth Group, led by Jeff DeHaven and Dale Taylor, has been very busy over the past 2 months.

**Holiday Babysitting:** The Youth Group provided babysitting services on December 11<sup>th</sup> in Fellowship Hall for parents looking for a little respite or who needed to do some shopping (without the kids).

**Recovering Soldiers at Walter Reed Hospital:** The Youth Group put together and sent holiday cards to soldiers recovering from their injuries and in need of some good cheer.

**Christmas Eve participation:** The Youth Group sang and performed at the 7:30 pm Christmas Eve Service.

**Christmas Cleanup:** When the holidays are over, the decorations come down and get stored for next year. The Youth Group took care of the Christmas cleanup and stored the decorations for next year.

**Annual Superbowl Hoagies Sale:** The Youth Group is busy getting ready for their annual Hoagie Sale. If you ordered hoagies, they will be available for pick-up following this Sunday's 11:00 AM Worship Service.

**Skiing/Tubing Retreat:** The Youth Group enjoyed a day of winter fun . . . hopefully, no broken bones!



## Update: Pastoral Search Committee



The Pastoral Search Committee continues to meet frequently and has reviewed profiles, videos of sermons, and other materials submitted by invited applicants whom the Committee considers as "potential" candidates. The Search Committee is hoping to move forward by contacting select candidates for direct contact. In the meantime, the Pastoral Search Committee continues to review new profiles as they arrive.

## The Season of Lent

Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent- a season of self-examination, prayer, fasting and works of love. In many churches, ashes are placed on the forehead as a reminder of mortality.



The word "Lent" is from the Middle English verb meaning "to lengthen." In the Northern Hemisphere, the season corresponds with the lengthening of days during late winter and early spring.

During Lent, Christians prepare themselves spiritually for the celebration of Christ's resurrection on Easter Sunday. The season spans 40 days: the number 40 symbolizes spiritual journeys home,

corresponding to the 40 days Jesus fasted in the desert in preparation for his ministry and the 40 years Israel journeyed through the wilderness towards the promised land. The traditional color of Lent is purple. During Holy Week, red is sometimes worn to symbolize the blood shed by Jesus for the salvation of humanity. In some traditions, following Maundy Thursday's service, the sanctuary is stripped of color and ornament as a gesture which may suggest keeping vigil with Christ on the cross and in the tomb.

SOURCE: *The United Church of Christ* (<http://www.ucc.org/lent/>)



**More Information:** (Copy and paste the links to your web browser)

- Please see the "2010 Hatboro-Warminster Ministerium Lenten Series Schedule"
- The United Church of Christ National website: <http://www.ucc.org/lent/>
- The Pennsylvania Southeast Conference website: <http://www.psec.org/index.asp>
- Wikipedia article on Lent: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lent>
- The Ken Collins series on Lent (an excellent, short, descriptive source): <http://www.kencollins.com/holy-04.htm>
- The Sunday School Lessons on Lent: <http://www.sundayschoollessons.com/lent.htm>

## 2010 This Year's Lenten Schedule

*The Hatboro-  
Warminster  
Ministerium*

*Services begin at  
7:00 PM -  
Fellowship  
follows*

Wednesday, February 24, 2010	<b><i>"Wrestling with God"</i></b> St. John's Lutheran, Hatboro Preacher: Rev. Wendy Bellis
Wednesday, March 3, 2010	<b><i>"After the Call and Before the Resurrection"</i></b> Church of the Advent, Hatboro Preacher: Rev. Robert Palin
Wednesday, March 10, 2010	<b><i>"Trusting the Untrustable God"</i></b> Nativity of Our Lord, Warminster Preacher: Rev. Tom Haugh
Wednesday, March 17, 2010	<b><i>"God's Foolishness is Wiser than Human Wisdom"</i></b> Hatboro Baptist, Hatboro Preacher: Rev. R. Don Wright
Wednesday, March 24, 2010	<b><i>"The Rewards of Righteousness"</i></b> Lehman Methodist, Hatboro Preacher: Rev. Robin Martin
Thursday April 1, 2010	<b><i>Maundy Thursday</i></b> (Not an ecumenical service)
GOOD FRIDAY, April 2 Noon to 3:00 pm	<b><i>Good Friday Service</i></b> St. Andrew's United Methodist York Road, Warminster Preachers: Mary Dyer Hubbard and Don Wright



# United Church of Christ in **Warminster**

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## UCCW Calendar of Events

- |                 |  |                 |   |
|-----------------|--|-----------------|---|
| Sun. Feb. 7-    | Teaching Service 9 AM<br>Sunday School 10 AM<br>*Scout Sunday* Worship 11 AM<br>Staff Meeting 12:15 PM<br>Confirmation 12:15-2:15 PM | Wed. Feb. 17-   | Lent Begins<br>Ash Wednesday Service 7:30 PM<br>Art League 7 PM                                     |
| Mon. Feb. 8 -   | Girl Scouts 7 PM<br>TLA Board 7 PM   | Thurs. Feb 18-  | OEA 8 PM  |
| Wed. Feb. 10 -  | Drive Aware 7 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM  | Fri. Feb. 19 -  | Play Practice 7 PM  |
| Thurs. Feb. 11- | OEA 8 PM   | Sun. Feb. 21-   | Pancake Breakfast 9 AM<br>*One Worship at 11 AM Today*<br>Healing Service/Communion                 |
| Fri. Feb. 12 -  | Play Practice 7 PM   | Mon. Feb. 22-   | Girl Scouts 7 PM  |
| Sun. Feb. 14 -  | Valentine's Day<br>Teaching Service 9 AM<br>Sunday School 10 AM<br>Traditional Worship 11 AM   | Tues. Feb. 23-  | BCBHS   |
| Mon. Feb. 15-   | Scout PLC 7 PM<br>Girl Scouts 7 PM   | Wed. Feb. 24 -  | Community Lenten Service at St.<br>John's in Hatboro 7 PM<br>TLA 7:30 PM<br>Choir Rehearsal 7:30 PM |
|                 |  | Thurs. Feb. 25- | OEA 8 PM  |
|                 |  | Fri. Feb 26-    | Play Practice 7 PM  |
|                 |  | Sun. Feb. 28-   | Teaching Service 9 AM<br>Sunday School 10 AM<br>Traditional Worship 11 AM                           |