

The Austin Unitarian Universalist

One Church. Many Beliefs.

Published Semimonthly

January 1, 2003

Volume 52, No. 1

Sunday Worship Services: 9:30 am and 11:30 am — Sunday Night Live! at 5:20 pm

Sunday, January 5

9:30 am, 11:30 am and 5:20 pm

The Golem

Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker

Did you know that the character of Golem in the Lord of the Rings series was originally based on an ancient Jewish story about a character of the same name? On January 5, Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker of Congregation Beth Israel will discuss the Jewish Golem story and how he's related to the Tolkein Golem story.

Rabbi Elizabeth Dunsker grew up in cold and blustery Rochester, NY. She attended college at Simmons College in Boston, Massachusetts as well as Tel Aviv University. She attended Rabbinical school at Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion in Jerusalem and New York City, where she received a Master of Arts in Hebrew Literature degree as well as ordination. She has served as the Associate Rabbi of Congregation Beth Israel since 1996. She sits on the board of the Mother's Milk Bank of Austin, the Texas Faith Network, and the Ethics Committee of Hospice Austin.

Sunday, January 12

9:30 am and 11:30 am

Christ Without Myth

Rev. Dr. Sidney G. Hall, III

This title came from graduate school days long ago. I'll focus on the journey of demythologizing and remythologizing religious symbols, rites and stories.

Rev. Dr. Sidney G. Hall, III has served as Minister of Celebration at Trinity United Methodist Church in Austin since June 1988. Sid is also a leader in the Reconciling Ministries Network—a movement to welcome all people into the life of the church including gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered persons—within the United Methodist Church. He was arrested in a protest against the church over GLBT issues of inclusiveness at the United Methodist General Conference in Cleveland in May of 2000. Sid was ordained a deacon in 1981 and an elder in 1986, and has been serving United Methodist congregations since September 1978. He holds a Bachelor's from the University of Indianapolis, a Master's from the Perkins School of Theology, and a doctorate from SMU. Sid is also the author of Christian Anti-Semitism and Paul's Theology (Fortress Press, 1993).

5:20 pm

What Elvis Presley Had to Say about Baptism

Rev. Timothy B. Tutt

That Sunday is "The Baptism of Christ Sunday" on the Christian liturgical calendar. I hope to address the ancient roots of baptism as ritual, to explore a bit of what the Christian scriptures have to say about the practice, to examine some of the historical practices related to baptism, to speak about my personal experiences as a person "of the water," and—finally—to try to make some connections from all that to the "non-baptizing" UU tradition and to...Elvis.

The Reverend Timothy B. Tutt is the pastor of The United Christian Church of Austin, which is an ecumenical partnership of two mainline Christian denominations: the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) and the United Church of Christ. Tim and his family came to Austin in June 2001. Prior to that, he was the associate pastor of Briggs Memorial Baptist Church, a quintuply aligned congregation in Bethesda, Maryland. He also served as a Protestant Chaplain at Georgetown University in Washington, DC. Before that, he worked as a Legislative Assistant on Capitol Hill. A native of Longview, Texas, Rev. Tutt graduated from Baylor University and Baptist Theological Seminary at Richmond, Virginia. He has recently been nominated to serve on the Board of Directors for Austin Area Interreligious Ministries.

Hannah Wells to be Our 2003-2004

Ministerial Intern

Hannah, who visited here the weekend of December 8th, has accepted my invitation to be our ministerial intern for next year. She is the woman Cathy recommended, from the Starr King School for the Ministry in Berkeley, California, where Cathy attended. Initially, I had invited two candidates to visit, the other in mid-January. Students want to get their internships settled, however, and the other woman accepted an offer from a smaller church that will also be a very good match for her.

--Davidson

Directory Copies & Updates Available

Copies of updates to our new membership directory are now available. Copies of the membership directory are also still available for members who may not have received one.

Please stop by the table in the Gallery any Sunday through January to pick yours up. You may also call the office to arrange a time to come by during the week.

Newsletter Deadlines

Articles (due by 9:30 am)

Fri. Jan. 3 (for Jan. 15 issue)
Fri. Jan. 17 (for Feb. 1 issue)
Fri. Jan. 31 (for Feb. 15 issue)

Mailing Days

Thursday January 9
Thursday January 23
Thursday February 6

Contact Rita Rancken at 452-6168, x 13 or Rita@austinuu.org.

Davidson's Lore

Sometimes, I spend Christmas in funny ways. Awhile back, I accepted the invitation to be the keynote speaker at a three-day conference on sexuality, abortion, etc. in Lubbock (27 February through 2 March). Texas Tech University has invited me; I'll be giving one of three speeches there, the others at the local Unitarian church, which is co-sponsoring the conference.

My opening talk will be "A Theological Argument for Abortion." It's an argument I wrote over fifteen years ago, based — ironically! — on a brilliant encyclical by Pope Leo XIII in 1891.

But talking about abortion isn't enough. The problem in our society is that there are no coherent moral arguments that can address all the issues of life and death we must face: abortion, war, capital punishment, assisted suicide, medical and drug experimentation, stem cell and fetal tissue research, to name just the most obvious issues involved. I believe it's the job of honest religion to prepare coherent moral arguments to cover all these issues. Otherwise, our reactions are likely to be conditioned reflexes rather than thoughtful positions.

So far, the only significant attempt at such a broad moral argument has been done by the Catholic Church. It is their "seamless garment," which opposes abortion and capital punishment on the principle that "the sanctity of life" is the overriding principle. As narrow as their argument is (and as flawed), it is still the most comprehensive attempt to think morally about several issues guided by the same principles. And it has persuaded millions of people, in and outside their church.

My Christmas vacation will be spent, partly, trying to sketch and write a more seamless and larger garment. The flaw in the Catholic position is that they are also in favor of "just wars." Sorry, but if there can be "just wars" when losing and taking lives is morally defensible, then there may also be "just" abortions and "just" cases of capital punishment. Their garment is too small, and its seams show when they admit — as I would also admit — that some wars are just.

I think we know that our lives are contextual and relational, that every single right we have can be compromised or forfeited under the right conditions, and that such forfeiture can be completely moral and just. For example, I think a pregnancy is a request, not a command, and any woman may say "No." Nor is she required to become breeding stock for others rather than killing the developing human baby: the simple fact of another life is not the most sacred consideration.

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A Liberal View

on ACTV, Cable Channel 11 — Wednesdays at 6:00 pm

Jan. 1 *Oil, Arrogance and War*

Jan. 8 *Getting to Know the Church —
"What is a UU Church?" & "Where's the Cross?"*

Jan. 15 *Getting to Know the Church —
"Church and Science" & "Why Bother to go to Church?"*

Membership Matters

Orientation Evenings Have Changed ...

... to the third Wednesday of every month. Join **Dr. Davidson Loehr** on **January 15** for an informative discussion of our church history, faith journey, and programs. Bring your questions and prepare to be fascinated!

Meetings take place from **7:00-8:30 p.m.** in room 13, and registration is not required. Future orientation dates are posted in the Membership Information display case in the foyer. For more information, contact Nancy Groblewski, Membership Chair, at 458-6797 or nangrob@cs.com.

Visitor Information Cards

For visitors who would like to obtain more information about the church, sign up for the newsletter, share their interests, or request a call from the membership committee, we provide visitor information cards. Take an information card from the back of one of the benches in the sanctuary, fill it out, and leave it in the collection plate or in the Visitor Information Drop Box, located at the Membership display case in the foyer.

Are You Ready to Become a Member?

The only requirement for membership in this church is signing the Membership Record Book. If you are ready to join First UU Church, you can sign the book on the fourth Sunday of any month. Enrollment takes place immediately following each of the three church services at the Membership Table in the gallery. (You will be asked to complete a new-member information form before signing.)

We look forward to having you join us. The next new member signing will take place after services on Sunday, January 26.

We encourage all new or prospective members to attend one of the monthly Orientation Evenings with the minister (see above) as well as one of the New U Classes, which are offered every three months.

Free Health Workshop January 5 Between Morning Services

Be sure to attend this informative, 45-minute workshop on avoiding vascular disease, offered by LifeLine Screening on Sunday, January 5 at 10:30 am in Room 13. This program offers you the opportunity to learn first hand about the warning signs and risk factors associated with stroke. If you are concerned by what you learn, there will be an opportunity to be screened for these conditions here at the church on January 16 for a small fee. Fliers will be posted on the church bulletin board across from the office or can be picked up at the Adult Ed table on Sunday. Please direct questions to Jennifer Allen of LifeLine Screening at 800-897-9177, ext. 752.

2003 Sunday Flower Sign-up

The Sunday services flower sign-up calendar is now available outside the minister's office for those who wish to provide flowers in honor of a specific event. Questions? Contact Margaret Burnette at 458-6127.

Listening Ministry

New in town, feeling blue, ending a relationship or lost a job? Coping with illness, loss of a loved one, parenting, aging or career change? Life can be full of stressful situations, and sometimes just having someone to talk to can make all the difference. The Listening Ministry is for church members going through times of transition. If you would like the emotional support of someone trained in listening skills, call 452-6168, ext. 18. A member of the Listening Ministry will try to return your call within a day.

Memorial/ Endowment Fund

From time to time, church friends and members tell us they would like to remember First UU in their wills. If we can help you with such a question, call Marian Maxwell, 454-1931, Chair of the Memorial/Endowment Fund Committee.

Caring Cards

We would like to send church members and friends a caring card acknowledging a life event such as illness, death, marriage, birthday, anniversary, new baby or other occasion. Let the church office know of your occasion or that of someone else in the church family or call ext. 18 and follow the directions given on that line (Helping Hands/Hearts).

The Grapevine

Martha Leipziger is dealing with a broken arm at the same time she is trying to pack boxes to move to Westminster Manor. She welcomes check-in calls and offers of help with boxes.

Helen Nelson continues with treatments for her pancreatic cancer. She has been able to go out some and welcomes check-in calls.

Audrey Baker had recent orthopedic procedure and is recovering at home. She welcomes cards and calls.

Great news! Tricia Hernandez and Mark Jones are brand new parents!!! Ethan Asher Jones was born on December 9th at 7:52 pm. He weighs 6 lbs., 10 oz. and is 19.5 inches long. Both mommy and baby are happy and healthy.

Our Romanian Partner Church

We have learned that Rev. Sandor Mathe is back home in Romania after his month-long trip, which took him to UU churches in Austin, San Diego, Seattle, and Vancouver BC. We have relayed holiday greetings to our partner church in Feketehalom where Sandor conducts services on the first Sunday of every month.

Money contributed for the wall hangings made by Viola Gal, widow of the former minister of the Feketehalom church, will be sent to her in January.

Our partner church has been named as the recipient of the Split-the-Plate offering for April 2003.

--Marjorie Loehlin

Y'All Come Sing Returns!!!

Back by popular demand, the First UU music department is hosting a winter edition of this musical fun fest. The choir will be opening its ranks to anyone who ever wanted to try singing but never quite got around to it. Simply show up at 8:40am before the first service, rehearse a quickly and easily-learned song with the choir, and sing it for the morning services. You are welcome to join us on any (or all!) of the following Sundays:

January 12

January 19

January 26

TOP 10 REASONS WHY Y'ALL SHOULD COME SING:

10. It's fun!
9. No experience necessary!
8. No permanent commitment required!
7. Music is good for you!
6. Music is good for the church!
5. Impress your friends!
4. All of the cool kids do it!
3. You know you want to!
2. Satisfaction guaranteed or double your money back!
1. It's absolutely FREE!

MAKE A NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION TO ADD
A JOYFUL NOISE TO YOUR LIFE - SING!

For more info, contact Brent Baldwin, Director of Music, at 452-6168, ext. 16.

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Davidson's Lore

We can lose our rights to liberty and the effective pursuit of happiness by becoming a threat to others, through robbery, violence and so on. Our prisons are full of people whose rights have been taken away by their peers, sometimes for life. And we can lose our right to live by crossing boundaries of violence and viciousness that offend juries enough to impose the death penalty. Of course, the laws favor those with more money — as health care and life expectancy also do. But we don't refuse to imprison people until the laws can be perfect, any more than we refuse to give inoculations, knowing they will kill some innocent people.

There is much more to this, of course. But I don't think either liberals or conservatives have coherent and consistent moral arguments to cover all the important issues of life and death. I also believe that part of an intelligent religion should be trying to develop such arguments.

Besides using my Christmas writings in Lubbock, I will try to do something with them in Austin. Right now, I'm thinking of moderating some public panel discussions or dialogues with both liberals and conservatives on an overarching moral argument for abortion, war, capital punishment, medical experimentation, and the rest, sometime next spring. Stay tuned. In the meantime, see you in church!

— Davidson

Internal Reflections

AH! At last, it's January! Dull, boring January. I have always loved January. Since I have been an adult and working mother, I have always looked forward to January. The insanity of the holidays comes to a screeching halt and a feeling of quiet and renewal at last prevails. I used to settle in with knitting or quilting projects, books to read and seed catalogues to dream over and plan for my spring planting. In Alaska, where I lived for three years, the days were very short in December and January. The sun stayed hidden until around 10 in the morning before rising to make its abbreviated tour over Resurrection Bay only to disappear behind Mount Marathon around 3:30 or so, casting a great shadow often accompanied by the gloriously beautiful pink alpine glow shortly before darkness set in.

With summers of mostly all daylight, Alaskans have learned to appreciate the cozy quiet winter days knowing that before long, life complete with tourists and frenzied activity of earning a living will begin again soon enough. If only we could enjoy this feeling all year long. The time to think, reflect and pray, considered a luxury in our society today, is the most important gift we can give to ourselves and to the world.

Society today moves a dizzying pace. We are inundated with messages that a full life means "constant activity." We live it seems, only for the happening events, devaluing the 'down time.' As someone said, "We live from peak event to peak event, from brightness to brightness, resisting the flat terrain of ordinary time, the in-between time." This destructive way of living prevents us from hearing the still small voice within. It isn't until we surrender to the quiet and the calm, that we can reach that deep place within where our Higher Self resides.

Thomas Merton was clear about the danger of succumbing to the frenzy of modern life when he wrote these words:

The rush and pressure of modern life are a form, perhaps the most common form, of its innate violence. To allow oneself to be carried away by a multitude of conflicting concerns, to surrender to too many demands, to commit oneself to too many projects, to want to help everyone in everything is to succumb to violence. More than that, it is cooperation in violence. The frenzy of the activist neutralizes his work for peace. It destroys his own inner capacity for peace. It destroys the fruitfulness of his own work, because it kills the root of inner wisdom that makes work fruitful.

NOBODY needs to be reminded of this more than myself. One of the worst assaults on my inner peace, being a small town country girl, is getting stuck in traffic. I saw an article in the newspaper titled, "To fight traffic clumps: Go slow, not with the flow." Go slow, not with the flow? There's a concept. I was hooked. I read further. Apparently, for years, traffic engineers have depicted traffic as liquid in tubes that all too often get overloaded. Scientists have designed computer models that combine the physics of traffic flow with the psychology of flawed drivers. But it took a self-described student of "crackpot physics" named Bill Beaty to discover that an individual driver can unclump the clumps! Beaty suspects that "normal competitive behavior creates the traffic waves" and finds it ironic that the angry people who drive as fast as possible might unwittingly participate in 'amplifying' the very conditions that they hate so much." Beaty's theory of anti-traffic is to quit defending the space in front of you and simply slow down. The power to unclump traffic is ours if only we will

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Vespers Service

The next Vespers Service will be held on Friday, January 3 at 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Please also join us for a meal of soup and bread, which will be served at 6:00 pm in Room 9.

January Tea Time with Cathy

Please stop by for a cup of tea with our intern minister Cathy Harrington any Tuesday afternoon in January from 3:00 to 5:00 pm in Room 9.

Invitation From the Intern Committee

Your Intern Committee has been meeting regularly with Cathy Harrington and invites the congregation's feedback about her time here with us. We prepare evaluations of her ministry at mid-term and again in April and would appreciate any comments you may have. You may contact Sharon Moore, Chair, Caroline Hadley, Drew Bridges, Mary MacGregor or Clinton Hopper while you're here on Sunday mornings or you may contact Sharon at 349-2318 or spumonhighhol-low@msn.com. Thank you.

Call for Curriculum Writers

The Unitarian Universalist Association seeks experienced curriculum writers to design creative, integrated programs for people ages preschool through adulthood in our congregations. Themes include Unitarian Universalist heritage, world religions, Jewish and Christian heritages, values/ethics, nature/ecology, anti-oppression education, faith development, and more. Application deadline is February 1, 2003. Contact the church office for information.

Children's Program Committee Meeting

Second Tuesdays

January 14 6:30pm

Room 13

Childcare by reservation only

Youth Program Committee Meeting

Fourth Sundays

January 26 1pm

Room 9

YRUU

Youth Group for those
14-19 years old

Meets most Sundays at

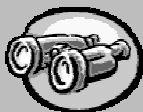
6:30pm, Room 11

Please RE-gister your Children!!



Make sure we have all your important information. Pick up a form from the table outside the RE Office.

Looking Ahead



Jan 5 - Surprise Pals starts!!
Return Guest Box!!

Jan 9 - Adult RE Mtg

Jan 14 - CPC Mtg

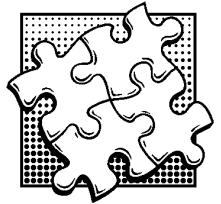
Jan 26 - YPC Mtg

Surprise Pals will start in January!

This is a great chance for children and adults in our congregation to make a new friend! Each adult volunteer is matched with a child and commits to correspond with them for a few weeks through our Surprise Pals mailbox system. Both children and adults make long-lasting church friends. Identities will be revealed at our February 16th celebration. Contact Karen Langsley at [klangley@austin.rr.com](mailto:klangsley@austin.rr.com) or 894-4411. *LOOK FOR THE FORM IN THIS NEWSLETTER*

Family Fun Night January 17, 6-9pm

Join us for a night of fun and activities! Bring your favorite potluck dish to share! We'll play some games and watch a movie. We'll start with dinner in Room 13. RSVP to Phyllis Barron PhyllisBarron@austin.rr.com 301-9045



Guest at Your Table - Please Be Generous!

Every year at this time, we have the opportunity to share ourselves with others all over the world. When you take a Guest at Your Table box home and place it where you and your family share meals, you consciously reach across barriers of race, language and religion to make a difference in the lives of real individuals. Take turns reading from the brochure about the pictures on your box. When each member of your family places money in the box, they get to link hands with folks here and abroad in a network of mutual caring and understanding. Families who donate a total of \$60 or more will have their donation matched by the UU Shelter Rock Congregation. Please return your box with a generous check on January 5th.

Child Caregiver Positions

\$8/hour, 2-8 Hours per week, including most Sundays

Responsibilities: Care for infants and toddlers during Sunday morning or afternoon programming and for other events as scheduled: organize room and activities for safety and age-appropriateness, greet families, keep attendance records, follow safety procedures, restore room to order, attend training.

Desired skills: Proficiency in caring for infants and young children, knowledge of safety guidelines, good people skills.

Please contact Andrea Lerner, 452-6168, Ext 12 or andrea@austinuu.org

Middle School Lock-in



As part of our goal of having a cluster rally in the spring, when middle-schoolers from the surrounding churches will visit, we are having our second planning lock-in on January 11, starting at 6pm.

The youth will stay overnight, do some planning, have fun, and get some sleep (really!). You can pick your kids up after church on Sunday the 12th.

Winter Adult RE

SIGN UP FOR CLASSES in the gallery after service!!

International Folk Dancing

Tuesdays January 7-28, 7-9pm, Howson Hall. Led by Jo Soto and Bruce Bostwick. Put this on your calendar!! Adults only, singles welcome. jo.soto@mail.utexas.edu

Spiritual Book-of-the-Month Club

First Fridays, starting January 3, following Vespers, 8pm, Room 9

Our first book will be *The Gospel According to Jesus*, by Stephen Mitchell. For more details, or to suggest other books, contact our intern Cathy Harrington.

Monday Night Philosophy & Theology Book Group (Please help us rename this group!)

Mondays, beginning January 6 7pm, Room 11

Cool People, Cool Books, Cool Conversation!! Join Clinton Hopper for the first in a series of great books: *Zen Keys* by Tich Nhat Hanh. This work is an excellent introduction to Zen and this monk's vision of Zen. Please contact Clinton with questions, Camus00@hotmail.com or 418-0928.

Reading the Bible Again for the First Time

Sundays, January 12-March 31, 3:30pm, Room 13. Join David Smith for a discussion of the book, *Reading the Bible Again for the First Time : Taking the Bible Seriously But Not Literally*, by Marcus Borg. Many mistakenly believe there are no choices other than fundamentalism or simply rejecting the Bible.

Answering this modern dilemma, the author shows you how to read the Bible as it should be examined, in an approach the author calls "historical-metaphorical." Borg explores what the Scriptures meant to the ancient communities that produced and lived by them. He then helps us to discover the meaning of these stories, providing the knowledge and perspective to make the wisdom of the Bible an essential part of our modern lives. David_Smith@unforgettable.com or d459-8270

Adult RE-Minders

Spiritual Exploration & Philosophical Inquiry

Sundays, 9:30-10:30am in Room 9. All are welcome to join this free and open discussion group. Facilitation rotates among the participants.

Book Discussion Groups Sundays, 9:30-10:30am in Rooms 13-A&B

Both groups ask that you keep current with the readings to participate.

Room 13B Book Group - *J.B.* by Archibald MacLeish. Call Jim Burson 794-1086 or jeburson@aol.com for more info.

Mind & Meaning Book Group - Room 13A - *The Evolving Self: Psychology for the Third Millennium* by Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi. For more info, PollyR6934@aol.com or 371-3257.

Mindfulness Through Meditation

On hiatus

If you are interested in arranging alternative times for this class, please contact Margaret Borden 458-4502, margaretborden@alumni.utexas.net

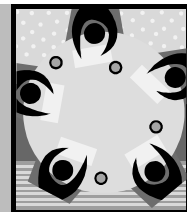
Tai Chi

Explore this graceful martial arts practice in Howson Hall Sunday and Thursday evenings at 7pm. \$25 for six weeks. For info, call Nell at 458-4903 or enewton@hoovers.com

World Religions in Your Car!

Lectures on tape available from the DRE. Five sets are available on Christianity, Islam, Judaism, and the religions of China and India. \$25 deposit.

Adult RE Committee Mtg



****NO JANUARY MTG****

**Thursday, February 6
7:00pm Room 13**

This is a fun, interesting committee! We interview prospective class facilitators and schedule classes. For more info, contact Sharon Moore 349-2318 spumonhighhollow@msn.com

Coming this Spring! Crying



Join Barbara Denny Sunday mornings, February 2-23, 10:35-11:25am, Room 11, for a book discussion of *The Natural and Cultural History of Tears* by Tom Lutz. We have the book for sale.

Tarot

Larry Gilstrap will facilitate an investigation of the tarot, 10:40-11:25am Sunday mornings February 2-23, room 15.

Dream Drama

A reprise of last fall's program with Katya Walter. Monday evenings, February 3-24, room 15. \$15 per person

Living on Purpose

Chas Schreiber's new class will meet on Thursdays February 6-27. The cost is \$50 per person.

Yoga

Join Dan Brown for this yoga series on Monday evenings, beginning March 3

Evensong II

Cathy Harrington will lead this 8 week program on Wednesdays, March 5-April 23, room 9. This class is for those who have taken Evensong I, and there is no fee.

Science and Religion

7pm Thursdays, April 3-24 with Davidson Loehr in the Sanctuary.



Paradox Players Plans

The November production of *Waiting for MacArthur* was a triumph financially as well as artistically. It netted almost \$4000, half of which will go into the operating budget of the church. The other half will be used by Paradox Players on projects to enhance Howson Hall and possibly alleviate the storage shortage, although no plans are yet formulated. Revenues from former plays that went into Paradox Players funds were used to purchase the lighting equipment and additional padded chairs that are enjoyed by the many groups that use this space.

The Season of Letters continues with the February production, which will open on Valentine's Day with A. R. Gurney's *Love Letters*, a story of two special friends who begin their letter writing in the second grade and continue throughout their lives. More details on this production will be in the next newsletter.

Readers Theater will resume on Monday, January 27 at 7:30 pm in Howson Hall. This is the group to join if you enjoy unrehearsed readings when everyone gets a turn at reading a part, usually sharing roles. Sometimes short improvisations are part of the evening. Everyone is welcome. No experience is necessary, just a love for plays.

In Memoriam — Joe Bradley

Joe Bradley, a former member of this church, died on September 25 in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. He was 83. He and his late wife, Katherine, were UU "Snowbirds," coming here in the Fall and leaving for Milwaukee in the spring. When both Joe's and Katherine's health made it impossible for them to continue this regimen, they donated their apartment in Barton Hills to the church, which was sold with the proceeds coming to the church.

Joe and Katherine were very active in the life of the church. Joe will be particularly remembered for his courage and spirit, his sense of humor, and his beautiful water colors.

Cold Weather Shelter Update and Reports

At the time of this writing we have already had two successful freeze nights this season, November 27 and December 4, where Howson Hall was turned into a cold weather shelter for the homeless. Both of these were "on-call" nights, so we had some advance notice, making the planning easier. For most of the cold weather season, however, we do not have advance notice. We plan to have a VOYAGER freeze night if a freeze is predicted for a Friday or Saturday. VOYAGERS interested in participating may contact Chris Ford at 323-6870 or cmonee@yahoo.com. To find out if and where a freeze night is happening (it could be another church), call Leslie Hays of ARCH at 476-4396, or, if our church is hosting the shelter, call the office at 452-6168 or one of the church coordinators: Mary Jane Ford at 926-4122, or Vince Harrison at 385-8862. Gail Daniels, our backup organizer who did the December 4 freeze night, can be reached at 306-1291.

Freeze night report for November 27, 2002, Wednesday

Calling and organizing: Leslie Hays (ARCH), Mary Jane Ford

Food preparation and supplies: Natasha Ponczek - Supplies for cabinet; Camille Hemlock - Baked Beans with franks, noodle soup; Eric Hartman - Lasagna; Megan Seaholm - Chili; Gillian Reed - fruit (bananas, apples, oranges); Marge Loehlin - meat sauce; Emilia Martin: Green salad and dressing; Kae McLaughlin- Cornbread, rolls and 2 big bags of macaroni; Some other good Samaritans: 60 hard boiled eggs, cookies, candy

Service and hospitality: Laura and Ernie Wood, Phil and Molly Rogers, Camille Hemlock, Brook & Nick Patel, Nora Robards, Gretchen Paulig, Joy Cunningham and 6 yr. old Julie Kate, Vince Harrison, Mary Jane Ford, Bob Porter and Chris Ford

Morning cleanup: Craig & Phyllis Barron

Overnight: Martin Bryant, Mark McPhearson, Kathy Lansford

Number of guests served: 40

Freeze night report for December 4, 2002, Wednesday

Calling and organizing: Leslie Hays (ARCH), Gail Daniels

Food preparation and supplies: Craig and Phyllis Barron - Mexican casserole for 40; Diane Bohman -soup for 12; Leslie Smart - bean and cheese casserole for 10 and fruit; Joan Forbes - fruit; Barbara Owens - large green salad; Kent and Janice Samuleson - bread; Greg & Veryan Thompson - fruit; Belle Hutton - stew; Ed Sledge - milk

Service and hospitality: Vince Harrison, Linda Taylor, Natasha Ponczek, Joe Trungale, Russell Eskew, Diane Collier

Morning Cleanup: Chela Metzger and Russell Eskew

Over Night: Edward Sledge, Eric Hartman

Number of guests served: 50

Thanks to everybody who participated.

Heritage Club

Heritage Club, our lively book discussion group that meets in people's homes, will meet at 8:00 pm on Friday, January 10 at the home of Kelly Teese, 2204 Colgate Lane, tel. 927-2292. We'll discuss THE HOURS by Michael Cunningham. Bring a friend as well as a snack and drink to share. For those who read ahead, our February selection is EMPIRE FALLS by Richard Russo.

Sing-along Swan Song

I am stepping down as the organizer of the monthly Folk Music Jam Session and Sing-along. I have been doing this for at least seven years and have not missed one. I have greatly enjoyed these "hootenannies," but, due to my current musical obligations, I can't continue to take this responsibility. An opportunity exists for someone else to step up to the plate and continue this as it has been done in the past or plan a new activity to fill the niche--take a new direction. If you want to volunteer, call Mary Jane Ford at 926-4122 or email me at mjaneford@grandecom.net, and I will be happy to fill you in and provide the list of participants.

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Internal Reflections

quit speeding up and following the flow.

"Entrainment" is the phenomenon of two rhythmic beings gradually altering their movements until they're moving together in the same rhythm. Grandfather clocks do this if placed side by side. Without intentional and diligent care, it is natural to align with the destructive pace that our world is moving. And if our crackpot physicist is correct, not only will we save ourselves by taking care and learning to be still, the rest of the world will benefit as well. One driver can unclump the clumps.

Hmm. One driver can unclump the clumps. So what can one person do? How can one restore the wisdom that makes work fruitful and regain a capacity for inner peace? What can you do in your own life to let go of the too many projects or demands on your time? How can you allow yourself the luxury of slowing down and taking the time to pray and to listen to the still small voice within? All evidence points to the power of a prayer practice or meditation practice that is committed and substantial in order to develop the sacred relationship and to learn to align with God instead of succumbing to the pace of society

My first Friday Vespers services are just exactly for this purpose. I hope you will join me for an evening of restorative worship and meditation at 7 pm, January 3rd. Together, maybe we can unclump the clumps and begin the New Year with a feeling of renewed calm and peace.

Happy New Year!
Cathy Harrington

P.S.
Thanks Santa!!!

Senior Luncheon

The Senior Luncheon group meets at 12:00 noon in Howson Hall Tuesday, January 14. **Surprise program.** \$3.00 donation requested. Call the church office with your reservation by Monday, January 13 at noon.

Sharing Suppers

Start the New Year right by greeting old and meeting new friends at this month's Sharing Supper on Saturday, January 18. Sign up now on the list next to Davidson's office, or contact coordinator Barbara Tuttle, 794-2972 (hrtytutl@onr.com). If you haven't hosted yet, this is a great time to start! Or share your hosting talents at someone else's home, as a co-host. Many of us have made our large church feel more comfortable and friendly by participating in these wonderful evenings. We look forward to sharing them with you!

End-of-the-Month Party

For about a million years, the EOM party has been faithfully observed at First UU Church on the last Saturday of each month. Now it's time for outreach to the wider UU community. It's a relaxed way to meet new friends and greet old friends. Traditionally, you bring a snack to share and your drink; you come for a few minutes or a few hours and leave the happier for having come.

The next party will be held on Saturday, January 25 at Alana Rosshirt's house, 3413 Foothill Terrace. Call 458-3718 for directions. Starting time is 8:00 pm. Coordinators for this event are Kelly Teese (927-2292) and Jean Wyllys (926-6353). We always need hosts, so call if you'd like to be one.

Please Join Us at the Next All-Church Council Meeting

Everyone is invited to the next All-Church Council Meeting, on Sunday, January 12 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm in Howson Hall.

This is when all committee chairs, members and interested parties catch up on recent developments, ask each other questions and trade experiences and suggestions.

A light lunch will be served at 12:30 for a suggested donation of \$5.00.

Committee chairs are encouraged to submit reports via e-mail in advance. Call Bill Forbes at 420-0707 or e-mail forbes@worldpost.com for further information.

See you there.

UUADP Update

In 2002 there were 33 executions in Texas. Seven executions are presently scheduled for January 2003 and five in February.

Reduced rates for parties of ten or more are available for the Austin Lyric Opera production of *Dead Man Walking* on January 10 and 12, and 16 and 18 the following week.

Lost and Found

Missing something? Please check the Lost and Found Basket, located on top of the mailboxes in the office, or call the office at 452-6168 anytime between 10:00 am and 2:00 pm Monday through Friday.

The President's Corner

Our church has experienced significant growth over the past two years, both in membership and in program offerings. We have also experienced a few "growing pains." Our transition to a large-church management style has been progressing; however, sometimes things fall through the cracks or need to be more clearly defined. Though not intentional, board actions are not always communicated as effectively as we think they should be. In an effort to improve communications, this column will summarize the December congregational meeting and board meeting. Future newsletters will also include board meeting summaries. You are welcome to attend board meetings (third Tuesday of every month, 6:30 – 9:30 pm) as well. Agendas and minutes are currently posted on the bulletin board outside of the church office and are sent by e-mail to all committee chairs. Our church board is doing its best to provide the policy guidance that allows us, as a church family, to be the best we can be. Your input to this process is encouraged and welcomed.

December Congregational Meeting

1. Voted to sign a resolution submitted by a member of the congregation that "recommends that the Texas Legislature enacts legislation to establish a moratorium on executions...to ensure that death penalty cases are administered fairly regardless of race and income."
2. Approved the proposed 2003 budget with an amendment to move \$200 from youth programs to social action.
3. Drew Bridges challenged all members to contribute \$100 which would eliminate our approved budget's \$36,000 deficit.

December Board Meeting

1. Approved Camp Fire Clubs as an affiliated organization.
2. Discussion with Social Action to draft a policy regarding the split-the-plate program to be considered at January board meeting.
3. Discussed a privacy policy regarding personal data collected for church business which will be voted on at the January board meeting.
4. Approved the appointment of Dick Neavel as the new chair of the Finance Committee and thanked Nancy Reiter for her amazing work over the past couple of years as Finance chair.
5. Discussed the Minster's Discretionary Fund (MDF) and determined:
 - a. First \$1000 will be donated to Caritas
 - b. Balance will go to MDF
 - c. \$800 will be set aside to be used for individual emergency needs through the year, and any unspent in December will be added to the general MDF.

If you have questions about any of the above actions, please contact me. Copies of church policies are kept in the church office if you are interested in reading them. As a reminder, the board is elected to conduct ongoing church business, but the congregation retains ultimate authority. Like any democratic process, it's not always easy nor is it always pretty, but it's a fair and representative process that encourages us all to take responsibility for our beloved church.

Donna Howard, Board President
327-2090 or dshoward@austin.rr.com

Events at a Glance

Sun	9:30 AM	Sunday Service	Sun	MIDDLE SCHOOL OVERNIGHTER CONTINUES
Jan 5	10:30 AM	LifeLine Pre-Screening Presentation	Jan 12	9:30 AM Sunday Service
	11:30 AM	Sunday Service		10:30 AM Parents Group
	11:30 AM	Public Affairs Forum		11:30 AM Sunday Service
	4:00 PM	VOYAGer Navigators		11:30 AM Public Affairs Forum
	5:20 PM	Sunday Night Live!		1:00 PM Council Meeting
	6:30 PM	YRUU		3:30 PM Reading the Bible Again for the First Time
	7:00 PM	Tai Chi		5:20 PM Sunday Night Live!
				6:30 PM YRUU
				7:00 PM Tai Chi
Mon	7:00 PM	Philo and Theo Book Group	Mon	7:00 PM Philo and Theo Book Group
Jan 6	7:00 PM	Open Covenant Group 1	Jan 13	7:00 PM Open Covenant Group
	7:00 PM	Toastmasters		7:00 PM Toastmasters
Tue	9:30 AM	Deadline for 1/12 Order of Service	Tue	9:30 AM Deadline for 1/19 Order of Service
Jan 7	3:00 PM	Tea Time with Cathy Harrington	Jan 14	10:30 AM Chat and Craft Resumes
	6:00 PM	Executive Committee		12:00 PM Senior Luncheon
	7:00 PM	International Folk Dancing		3:00 PM Tea Time with Cathy Harrington
	7:30 PM	Women's Spirituality		6:30 PM Facilitators' Covenant Group
				6:30 PM RE/CPC Committee
				7:00 PM International Folk Dancing
				7:30 PM Women's Spirituality
Wed	7:00 PM	Worship Services Committee	Wed	9:15 AM Listening Ministry
Jan 8	7:30 PM	No Choir Rehearsal	Jan 15	7:00 PM New Member Orientation
				7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal Resumes
Thu	9:30 AM	Newsletter Mailing	Thu	LIFELINE SCREENING CLINIC
Jan 9	6:00 PM	Committee on Ministries	Jan 16	7:00 PM Tai Chi
	6:30 PM	Membership Committee		
	7:00 PM	Intern Supervision Committee		
	7:00 PM	Tai Chi		
Fri	8:00 PM	Heritage Club	Fri	9:30 AM Deadline for Feb. 1 Newsletter
Jan 10			Jan 17	
Sat	8:00 AM	Men's Breakfast	Sat	SHARING SUPPERS
Jan 11	10:30 AM	Women's Spirituality	Jan 18	10:30 AM Women's Spirituality
	6:00 PM	Middle School Overnighter		

Join Sunday Sociables in the Afternoon...

Sociables is an informal brunch gathering each Sunday. All are invited. Folks start arriving around 1:15. If you have questions or suggestions, contact Larry Gilstrap (708-1226 or gilstrap@texas.net).

January 5 Austin Diner 5408 Burnet Rd. (north of Arby's and south of HEB)

January 12 The Dog and Duck Pub 406 West 17th St.

...Come in the Evening for a Movable Feast!

All are invited to attend dinner with us after Sunday Night Live beginning at 7 pm. Check the poster board outside the office for details on Sunday evenings. If no host is listed that week, the Movable Feast can be considered cancelled. Also listen for an announcement by the lay leader during the service. If host or hostess is listed, give this name to the restaurant host in order to be shown to the correct table. Typically directions and a phone number will be posted as well.

**FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
 CHURCH OF AUSTIN**
 4700 Grover Avenue
 Austin, TX 78756
One Church. Many Beliefs.

Minister: Dr. Davidson Loehr
Director of Religious Education:
 Andrea Lerner
Director of Administration:
 Barbara Lighthouse
Director of Music: Brent Baldwin
President, Board of Trustees:
 Donna Howard
Intern Minister: Cathy Harrington

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www.AustinUU.org

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Sunday Morning Religious Education

ADULT CLASSES

- Spiritual Exploration & Philosophical Inquiry Group**
 Room 9 9:30 am
- Book Discussion Groups:**
Sunday Book Group — Call Jim Burson (794-1086)
 Room 13A 9:30 am
- Mind & Meaning** — Call Polly Robertus (371-3257)
 Room 13B 9:30 am
- Meditation** — Call Margaret Borden (458-4502)
 Room 11 10:35 am

CHILDREN & YOUTH CLASSES

Children and youth K-8th grade attend the first part of the second and third worship services with their families before they go to class.

First Session: 9:30 am - 10:30 am
Second Session 11:30 am - 12:45 am
Grades 6-8 & 9-12 - 11:30 am only
Third Session: 5:40 pm - 6:30 pm
Third Session is Pre-K through Elementary only

INFANTS AND TODDLERS

Parents with infants may attend the service with their children, view the service through the quiet room window, watch the service on TV in room 21,

Public Forum “Live” Sundays at First UU Church of Austin

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| <p>Culture and Politics in the New American Empire
 David Butts, Political Consultant
 David Butts, a political consultant for numerous Democratic and progressive candidates and causes, will examine how America’s preeminent position in the world is shaping its culture and politics.</p> | <p>January 5, 11:30 am
 Howson Hall</p> |
| <p>An ACLU Perspective on the 78th Legislative Session
 Will Harrell, Executive Director, ACLU of Texas
 Will Harrell, Executive Director, ACLU of Texas, will discuss the many issues facing the Texas legislature that affect criminal justice and human rights.</p> | <p>January 12, 11:30 am
 Howson Hall</p> |

Public Forum on Cable Access Channel 10 Sundays at 6 PM

- | | | |
|------------|-----------------|---|
| January 5 | Alan Pogue | The Refugees of Afghanistan |
| January 12 | Lee Leffingwell | Banned and Challenged Books in Texas Public Schools |