

“Free Flowing”
***A Periodic Update on the Progress
Of the WellSprings Congregation
By the Lead Minister
November, 2005***

Greetings! The WellSprings Congregation wanted to share with you news about what we're up to and how our plan is progressing in this, our first year of existence. We're very excited by what's happening here as we lay a strong foundation for our future growth.

Here are some items that we'd like to bring to your attention:

*The Steering Committee appointed by the Main Line Unitarian Church has re-organized itself so that some of its folks could move to the Planting Team. The members of the Committee are now Del Tweedie, Kathleen Wierz, Chris Chepel, Sally-Ann Fritzon, Larry Jeffers, and Irene Mehnert. They will continue to help research governance structures for usage by the future WellSprings Board, serve as the conduit for administrative needs between MLUC and WellSprings, prepare the incorporation papers for us, and help to marshal volunteer and other support for WellSprings in the coming months.

*The newly formed Planting Team is up and running, getting to know each other and doing some important spiritual discernment to prepare themselves for the essential work of building and articulating the solid foundation upon which WellSprings will be built. The group meets weekly, and is composed of these brave and hopeful souls: Chris Chepel, Irene Mehnert, Jim Riley, Larry Jeffers, Frank Kaplan, David Wierz, David Robbins, Maria Jacobs, Shelly Eveland, and Erika Bucino.

*During the first week of the new year, the Planting Team will be meeting with church growth and health consultant Tom Bandy to learn methods for developing our DNA (our core mission, vision, beliefs and values) that will guide our growth and give us a consistent and meaningful message to share with our community.

*Looking backward just a bit, we had 8 Focus Groups during the month of September. Invitations were done informally, and we had 62 people show up at our office to share their visions for what WellSprings can be. Many of these folks will continue in our monthly book reading group. We're starting with Jim Wallis' book "God's Politics".

*During the months of September and October I preached at MLUC and the Thomas Paine Fellowship. More speaking engagements are to come.

*I have set up an advisory committee to begin searching for our first Church Administrator.

*I am receiving recommendations on a website hosting company and on names for website designers with whom we can contract so that we can have an excellent, informative, and interactive website.

*An invitation has been made to a notable speaker and author for our Big Name Event in the springtime. We should know within the next two weeks if this person is able to commit or if we need to issue additional invitations. The purpose of this event is to raise WellSprings' visibility and to publicly introduce ourselves to the surrounding communities.

*I continue to read and digest many useful strategies and ideas for church growth from fast growing and vibrant religious communities. Notably, from Steve Sjogren of the Vineyard Church in Cincinnati, Nelson Searcy of the Journey Church in NYC, and Rick Warren of the Saddleback Church in CA. Along with this distance learning, we've also visited some churches in our nearby community to see how they attract, welcome and assimilate seekers and church shoppers.

*I continue to conduct interviews with local area leaders, the kind of people who are connected to how people in our community are living, what their challenges, hopes and dreams are. These people, being well connected, can also serve as conduits back to WellSprings when we enter the public phases of our launch.

I think that about does it for this update.

Finally, though, I want to express my gratitude to you. Without your support WellSprings does not exist and is not able to go confidently in the direction of our dreams for what this liberal religious community can become. Thank you.

May you live in blessing,

Ken

Rev. Kenneth S. Beldon
Lead Minister, WellSprings Congregation
An Emerging UU Religious Community in Chester County, PA

How to contact WellSprings:

Address:
74 N. Pottstown Pike
Uwchland, PA 19480

Mailing Address:
PO Box 593
Uwchland, PA 19480

Phone: 610.458.9434

Email: revksb@yahoo.com