

The Austin Unitarian Universalist

One Church. Many Beliefs.

www.AustinUU.org

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Volume 52, No. 8

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

Sunday, April 20

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

The ABC's of Easter

Rev. Davidson Loehr and Cathy Harrington

We'll have the annual flower communion in all three services. On Christmas Eve, we told the traditional Christian story, added some commentary to bring it up to par for a liberal audience, and sang some great Christmas music. Easter doesn't have the great music, but otherwise we'll plan this as a parallel service to the Christmas Eve service, telling a few versions of the Easter story with some commentary from both Cathy and me on taking the story from the unspiritual literal level (A) to the symbolic and metaphorical level (B) to, perhaps, an existential level for us, here and now (C).

Shadow Box, voted 'Best Austin World Music Band' in the recent Austin Music Awards, will provide **World Fusion Music** at the 5:20 service.

Sunday, April 27

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

whY aRe yoU yoU? The UU Inquisition

Kat Checkley and Ian Reed

Join the FUUCA youth for a service that takes the UU spirit of questioning to a new level!

Music will be provided by **YRUU members** at all three services today.

Special Sunday Sanctuary Times

Starting April 13, the Sanctuary will be open for prayer, silent meditation and candle lighting between morning services from 10:45 to 11:15 every Sunday and will be ongoing until further notice.

Vespers Services with Cathy Harrington

Friday, May 2 at 7:00 pm

Join us for a simple meal of soup and bread at 6:00 pm in Howson Hall followed by Vespers Services in the Sanctuary at 7:00 pm. The Spiritual Book-of-the-Month Club meets at 8:00 pm in Room 9.

April 20: Bring a Friend to Sunday Night Live!

Looking for the perfect time to invite a friend to SNL? Well, the third Sunday of each month is just for that purpose. The music rocks, and Moveable Feast is always at a happening location. Just three easy steps:

1. Bring your friend and introduce them to a few people.
2. Have them fill out the visitor card in the Visitors Rock! packet.
3. Invite them to Moveable Feast (details on page 10).

Can't think of anyone to bring? Invite someone who hasn't come to church in a while. At the very least, be sure to introduce yourself to visitors.

Why? 80% of people attending a church for the first time do so because a friend, co-worker, or family member invited them.

Holiday Office Closing

The church office will be closed for Memorial Day on Monday, May 26. Please check with the contact people for events on that day to see which ones will meet and which may be rescheduled. Thank you.

Newsletter Deadlines

Articles (due by 9:30 am)

Fri. April 18 (for May 1 issue)
Fri. May 2 (for May 15 issue)
Fri. May 16 (for June 1 issue)

Mailing Days

Thursday April 24
Thursday May 8
Thursday May 22

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

Davidson's Lore

A short mid-month note:

Last summer when I knew Cathy Harrington was coming to be our intern and knew she was an experienced commercial baker, we talked about buying a 20-quart Hobart commercial mixer for the kitchen. Some people had donated money for such gifts, and I solicited other money, raising a little over \$2,000 altogether.

After Cathy arrived, we decided to study this to make sure this was the best thing to do now. After months of thinking about it, we've decided that it is not. When the kitchen is upgraded to a commercial kitchen, it might be time to add that expensive mixer. But until then, we've decided that with the same money we can buy three other things that will serve our needs better for parties and special events. I've cleared this with a couple people who made substantial donations. If you also made a donation and don't want it spent on this, please let me know. Here are the three things we'll look into buying for the kitchen:

1. A good quality commercial icemaker
2. A Cuisinart or comparable food processor
3. A Kitchen Aid 6-quart mixer

The ice has been a problem for years; this should solve it in good fashion. And some of you have been bringing your own food processors or mixers from home to help with parties, which is very generous but fairly cumbersome. So we felt it would be useful for the church to own one of each. We'll shop for the icemaker and look for one in the \$1,500 range that should serve us for years to come. Thank you for your donations last summer. I'm glad we're finally able to invest them in things that should serve the church in better ways than a larger commercial mixer. It would be nice to have more social events with food, and these gifts should make it easier to do this.

Davidson

Thank You to Our Sunday Ushers and Greeters

In March, 2003 our ushers and greeters included:

Jim Burson, Robert Norris, Judy Parken, Juanita Salinas, Genie Martin, Kristen Freeman, James McBride, Warden & Sue Rimel, Mickey Moore, David Sprengelmeyer, Jim Bowie, Betty Bowie, Kae McLaughlin, Carol Ginn, Steve Davis, Carolyn Gremminger, Jenna Martin, David Triplett, Doris Hug, Sally Scott, Anne Black, Chris Heidel, Mark Williams, Davelyn Forrest, Laura & Ernie Wood, Helen Siders, Nell Newton, Meagan Seaholm, Greg Ormiston, Tom Bohman. **We couldn't have done it without you!**

A Blooming Tradition

Marian and John Maxwell recently brought a blooming azalea for Sunday services. They have long carried on this unique tradition of bringing a blooming azalea from Marian's garden. What a wonderful happening! Another long-time UUser said Marian may have been doing this for going on 20 years! Thus it becomes a historic fact, worthy of all our consideration, bringing a plant we have loved and tended to share with UU friends on Sunday morning. Thank you.

Membership Matters

Orientation Evenings

Orientation Evenings are on the third Wednesday of every month. Join **Dr. Davidson Loehr** on **April 16** for an informative discussion of our church history, faith journey, and programs. Bring your questions and prepare to be fascinated!

Meetings take place from **7-8:30 p.m.** in room 13, and registration is not required. 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, April 27.

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.

A VOYAGers Testimonial

The VOYAGers is a community of FUUCA members and friends born in the 60's and 70's. We come together in loving companionship to celebrate life, encourage spiritual growth and share our gifts with others.

Three and a half years ago I came to this church looking for a spiritual home and a new community. It took about two visits to find VOYAGers. At the time, several people made a point of approaching any and all VOYAGer-aged looking visitors. The tradition was to go out to eat after the second service. A sense of fellowship could be found at those lunches and the tradition has continued with the Movable Feast after Sunday Night Live.

I got involved right away and helped get the VOYAGer parents' group up and running. The parents' group was such a success that we decided to open the group to the whole church and it is still going strong.

Sunday Night Live is due largely to VOYAGers. We are also responsible for making sure the children have the option of staying in the Sanctuary during this service or going to religious education (RE) classes.

You can find VOYAGers anywhere you look. We are involved in Adult, Youth, and Children's RE, social action, freeze night, Paradox Players, numerous covenant groups, and Sunday Night Live, just to name a few.

What else is great about VOYAGers? Retreats, camping trips, games night, movie nights, and potlucks. We have a strong sense of community. We are a force to be reckoned with. We can do anything we put our minds to and we have fun doing it. Join us and get involved.

-- Monica Smoot

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.

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 Listening Ministry member will try to return your call within a day.

Spread the Word! Get a T-shirt.

Interested in getting matching t-shirts for your special church group? Sunday Night Live! has taken on the task of coordinating services to help any group in the church who would like to get T-shirts. Each group's shirt will be unique in many ways, but all of the T-shirts will be a similar style and say the same thing on the back. If you are interested in T-shirts for your group or would like to help with this project, please contact Chris Heidel at 694-5870 or chris@chrisandtoby.com.

A Liberal View

Watch *A Liberal View* on ACTV, Cable Channel 11, at 6:00 pm each Wednesday. Check listings at www.austinuu.org.

She's Quite a Lady!

Congratulations and Happy Birthday to Katy Burnette-Hughes, our Youth Trustee on the FUUCA Board of Trustees and high school workshop coordinator for this year's SWUUSI. Katy, who is a senior at McCallum High School, recently celebrated her 18th birthday and just won the Austin UIL Journalism competition.

PR/Advertising Committee Needs New Chairperson



Are you a communications, advertising or PR professional? Can you write and produce news releases,

brochures and direct mail letters; manage media contacts and lists; plan, organize and publicize special events; coordinate and place advertising; manage a team of volunteers; design fliers using leading edge software; effectively manage e-mail/Internet systems? If so, you may have a job on your hands as our new Public Relations/Advertising committee chairperson.

You'll oversee a budget of \$2,500 for Yellow Pages ads and weekly listings in the Austin American-Statesman. Other than that, creativity is your budget as you work with members of the church to stay on top of major news and garner media coverage. Special events, such as "Bring a Friend" Sunday are possibilities you might pursue in conjunction with Membership or other committees.

This chairperson role takes effect on June 1. For details please contact Pat Livingston at plivingston@austin.rr.com or 454-3963.

Searching for the Future: First UU Faithful Spend a Saturday Helping Shape Our Future



Thanks to the 60+ members and friends of First UU who chose to spend Saturday, March 29 crafting a vision and mission statement to help offer guidance to our church leadership as we plan for the future. A lively and creative group — including long time members, new members and people just becoming acquainted with our church — worked together to articulate what makes this church such a special place, what we want this church to be, and the goals we should set to help us get there.

Articulating a common vision and mission is the first major step in our strategic planning process. Based on this vision and mission statement, we set goals and the goals become our strategic plan. This plan will help guide our decision making, fund-raising and budgeting as we strive to meet the needs of our growing congregation and our larger community.

Here is the draft Vision and Mission Statement that the Strategic Planning group crafted based on the SFTF workshop. This draft will be discussed at the Council meeting on April 13, presented to the Board for approval on April 15, and offered for Congregational adoption at the Congregational meeting on May 4. By the time you read this, the draft will likely have undergone some editing based on input from interested parties.

VISION

As an inclusive religious and spiritual community, we support each individual's search for meaning and purpose and join together to help create a better world.

MISSION STATEMENT

Our mission is to:

- Create and sustain a joyful, caring, involved church community;
- Promote intimacy, support and fellowship to foster the personal spiritual and emotional growth of our members;
- Offer inspirational and challenging worship services;
- Provide ritual and ceremony for rites of passage;
- Provide progressive religious education for all ages;
- Enrich our community through music, drama and the arts;
- Share our values and gifts with the larger community;
- Empower and encourage members toward social and civic leadership;
- Strive to create a more diverse church community

If you think these statements miss the mark, or if you find them brilliant and inspiring, you are welcome to contact me or any member of the planning group with your suggestions.

Onward,
Rose Ann Reeser
Strategic Planning Chair (rareeser@earthlink.net)

Other planning group members:
David Smith, Donna Howard, Don Smith, Leslie Ashton, Ron Turner, Marcus Barnes

Internal Reflections

Stress levels are soaring, and with the war raging and economic problems increasing, I'm feeling overwhelmed, aren't you? We held a special Vespers service immediately after the war began and it was an opportunity to express grief and sorrow, and a time to pray. Some of us attend anti-war rallies and protests, which can be a way of lamenting. Our utter helplessness as we watch day after day, the relentless death and destruction brings with it anger, fear, and frustration, and this can take its toll on a body. When prayer or protesting the war doesn't bring much needed relief, maybe we need to recognize that it's time to take a break. Plant a garden, go to a movie or a concert. Spring has arrived and the wildflowers are blooming. Take a walk or go on a picnic with friends.

I recently read an article in the Christian Science Monitor titled, "Is It OK to Have Fun?" Mr. Hyson, a cultural historian at St. Joseph's University in Philadelphia says that historically, "during wartime, popular culture tends to emphasize entertainment and patriotism, when it talks about war themes at all." People are finding ways to get their minds off the war for a little while. The reality shows like "Fear Factor" are dropping in popularity and people are turning to less violent shows. The consensus is that it's not only OK to have fun, it's essential for our health and well-being. We can offer more hope and help to the world if we are not fractured and exhausted. Similar advice as when we are told on airplanes to put the oxygen mask on ourselves before helping others.

So take time to have some fun. And then when it's time to come back and turn on the news or read the headlines, remember to pray or meditate, write poetry, or keep a journal. Find a practice that works best for you so you can return to your center, find renewal, and find inner peace. It's in those peaceful times that we can access our wisdom and find guidance so that our energy can be spent constructively in this task of healing a broken world. This beautiful prayer helped me; maybe you will find solace in it as well.

(Continued on page 9)

Final Freeze Night Report: Season Wrap-up

Five freeze nights were held at our church this past winter, out of a total of 15 for the program citywide. This winter was apparently not as cold as last, when we hosted 9 freeze nights. We were one of five churches participating in this cold weather shelter program, which serves mainly single men, coordinated by the Capital Area Homeless Alliance (CAHA), based at the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH). We sheltered 212 homeless guests this year, an average of 42 per night. We had an average number of 24 volunteers per night to supply and service the shelter.

Special thanks to Leslie Hays, who coordinated the program from ARCH and supplied the blankets to our shelter. Also thanks to Chris Ford, Voyager Coordinator and Gail Daniels, backup coordinator, as well as all the volunteers mentioned in previous reports. We have a list of 87 volunteer households within the church (not counting the Voyager list) and we had a total of 77 individuals serving as volunteers for the shelter this season.

We found that e-mail is the most efficient way to communicate for "on-call" freeze nights. All of our freeze nights were "on-call" this year, which means we had advance notice to assemble a crew, but some of these were cancelled due to a change in the weather forecast.

Thanks again to all who volunteered and to church leadership and staff for supporting the program. If you need any further information, call Mary Jane Ford at 926-4122 or email: mjaneford@grandecom.net.

UUADP Update

There have already been 12 executions in Texas this year with three more scheduled for April: Kenneth Morris, a black man from Harris County on the 15th; Juan Chavez, a Hispanic man from Dallas County on the 22nd; and Robert Ladd, a black man from Smith County on the 23rd.

Among the criminal justice bills filed in the present Texas Legislature are those calling for a moratorium on executions, pre-trial determination of a defendant's mental retardation, lower sentences for non-violent drug and other offenses. For a full list of criminal justice reform legislation log on to www.Pro.Tex.org/criminaljustice.

Invitation From the Intern Committee

Your Intern Committee has been meeting regularly with Cathy Harrington and invites your feedback about her time here with us. We prepare evaluations of her ministry at mid-term and again in April.

You may contact Sharon Moore, Chair, Caroline Hadley, Drew Bridges, Mary MacGregor or Clinton Hopper while you are here on Sunday mornings, or you may contact Sharon at 349-2318 or spumonhighhol-low@msn.com. Thank you.

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 452-6168, ext. 18 (Helping Hands/Hearts).

Children's Program Committee Meeting

Second Tuesdays
May 13 6:30 pm
Room 11

Childcare by reservation only

Youth Program Committee Meeting

Room 9
Next meeting to be announced

YRUU

Youth Group for 14-19 year olds
Meets most Sundays at
6:30pm, Room 11



Looking Ahead

April 18 - Seder Dinner (note new date)

April 20 - Easter Celebration
BRING A DISH TO SHARE!!

May 3 - Curriculum Planning

May 18 - All-Church Picnic
and SPLASH DAY!!!

July 12 - CPC Retreat

Aug 4-8 - Camp UU&Me

Aug 16 - Teacher Training



In Your Easter Bonnet

Please check the insert for details on Easter "HOP-penings."

You Can Help Select Next Year's Curricula

Please consider being part of the group that will meet in retreat on **May 3, from 9am - 2pm**. We will review the past years' programs, look at what things we consider essential for our children and youth to learn and plan for our next programming year. If you are interested, please contact Phyllis Barron, PhyllisBarron@austin.rr.com or 301-9045.

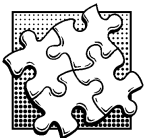
Child Dedication



Our minister is planning a child dedication service for Mother's Day, May 11, 2003. This voluntary Child Dedication is the formal introduction of children to the larger church family. In the ceremony the children are named before the faith community, acknowledging them as individuals and as an integral part of the church. If your children have not been dedicated in our church, please contact Andrea or Davidson to have them included!!

Family Fun Night - Saturday, May 10, 5-8pm

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. Childcare for toddlers by reservation. RSVP to Phyllis Barron (see above)



"Camp UU&Me" Summer Plans

As you make plans for your summer, remember that Camp UU and Me will be held **August 4-8, 2003**, for children entering 1st through 6th grades. Registration form appears as an insert to this issue. If you have any questions or suggestions, or if you would like to help with the camp, please contact Nahdiah Hoang at nahdiah@hotmail.com or 458-3680.

Lessons of Loss - Elementary Program April 27-May 18

A special childrens' class on death and dying issues will be offered at 9:30am beginning April 27 - Registration is required. For more information, please contact Nahdiah Hoang, 458-3680 nahdiah@hotmail.com

YPC RE-Cruitment - We Need You!!

Our Youth Program Committee is made up of youth and adults working together to oversee youth programming - both religious education and social programming. This year this group spearheaded the popular book sale - raising funds toward a heritage trip to Boston. Next year, we'll plan the trip, along with other great youth programming!

Two youth and one parent are selected by YRUU and also by the middle school youth. A YRUU advisor is selected by YRUU, and a middle school teacher and a high school teacher are chosen by the teaching teams. The DRE selects 3 at-large High School youth and a High School parent. These positions are your chance to make a difference for the youth programming. Please make your wish to be part of this vibrant group known to the DRE or appropriate group for consideration for YPC membership beginning in May.



Winter Adult RE

SIGN UP FOR CLASSES in the gallery after service!!

Science and Religion

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

This will be about what science is and isn't, what religion is and isn't, and a way to tell the difference.

We'll take each one at its strongest, and I'll suggest a rigorous "religious method" as a parallel to the "scientific method": just as empirical, but with different ends. Medieval theologians were clear that "scientia" (knowledge) and "sapientia" (wisdom: as in our arrogant species name, homo sapiens) weren't the same, that the first didn't necessarily lead to the second.

In the past two centuries, Western sciences have forgotten this, and often acted as though they believed that if you just stack up enough facts, enough knowledge, you'll become wise. Nope, I agree with the medieval theologians. They're different - not incompatible, but about different questions. I'm not planning to assign readings, but will have a few small handouts. No advance preparation.

Evensong I

Wednesdays, 7-9pm, April 2 - May 21, Room 11, Greg Thompson and Brian Moore, co-facilitators. We will share what we value most, our ideas of God or ultimate concern, our religious and spiritual experiences. Expect a structured worship service: a time to be quiet, listen to others and share.

Beginning Quilting

Saturday, May 3 9am-4pm, May 3, Gallery, Kae Mc Laughlin will teach. Cost is \$10 plus supplies. Pick up a supply list at Adult RE table on Sundays.

YOUR CLASS COULD APPEAR HERE!!

What are your interests and skills? Would you like to share them with your UU community? Please come to the Adult RE Committee Meeting to arrange to lead a class!

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 - *Why Religion Matters* by Houston Smith. Call Jim Burson 794-1086 or jeburson@aol.com for more info.

Mind & Meaning Book Group - Room 13A - *Beyond a World Divided: Human Values in the Brain-Mind Science of Roger Sperry* by Erika Erdmann and David Stover. For more info, PollyR6934@aol.com or 371-3257.

Tai Chi

Sundays and Thursdays, 7pm in Howson Hall

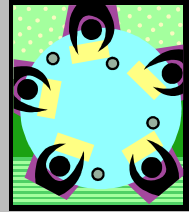
Explore this graceful martial art, \$25 for six weeks. For info, call Nell at 458-4903 or enewton@hoovers.com

Folk Dancing

First Mondays, 7-9pm

Everyone is invited to the church's Howson Hall the first Monday of every month through August for International Folk dancing lessons. The cost is \$2 per lesson taught by Jo Soto and Bruce Bostwick. Join us!

ADULT EDUCATION COMMITTEE RECRUITING!



IF:

- ◆ If you have an interest in what kinds of classes we offer at our church-
- ◆ If you've had experience in teaching or recruiting teachers-
- ◆ If you can come to one meeting per month on the first Thursday at 7pm-
- ◆ If you can staff the Adult RE table one Sunday per month after each morning service
- ◆ If you want to take as many classes each year *FOR FREE* as you like-
- ◆ If you enjoy meeting new people and encouraging them to take a class and get to know us better-

THEN: You just might like joining our committee for this next year. Our next meeting is....

Adult RE Committee Mtg

**Thursday, May 1
7:00pm Room 13**

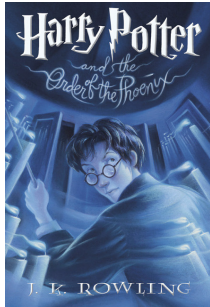
This is a fun, interesting committee! For more info, contact Sharon Moore 349-2318 spumonhighhollow@msn.com

CONTINUING...

Spiritual Book Club

**First Fridays, after Vespers, 8pm,
Rm 9** Cathy Harrington





Harry Potter

"Dumbledore lowered his hands and surveyed Harry through his half-moon glasses. 'It is

time,' he said 'for me to tell you what I should have told you five years ago, Harry. Please sit down. I am going to tell you everything.'"

The First UU Bookstore is now accepting pre-orders for *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*.

Release Date is Saturday, June 21. Price is \$23 plus tax, total \$24.87. Orders placed by Monday, April 28 are guaranteed to be available on the release date and can be placed in the Gallery after worship services. Questions? Contact Andrea Lerner at 452-6168 or andrea@austinuu.org or David Smith at david_smith@unforgettable.com.



Paradox Players Readers Theater

In April we will be reading a finely crafted contemporary comedy. Escape worldly worries for an evening! Share laughter and love of theater at 7:30 on Monday, April 21, in room 13. All are invited, no experience necessary.

April in the Gallery

The annual all-membership show sponsored by the Texas Society of Sculptors (TSOS), a non-profit sculptors' guild based in Austin, features around 30 sculptures by TSOS members, ranging from realistic to abstract, in materials that include bronze, stone, wood, clay, glass and concrete.

Split-the-Plate for the Romanian Partner Church

Once a month, on the third Sunday of the month, our church shares its offertory plate collection with a charitable organization. The designated organization for April 20 is the Romanian Partner Church.

FUUCA's partner church program was established in 1992 with a small Transylvanian Unitarian congregation, the Feketehalom Church, that, although limited in resources, has a long and distinguished history. The minister, Sandor Mathe, visited here and gave a sermon on November 3, 2002. He conducts services for the Feketehalom Church once a month in a building that is shared with other churches. The money we sent to our partner church has been used to offset expenses such as heat, light, and insurance.

We hope you will attend church on April 20 and make a larger than usual contribution in the knowledge that the Romanian Partner Church will receive half of the plate contributions on that date. Your checks should be payable to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. For further information about the Romanian Partner Church, contact Marjorie Loehlin at (512) 327-2159, e-mail address: mloehlin@jump.net.

Youth Tour to Transylvania

The Fourth Annual Youth Tour for UUs ages 15 to 19 will be held Thursday, July 24 through Wednesday, August 6. UU Youth from around the country will be accompanied by Cathy and Ron Cordes and other chaperons as they travel through Transylvania, including a 3-day visit to participants' partner churches. The trip begins with an overnight stay in Boston. More information is available at uupcc@uua.org.

Camp Fire News

Our Discovery Dragons participated in a coming-of-age ceremony along with their peers from the Austin and Fort Worth area. This moving ceremony is a secret, so all we can tell you is that this tradition is repeated year after year, and older Camp Fire members plan and carry out the many intricate elements. The club members have also enjoyed several sessions of Dungeons and Dragons, a participatory game of imagination. The adults have noticed the immediate propensity of children to compete—rather than cooperate—when confronted with challenges and problems. We will continue playing, and see whether the rewards of cooperation eventually persuade the children to alter their game playing behavior.

Spring Fling with San Antonio UUs

The San Antonio church is planning their Spring Fling campout for Saturday and Sunday, May 3 and 4, at Guadalupe River State Park (near Boerne) and are inviting us to join them. Call Trent Cheyney (210-434-1116) or Betsy Kropp (210-684-9528) for further information. Information on the park is available at www.tpwd.state.tx.us/park/guadalupe/guadalupe.htm or by calling 830-438-2656. Campsite reservations are first come, first served, so it is advisable to act quickly if you're interested.

All UU's Invited to the Wildflower Lunch Group

The Wildflower Lunch Group has been expanded to include UU's from all over town. We meet for lunch at 12:30 pm every Sunday at the dining area at Central Market south. Emphasis is on how we can enjoy time together. Order food from the cafe, buy it at the store, or bring your own lunch. Reservations not necessary; just show up!

Camp-Out at Krause Springs

Avoid the Easter weekend crowd and join us Friday, April 18 through Sunday, April 20 for a relaxed weekend with fellow Unitarians. Kid-friendly grounds, short hike to lake, great swimming hole.

Beauty: Waterfalls, Springs, Creek, Cypress trees

Fun: Swimming, Campfire and sing-along, Star gazing (if clear)

Bring: Food to share, drinking water, lawn chairs, flashlights. (no dogs, please)

Non campers: Don't have the equipment - hate dragging it around - can't leave that "important other" alone for the night. Then **come for the day** and sleep in your own bed. It's only 35 miles !

Saturday night potluck & musical jam

Directions: West on 71 through Bee Caves, 5 miles past Pedernalis river, right at Exxon station, next right, follow signs. Gates close at 8:00 pm. Pay at house. \$6/each, \$3/child.

Information: Vince 385-8862 vharrison1@grandecom.net

(Continued from page 5)

Internal Reflections – continued

Spirit of deep Mystery and Wonder,
help me to recall that
I do not need all the answers
to the questions of the world.
I cannot heal all brokenness, this I know.
That is not mine to try,
And yet, it is mine to begin,
To take one step, touch one soul,
Hug one child.
Grasp one hand
when it would be easier to pass by.
Give me courage, God, to do my part
even when the odds are on the other side.
God of Wholeness, give me patience,
For the world is in transition and
it is not easy to deal with unmanaged change.
This is a time when spirits need renewal.
The flowers dare to bloom, and we must too.
And so it is I pray:
Where there is anger, may there be pardon.
Where there is despair, may hope take root.
Where there is loneliness let love arise this day.
And may the promises of Easter,
The gifts of strength, endurance and (yes) laughter . . .
Bless those we love . . . and those from whom we are estranged . . .
Bless all those remembered and those forgotten . . .
Bless all the shapes of Life
This day.

Rev. Dr. M. Maureen Killoran
March 20, 2003

Cathy Harrington

Next CUUPS Meeting

Please join the Covenant of UU Pagans (CUUPS) in the courtyard on Sunday April 27 at 10:30 am for discussion and sharing. Contact Kelley at 479-8020 or fofla@io.com for more information.

Chat & Craft Club

The Chat & Craft Club will meet on Tuesday, April 22 from 10:00 am to noon in the Gallery. For more information call Carol Purdy at 926-3258.

End-of-Month Party

Saturday, April 26, at 8:00 pm.

Hosts: Joan and Bill Forbes, 4505 Sinclair Avenue, 78756

For: Everyone, intergenerational UU's and friends.

Why come? To meet old friends and make new ones in an informal atmosphere. To have fun.

Bring: Snack and drink to share.

Directions: 4 blocks west of Burnet, 1 block north of 45th Street. For help or information, call Bill or Joan at 420-0707.

HOSTS ARE NEEDED FOR FUTURE PARTIES, which are always held on the last Saturday of the month. Your duties as host are: to lay in some disposable tableware and turn your porch light on. To offer your house, home or hovel for a future month, call Kelly Teese [927-2292] or Jean Wyllys [926-6353].



Tea Time with Cathy Harrington

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



What is Your Vision for Religious Education?

Come share your thoughts on religious education leadership with the Director of Religious Education Search Committee Sunday, May 4 from 10:45 to 11:15 in Room 13.

Grubby Sunday

The Grounds Committee is having a Grubby Sunday on April 27 from 1:00 to 3:00. For more information contact Barb Denny at btddeny@flash.net or 259-1596.

UU Garage Sale – Time for Spring Cleaning

The UU Parents are sponsoring the **UU Garage Sale on Saturday, May 17**. We will be accepting **all items for donation** including clothes, furniture, household goods, etc. Look in the next newsletter for more details about drop-off times and locations. We will provide each donor a tax receipt. Happy cleaning!

SWUUC Spring Conference

"Deepening Your Faith, Growing Your Soul" will be the theme of this year's SWUUC Spring Conference, April 25 through 27 in Tulsa, Oklahoma. This is a reasonably priced weekend of UU education with lots of interesting topics. The conference is open to all ages. For more information or to register, see the green fliers on the Church bulletin board, call 918-743-2363, email info@allsoulschurch.org or visit www.allsoulschurch.org.

Barbara's Briefing

National Volunteer Week April 27-May 3

The last week of April is National Volunteer Week. It is a time for recognition and celebration of all the unpaid workers who make wonderful things happen because to do so gives them joy.

Church volunteers have long been seen as the "Originals", and indeed they are among the first to serve without salary on an ongoing basis. Think about some key areas of our social structure after churches, though. They too were begun by volunteers: Florence Nightingale in nursing, John Augustus in prison reform (invented probation), and the short-term volunteer job of Midnight Rider, performed by Paul Revere. (Did you ever think of him as a volunteer before?)

This church is richly blessed in volunteers, and more are calling the office every week to offer their skills. Do not doubt that the work of this congregation is truly done by hundreds of unpaid staff: groundskeepers, facility fixers, ushers, committee leaders, computer wizards, lay ministers, RE teachers, Board members, office helpers, choir members - that's just the first list that pops to mind. If I listed all the names, it would take a page of the newsletter -- and I may just do that next year for National Volunteer Week.

Warmest thanks to our renewed and enhanced team of office computer Help Desk volunteers, which continues to grow and help us more. New members are David Matthis, Coordinator; Chris Martin, Rick Duiker, and Allen Irby; returning are Bob Boney, Joe Regan, Stan Hutchinson and several more who responded to the invitation here last month.

A special thanks also to Chris Heidel, Cathy Savage, Sherry Coombes and Jenny Wood, who gave several hours of their time to help prepare the Spring Congregational Meeting mail-out.

The thanks of a grateful church to all those who give your time and energy so generously, and congratulations for the real difference you make in our community. Those members and friends who want to serve First UU in any way are invited to call me at 452-6168, ext. 10 to talk about your skills and interests.

Barbara Lighthouse
Director of Administration

*** Sociables is Out to Lunch ***

Sociables is an informal brunch gathering each Sunday. All are invited. Folks start arriving around 1:15. **We are seeking a new Sociables Coordinator.** In the meantime, we're out to lunch.

April 20	Sun Hing	2801 Guadalupe
April 27	Marimont Cafeteria	623 West 38th St.

Join Us Sunday Evening for a Movable Feast!

All are invited to attend dinner with us after Sunday Night Live beginning at 7:00 pm. Check the poster board outside the office for details on Sunday evenings. If no host is listed that week, the Movable Feast will be held at Central Market 4001 North Lamar Blvd. 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.

Treasurer's Report

	<u>Jan - Mar 03</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>	
				As of March 31, we are 25% through the year
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Total Pledge Income	89,311.79	390,000.00	22.9%	Pledge income lagging--target is 25%
Total Contributions Income	17,106.71	53,000.00	32.28%	
Total Misc Income	(8,212.97)	24,000.00	(34.22%)	Misc income negative balance due to large purchase of HEB scrip
Total Income	108,463.68	526,000.00	20.62%	
Expense				
Total Ministry, Outreach, Pastoral Care	34,674.45	117,688.00	29.46%	
Total Worship Services	17,082.02	63,020.00	27.11%	
Total Religious Educ. and Programs	23,822.54	87,606.00	27.19%	
Total General Operations	35,141.11	150,669.00	23.32%	
Total Facility and Grounds	23,341.46	93,530.00	24.96%	
Total Denominational Affairs	7,500.00	32,245.00	23.26%	
Total Memb. Support and Programs	1,965.30	20,500.00	9.59%	
Total Expense	143,458.20	565,258.00	25.38%	Total expense in line with 25% target
Net Income	<u>(34,994.52)</u>	<u>(39,258.00)</u>	<u>89.14%</u>	Budget Deficit

Events at a Glance

Sun	CAMP-OUT AND SING-ALONG AT KRAUSE SPRINGS	Sun	SWUUC SPRING CONFERENCE, TULSA, OK
Apr 20	9:30 AM Sunday Service	Apr 27	9:30 AM Sunday Service
	10:30 AM Pathfinder Covenant Group		10:30 AM CUUPS Meeting
	11:30 AM Sunday Service		10:30 AM Pathfinder Covenant Group
	1:00 PM Social Action Committee		11:30 AM Sunday Service
	5:20 PM Bring a Friend to Sunday Night Live!		1:00 PM Budget Workshop
	5:30 PM Camp Fire		1:00 PM Grubby Sunday on the Grounds
	6:30 PM RE/YRUU		1:00 PM RE/YPC
	7:00 PM Tai Chi		5:20 PM Sunday Night Live!
			5:30 PM Camp Fire
			6:30 PM RE/YRUU
			7:00 PM Tai Chi
Mon	7:00 PM International Folk Dancing	Mon	6:00 PM Committee on Ministries
Apr 21	7:00 PM Open Covenant Group	Apr 28	7:00 PM International Folk Dancing
	7:30 PM Reader's Theater		7:00 PM Helping Hands and Hearts
			7:00 PM Finance Committee
Tue	9:30 AM Deadline for 4/27 Order of Service	Tue	9:30 AM Deadline for 5/4 Order of Service
Apr 22	10:30 AM Chat and Craft Club	Apr 29	3:00 PM Tea Time with Cathy Harrington
	3:00 PM Tea Time with Cathy Harrington		7:00 PM Budget Workshop
	7:30 PM Women's Spirituality		7:30 PM Women's Spirituality
Wed	6:00 PM <i>A Liberal View</i> on ACTV, Cable Channel 11	Wed	6:00 PM <i>A Liberal View</i> on ACTV, Cable Channel 11
Apr 23	7:00 PM Evensong 1	Apr 30	7:00 PM Evensong 1
	7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (w/ Childcare)		7:30 PM Choir Rehearsal (w/ Childcare)
	7:30 PM Young Adult Religious Network		7:30 PM Young Adult Religious Network
Thu	6:30 PM Science & Religion Class with Dr. Loehr	Thu	7:00 PM Adult RE Committee
Apr 24	7:00 PM Facilities Committee	May 1	7:00 PM Tai Chi
	7:00 PM Tai Chi		7:30 PM Listening Ministers Meeting
Fri	SWUUC SPRING CONFERENCE, TULSA, OK	Fri	9:30 AM Deadline for May 15 Newsletter
Apr 25		May 2	6:00 PM Soup Meal before Vespers
			7:00 PM Vespers Services
			8:00 PM Spiritual Book-of-the-Month Club
Sat	SWUUC SPRING CONFERENCE, TULSA, OK	Sat	9:00 AM CPC & YPC Curricula Workshop
Apr 26	10:30 AM Women's Spirituality	May 3	9:00 AM Beginning Quilting Class
	4:00 PM YRUU Rehearsal for Sunday's Service		10:30 AM Women's Spirituality
	8:00 PM End-of-Month Party		

**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

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168
 Church Fax: (512) 453-5912
 E-Mail: info@AustinUU.org
www.AustinUU.org

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Return Service Requested

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)
 On hiatus

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 on TV in room 21, or leave their children with our childcare staff in room 19.

Public Forum "Live" Sundays - Howson Hall at First UU Church of Austin

No Forum Today **April 20, 11:30 am**

Update on the 78th Legislature **April 27, 11:30 am**
Suzy Woodford, Executive Director, Common Cause Texas
 The 78th Legislature is more than halfway over, but the Texas lawmakers are nowhere near halfway done. Suzy Woodford, Executive Director of Common Cause Texas and a veteran legislative observer, will discuss the current status of issues such as budget cuts to healthcare, prisons, and schools and legislative ethics and campaign finance.

Public Forum on Cable Access Channel 10 Sundays at 6 PM

April 20	Frank N. Bash	How We Know How the Universe Started
April 27	David Butts	Culture and Politics in the New American Empire