

JUNE NEWSLETTER

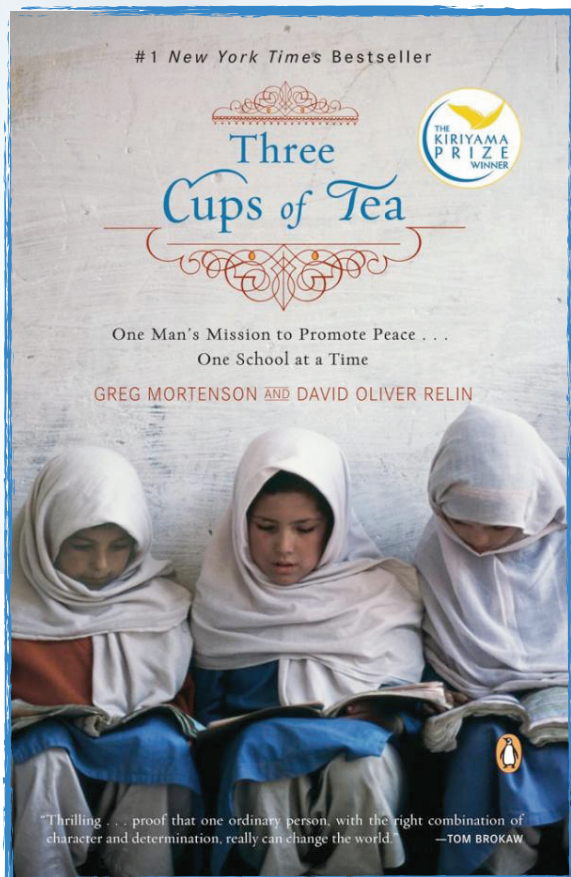
Summer

Reading Fun!

Your church invites you to join us this summer as we read the book *Three Cups of Tea* by Greg Mortenson. Our goal is to have **EVERYONE** in the congregation read this amazing book! Why, do you ask? Well, every summer our children and youth learn about social justice in their Religious Education classrooms by conducting and participating in a social action project. The Social Action Committee has joined with Religious Education to focus this summer on *Pennies for Peace*, a program brought to our attention by Jim and Carol Reed. Through this program our youth will be learning about one man's efforts to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. That man is Greg Mortenson, and that effort is what his book, *Three Cups of Tea*, is about. So, similar to the City of Austin's "Mayor's Book Club", we would like everyone to read *Three Cups of Tea* for fellowship, for understanding, and for support and encouragement to our children and youth.



The Social Action Committee has joined with Religious Education to focus this summer on *Pennies for Peace*, a program brought to our attention by Jim and Carol Reed. Through this program our youth will be learning about one man's efforts to build schools in Pakistan and Afghanistan. That man is Greg Mortenson, and that effort is what his book, *Three Cups of Tea*, is about. So, similar to the City of Austin's "Mayor's Book Club", we would like everyone to read *Three Cups of Tea* for fellowship, for understanding, and for support and encouragement to our children and youth.



Three Cups of Tea: One Man's Mission to Promote Peace...One School At A Time, has been on the NY Times Bestseller list for over three years. The book describes Mortenson's transition from a mountain-climber to a humanitarian committed to reducing poverty and educating girls in [Pakistan](#) and [Afghanistan](#). He did this by co-founding the [Central Asia Institute](#), which has built over 131 schools in the most remote areas of the countries, educating over 58,000 students.

The *Pennies for Peace* program will broaden our youth's cultural horizons and help them learn about their capacities as philanthropists. Please see Lara Douglas' article on page 13 to learn more about what our children will experience in this inspiring curriculum. The book will be available for purchase at the Social Action table in the Gallery on Sundays throughout the summer. We will also have several copies in the church library for you to check out. At the end of the summer we will have a potluck and discussion group to talk about the book and what we learned. **Happy Reading!**

-Your First UU Religious Education Department and Social Action Committee

*New Members who joined our church between
January 1, 2010 - June 13, 2010*

*The Membership Committee cordially invites **YOU** to a
New Member Recognition during the service and reception to follow in Howson Hall
with Rev. Janet Newman, Friends & Members.*

*Sunday, June 13, 2010
One Service at 10:00 AM*



In The Interim by Janet Newman your Interim Minister, '09-'10

Where has this year gone? It seems only yesterday that we were meeting each other and planning our ministry together in this first year of the interim period. For the second year, you will be well served by another Interim Minister, Rev. Ed Brock.

I first met Ed and his wife Alphise in the spring of 1989 when I was doing a one-year Interim Ministry at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Jacksonville, FL. Ed dropped by to meet me in the office, and we had a wonderful conversation about the ministry, living in Florida, and all sorts of things. If I recall correctly, Alphise and Ed accepted my invitation to stay in my apartment in Jacksonville during candidating week while I visited my "base camp" in central Florida.

Ed served the UU Church of Jacksonville for eight years, which is about the average length of pastorate for UU clergy. We would speak with each other at General Assembly and other gatherings, and I always enjoyed our conversations.

Now you have an opportunity to make sure that Ed (and the rest of the Brock family when they visit) receives the wonderful Texas hospitality that you bestowed on me. I truly felt welcome with you from the first moment of my arrival, and I am grateful to you for that.

As I told you in my report to the May meeting of the congregation, I am very pleased with the way we have worked together this year. The beginning of your interim ministry period could have been filled with bleakness, low morale, and lack of spirit.

Instead, I found you to be willing and capable, eager to make the most of this gift of time in transition, and ready to embrace the challenges of change. I like to think of ours as a process of transformation. Given all that, there is much that remains for you to work on to achieve transformation, and your second-year Interim Minister, Rev. Ed Brock, and the Transition Team will guide you through it.

Some of you have asked how my job search went. I am delighted to report that I did accept a job offer for 2010 -- 2011! I never take it for granted that I will be offered a position; many of my highly-qualified colleagues are still in search.

I will serve as Interim Minister to the Thomas Jefferson Memorial Church, Unitarian Universalist, in Charlottesville, Virginia. As you may know, Charlottesville is the home of the University of Virginia and is well-known for its beauty near the Blue Ridge Mountains. The church underwent two years of Interim Ministry but their Search Committee did not find a good "fit" in a minister to call.

So this will be a new experience for me: a third year of Interim Ministry. As always, I will hit the ground running, and I'll need to learn where the congregation is, what it has accomplished, and what it needs to work on now for its continuing health and its successful call of a new settled minister.

Best wishes to all, Janet E. Newman



Second Year Interim Minister Selected

It is with absolute delight that the Second Year Interim Minister Task Force announces the selection of our next interim minister, Reverend Ed Brock, who promises to inspire and ready our congregation and church for a settled minister.

"I am delighted and excited by the opportunity to work with the Austin congregation over the course of the next church year. I am eager to begin working with you to help build a solid foundation for your next settled minister. I look forward to the chance to meet each of you in the coming months."

Rev. Brock completed his Masters in Divinity degree at Vanderbilt University and his Doctor of Ministry degree at Wisdom University of Oakland, California. He has done extensive continuing education work in psychological and spiritual disciplines.

He has studied with gifted teachers over the years including Rabbi Edwin Friedman, Dr. Marshall Rosenberg, Dr. Matthew Fox, Dr. Jeremy Taylor, and Don Richard Riso.

Rev. Brock cites three principal influences in his professional life: the use of family systems theory under Rabbi Friedman (same base as Dr. Peter Steinke in our Bridge Builders process), the work of Dr. Marshall Rosenberg on the theory and practice of communication as it influences congregations and relationships, and finally as a student of spiritual practice with an emphasis on Buddhism.

"What I bring to a new ministry is a thorough understanding of the family systems theory as it applies to congregations as well as individuals, an understanding of Dr. Marshall Rosenberg's work on the art of communication and dialogue, an appreciation of the value of Buddhism for spirituality, and an understanding of the basic theories and practice of psychotherapy."

Rev. Brock was born in Birmingham, Alabama and entered his teen age years when Birmingham was at the center of the great civil rights drama of social change, protest and violence. Birmingham is also where Rev. Brock began his ministry work at St. Mark's United Methodist Church in 1979. In 1989 after some time in Fort Collins, Colorado, (working as an investor counselor) the Brock family found a spiritual home at the Foothills Unitarian Universalist Church. *"...my wife and I became involved in the Foot Hills Unitarian Church while living in Ft. Collins, Colorado. We both realized very quickly that it was a spiritual home for us. In participating in the congregation, and getting to know Rev. Walter Royal Jones, the minister at the Foot Hills UU Church, I began to realize I was a UU at heart. I realized that the UU way of thinking was in harmony with how I had always thought. I had never known there was an organization "out there" that matched how I felt and thought. Now I did."*

Rev. Brock came to be a Unitarian minister at the Jacksonville Unitarian Church in Florida. In Jacksonville Rev. Brock was active both in his church and community. He started the first chapter of Amnesty International and was chairperson of the Interfaith Council of Jacksonville, an organization of 300 member congregations representing every faith group in the county. Rev. Brock organized and led this group of 1,400 people to participate in a series of staged protest against the Iraqi War. He was also a member of Jacksonville's "Peace Committee," an organization of community leaders who did mediation for organizations that were in conflict.

Reverend Brock is currently the consulting interim minister for the First Unitarian Church of Hamilton, Ontario, Canada, while residing in Edmonds, Washington with his wife, Alphise, and their two "wonderful daughters," Lily and Allie, who were adopted as infants from China.

Please join us, your Interim Minister Task Force (Michael West, Gillian Redfearn, Kae McLaughlin, Ken Pfluger, and Brian Miller), in welcoming Rev. Ed Brock to our community for the next year.



Sunday Worship

The time for the Sunday morning Worship Service is 10 a.m.



June 6: Service at 10 a.m. only. The FUUCA Adult Choir will wrap up their Spring season with "Cloudburst" by Eric Whitacre. Sung in Spanish to the poetry of Octavio Paz, "Cloudburst" features handbells, sound textures, and a whole slew of sonic surprises. The Choir will be joined by musicians from Conspirare and the Texas Choral Consort. As this is the first service of the summer series at 10 a.m., the Men's Breakfast Fellowship will provide a free brunch in Howson Hall after the service.

June 13: Service at 10 a.m. only. Theme: "Courage, Commitment, and Claiming Adulthood" by Rev. Dr. Janet E. Newman, high school seniors in our religious education program, and young adults.

This service will be composed of two celebrations. The first will be a recognition of the metaphorical "bridging" of our high school seniors to young adulthood. Some seniors and young adults will speak of what this means to them. The second celebration will be a ceremony of welcome for new members of the church. Persons who signed the membership book between January 1, 2010, and June 6, 2010, will be welcomed into congregational fellowship. With so many celebrations, we need special treats – there will be cake in Howson Hall after the service!

June 20: Service at 10 a.m. only. "The Fire and the Rose are One" by Rev. Dr. Janet E. Newman. The title of my sermon comes from the end of a long poem by T. S. Eliot titled "Little Gidding," part of *Four Quartets*. In our months of interim ministry together we have experienced much progress toward congregational goals. I want to sum up where we have been and where I think you are going – as well as what keeps me going. There will be a Ceremony of Leave-taking in the service and perhaps more cake afterwards in Howson Hall.

June 27: Service at 10 a.m. only. "Buy the Ticket, Take the Ride*: Surrender as Spiritual Practice" by Ron Phares. Surrender, in its various permutations, has been promoted by many religious traditions as a way method of spiritual transformation. Christianity, Buddhism, Taoism and Hinduism all promote it as a way to live the blessed life. In fact, Islam means surrender. Yet, surrender can be and has been exploited by those seeking to dominate others. So it is a great boon, but also quite dangerous. The stuff of heroes. Or, as Cheap Trick wrote, "Surrender. Surrender. But don't give yourself away." Yet if surrender is a legitimate path, how are we UU's to approach it? To what are we to surrender?

*Hunter S. Thompson



Summer Reminders!

Only one Service at
10 a.m.
June, July and August

Forum will be held
in the Sanctuary
in June

Forum on hiatus in
July and August

June 6th
the Men's Breakfast Group
and Fellowship Committee
are inviting us to brunch
after the 10 a.m. service
Come and enjoy!



Sunday Forum



The Forum will be held in the Sanctuary at 11:30 a.m. in June

June 6: Lee Leffingwell “My First Year as Austin Mayor” Mayor Lee Leffingwell is an Austin native. He grew-up in South Austin. Lee served as an officer and pilot in the US Navy during the Vietnam War. He was a pilot for Delta Airlines for 30 years. After retiring from Delta, Lee became a full-time community volunteer in Austin, with a focus on Environmental issues. He served 5 years on Austin’s Environmental Board. In 2005 he was elected Council Member, and re-elected in 2008. In 2009 he was elected Mayor of Austin. Join us for this exciting speech and Q&A into the Mayor’s first year and a view into what to expect in Austin going forward!

June 13: Karen Kreps, “Intimacies; Secrets of Love, Sex & Romance” You may know Karen Kreps from her candid explorations of intimacy in her weekly column appearing in “The Good Life Magazine” for over seven years. She’s also hosted hundreds of discussion groups about love at Book People. Her work has been published in national magazines, newspapers, and online sources. Karen has a Master of Arts Degree in Cinema Studies from New York University and works as an independent producer of creative web content and social media. Bring your open-mind and sense of humor for this fascinating interactive exploration of true intimacy, and the love, sex, and romance of healthy relationships!

June 20: Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo. Appointed Austin Police Chief in July of 2007, Art Acevedo serves as the eighth police chief in the 87 year history of the Austin Police Department. He’s the first Hispanic to lead the City’s police force. With more than two decades of law enforcement experience, he oversees a department of 2,200 personnel. Born in Havana, Cuba, Acevedo migrated to the US with his family in 1968. He grew up in California. He’s married and is the father of 3 children. Join us for this exclusive presentation and Q&A to hear firsthand how the first three years have been and what to expect going forward from the leader of Austin’s law enforcement!

June 27: Austin UU’s Live Music Showcase We are fortunate to have a plethora of emerging musicians and artists in Austin. With so many talented musicians Austin has to offer, we’re hosting a Live Music Showcase where four different local musicians will share two songs each to give us a taste of their amazing talent! We’ve invited local musicians Charlie Faye, Kalu James, Noelle Hampton, and Ruby James to all shower us with their love and talent. Join us for this amazing and unique live music showcase! After all the musicians have played we’ll also entertain an audience Q&A.



Chalice Lighter Program, Spring 2010 Call

One of the best ways for members of this church to reach out to other members of our denomination is to join the Chalice Lighter Program. Three times per year you will be asked to contribute a minimum of \$10 (going above that amount has never been held against givers) for a specific congregation within the Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference (our district, spreading from Mexico to Eastern Tennessee, but primarily in Texas) for some major project, to overcome an obstacle in the way of growth. The Spring 2010 Call has just gone out (if you consider yourself a member of Chalice Lighters, but did not receive their mailing this last week, let me know); the project is very close at hand, a request on the part of San Marcos UU Fellowship to help pay off a loan that stands in the way of building a church (they have grown rapidly in recent years and are bursting the seams of their present meeting quarters).

You can get yourself involved in this relatively inexpensive but very useful program by contributing. You can send a check, made out to “SWUUC Chalice Lighters” at: Chalice Lighters, SWUUC District Office, 6720 Brentwood Stair Road, Fort Worth, Texas 76112. Or you can donate by using the district’s website, where a Paypal feature is provided: <http://swuuc.org/pages/stewardship/chalice-lighters.php>. For more info on this, contact Gary Bennett, 219-6120, gbennett12@austin.rr.com.

Social Action: Reach Out to the World

Monthly Special Offering for

For over twenty years, our church has collected canned food on Sundays for Caritas. Caritas is a local humanitarian organization serving the homeless, working poor and documented refugees. The canned goods we bring them help stock their Pantry so that individuals and families in need can take home groceries.



But Caritas does much more than act as a food bank. It provides comprehensive services that include housing, food, education, and employment. Church member Susan Mestier was moved to nominate Caritas for our Monthly Special Offering program so that we can also give financial support for these services. So when we pass the plate on **June 13 for Caritas**, please

give as generously as you can! Your donation will support Caritas as it provides this vulnerable population with housing stability, life skills, financial assistance, and stable employment.



Helping a UU Prisoner

It may surprise you to learn that every so often our church receives an appeal for help from someone in prison. Typically these letters are addressed to our minister, and often seem to have a “scattershot” approach. You get the sense the prisoner is writing to as many religious institutions as s/he can think of, in the hopes that someone will respond to her or his plight. Unfortunately, it is often hard to make sense of the situation described and how our minister or our congregation could help.

But a few months ago we received a different sort of letter. In this letter the prisoner identified himself as a UU, what church he had belonged to (it was outside of Texas), and that he had been recently transferred to the federal prison in Bastrop. He did not detail why he was in prison. What he wanted was some liberal theological texts for the prison’s chapel library. A simple request, and one that I thought we could answer.

Knowing that the First UU Young Adults group had worked with the Inside Books Project before (an organization that gets books to prisoners), I turned to them. Adam Bates took on the task and collected and mailed the books, with donations from Geoff Lorenz and Stephanie Gill, our church librarian. Adam is also working on another shipment to get some Wiccan books mailed to a different prisoner. Social Action Committee paid the postage.

My thanks go to Adam, Geoff and Stephanie for answering the call. I just wanted to share with you this unique way our congregation is ministering to the larger community!

Hats Off to Hands On Housing Volunteers

Our all-UU Hands On Housing project on Saturday, April 24th was a great success, despite being



rained out the previous weekend. First UU had 33 hardy volunteers working alongside 46 UUs from San Marcos to Georgetown as we scraped, primed, and painted the house yellow with green trim, replaced the back door, and built a new steel roof for the back half of the house – a major undertaking. A small crew also did finishing touches on Saturday, May 8th. We are grateful for the help of these wonderful volunteers: Connie Beck; Janine Blackwelder; James Brush; Alexander, Benjamin, Ken, and Mia Burton; Scott Butke; George Denny; Beverly Donoghue; Russell Eskew; Isla Ferguson; Joan Forbes; Beki Halpin; Eric Hartman; Vera and Richard Horne; Phil LaRoche; Audrey Lewis; Geneva and Tom Martin; Richard Mauldin; Carol and Jim Reed, Lori and Rich Sommer; Veryan Thompson; Susan and Tom Thomson; Ryland Trahan, Carol Trautman; and Corinna and Dale Whiteaker-Lewis.

NORTH CENTRAL CAREGIVERS NEEDS YOUR DRIVING SKILLS!

As part of the Faith in Action Coalition, First UU has helped provides rides to seniors in our area. However, we need your help - especially during the summer.

North Central Caregivers has had to turn down requests for rides to doctors and other healthcare providers because there weren't enough drivers.



WHAT You Can Do! Volunteer to drive once a month, twice a month - as much time as you can give. Anything will be appreciated. Meet some amazing folks and know that you are putting your Faith in Action.

Call Alice Taugott, Executive Director at 453-2273 to sign up.

Seniors' Luncheon

Tuesday, June 8th

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman

837-0988

Program: *The Dirigibles*- Mary Jane Ford, Edward Sledge, Jim Barry, Jay Barnett
Eclectic folk music: Traditional, original, and classical.



June Play a Dramatic Comedy

June 4 opens the second production of our 2010 season, *Charlie Cox Runs with Scissors*, by Michael McKeever. This award-winning dramatic comedy is about a middle-aged man who's never been in love and never taken a risk. When faced with one big unexpected problem, Charlie hits the road, hoping to find some meaning in his life. At a broken-down motel in the middle of nowhere, he accidentally stumbles upon the one great love of his life. Fireworks ensue as Love and Death, personified with glorious irreverence, battle for the soul of Charlie Cox. With warmth, humor and

humanity, *Charlie Cox Runs with Scissors* shows how sometimes all it takes is a reminder of death to help us learn to really live.

Directed by Lisa Foster, the production stars two actors new to our stage - Jesse Griffith and Doug LeBelle. Returning are Paradox favorites last seen in our February show, Ashley Edwards, Peter Blackwell and Kathleen Lawson. We urge you to reserve your seat soon, as our last show sold out for several performances, and we want you to avoid disappointment! You can do this by phone, 744-1495, or online at paradoxplayers.org. The show closes on June 20.

As always, **free childcare** is available at the first matinee – June 6, 3:00 – if reserved by May 31 at childcare@austinuu.org.





President's Corner

What an exciting year we have ahead of us! Before I get to that, I would like to acknowledge our outgoing Interim Minister, Janet Newman. Janet has helped us accomplish many things during her year with us. What sticks out most for me is the wise, clear and focused way she has encouraged us to work more closely as a community. In the words of one recent visitor, "It feels healthy here."

Janet, thank you from all of us for your heartfelt service to us. You were just what we needed when you arrived, and we wish you success wherever your journey takes you. Please keep in touch, and come back to visit any time!

This will be a challenging year to be president, in a good way. We'll tackle issues no less than: Who do we want to be (Vision), how we will get there (Mission), who will lead us there (Interim AND Settled Minister Searches) (!!), how will we pay for it (Stewardship), and how will it operate (Policy Based Governance). Wow!

The ambition and scope of these hopes are downright humbling. Do we as a community have the passion, talents, commitment, and strong backs to pull them off? I know the answer to that, and so do you. From all of us on your new Board of Trustees, thank you for your trust in electing us. Here's to a great year, and see you in church. -Eric Stimmel, President of the Board of Trustees

Meet and Eat for June 16:

On Wednesday, June 16, the Membership Committee will host Meet and Eat, which will be an opportunity thank leaders who have ably served us during the past year.

Our Interim Minister, Janet Newman, will complete her one-year interim ministry in June. She has guided and advised us through the healing and reconciliation process over the past year and moved us into the future.

Several members of our Board of Trustees, Nell Newton, Derek Howard, Luther Elmore, Jeff Hutchens, and Sheila Gladstone have completed their terms and have contributed to the current health of our congregation.

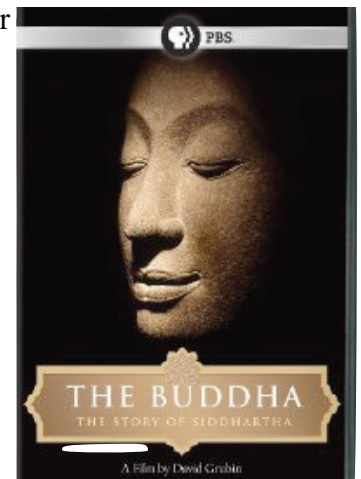
Ron Phares, who has done it all in his years with us - everything from preaching to advising the youth group to managing events - will be leaving for Utah to begin his Ministerial Internship in a UU congregation.

We also would like to welcome new Board members: President, Eric Stimmel; Vice President, Chris Jimmerson; Treasurer, Kae McLaughlin; Secretary, Klondike Steadman; and Trustees, Susan Thomson and Eric Hepburn.

We hope you will join us to talk informally over dinner with our past and new leadership. Dinner is at 6 p.m. in Howson Hall and costs \$5 per person or \$10 per family. Please reserve childcare at childcare@austinuu.org.

Spiritual Movie Night: The Buddha June 18 at 7 p.m

Emmy-winning filmmaker David Grubin, in this documentary, explores the life of the Buddha, his quest for serenity and his eventual enlightenment. The documentary includes interviews with contemporary Buddhists, including the Dalai Lama and Pulitzer Prize-winning poet W.S. Merwin. The film is narrated by Richard Gere.



We will, as usual, discuss not only what we think of the film but also what thoughts the movie sparks about Buddhism and spirituality.

The middle and high school students will also be studying Buddhism this month as part of our Neighboring Faiths curriculum; hopefully some of them will attend and share their thoughts on this movie.

There will be a children's movie; therefore there will be childcare for kids over age 5. For more information contact Scott, at Scott@austinuu.org



*Brent Baldwin
Music Director*

MUSIC MATTERS

The First Unitarian Universalist Church Music Program Presents:

CLOUDBURST

*music by Eric Whitacre
poetry by Octavio Paz*

June 6th, 2010 @ 10am
4700 Grover Avenue

The FUUCA Adult Choir will wrap up their Spring season with:

"Cloudburst" by Eric Whitacre.

Sung in Spanish to the poetry of Octavio Paz, "Cloudburst" features handbells, sound textures, and a whole slew of sonic surprises.

The Choir will be joined by musicians from Conspirare and the Texas Choral Consort.



Your favorite First UU Church Sermons now on iTunes!

You can now listen to the Sunday sermons through iTunes. This free service, set up by your First UU Webteam's Tom Thomson, allows you to conveniently subscribe to audio podcasts and listen to them on your iPod. You can subscribe and see what's currently available through the iTunes website or directly through this link:<http://alturl.com/fhcf> The webteam would like to add your favorite sermon to our iTunes selection. Please send the name and date of your favorite sermon from the last 10 years to webmaster@austinuu.org and they will make it available via iTunes. You'll find a complete list of sermons from the last 10 years here: <http://alturl.com/uvqf>

**Get Ready to Welcome
The Church Hoppers!**

Spring is starting to fade into summer, and the dogwood has dropped its flowers and started to catch fire. This time of year, young couples' thoughts turn to...church hopping.

Help us get ready! Last year, July and August were some of our highest months for visitors--and what a great opportunity to get out and meet them, shake hands, and ask them lots of questions (because, really, that's what we're best at, right?)

Join us as we welcome the Church-Hopping Nation this summer. Membership will be in the gallery throughout the month of June, looking for some new faces willing to take on an hour or two a month to help us be the welcoming, questioning church we tell people we are.

We're looking for smiling faces in Howson Hall, friendly faces at the front table, and new Usher /Greeters to welcome people into the sanctuary itself. Basically, we're looking for you!

*Jacob Williamson,
Membership Co-
Chair, jvw@io.com*



Moving Right Along for June

You will have received your first Quarterly Statement from Stewardship. We have sent this Statement to remind everybody of where each of us stands in fulfilling our pledges.

This simplest of reminders - the reminder of the dollar amount of your pledge for 2010, and the amount you have paid through the First Quarter – shows that collectively we have contributed slightly more than a quarter of our total pledged amount at the quarter mark of the year.

As we have said before, Stewardship is more than an annual canvass: Stewardship includes consolidating our growing sense of community and commitment to our Church from within ourselves.

What we have done so far in 2010 for Stewardship marks quite an accomplishment. What a difference a year makes. This is where you come in. - *Bill Edwards, Stewardship Chairman*

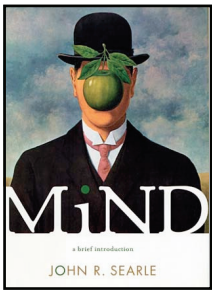
**Spring is the time when...
we hear from our YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian
Universalists)**

The annual youth service took place in May with many willing and able participants. The four homilies, following the theme of measuring ones worth, were written by Sierra and Lauren Tothoro, Natalie Houchen and Aaron Osmer. The other seniors are Shannon Mahoney and Rachel Loncar. As people left the service they were very appreciative of the students and their work. June 13th is the Sunday when the Bridging ceremony takes place during the service. While speaking with one of the graduating seniors I asked what this was about. She said, "The seniors will be leaving YRUU and be welcomed into the Young Adults group at this time." Most of the seniors have made plans concerning where they will attend school next year - from Northwestern to New York University to University of Texas in San Antonio, and Austin Community College they all have plans are looking toward the future.

The Worship Committee presents:

The Worship Leaders for the summer 10 a.m. services

July 4	Rev. Mark Scrabacz	August 1	Ron Phares
July 11	Rev. Timothy Tutt	August 8	Eric Hepburn
July 18	Ron Phares	August 15	Rev. Mark Scrabacz
July 25	Gary Bennett	August 22	Luther Elmore
		August 29	Mark Scrabacz
		September 6	Michael LeBurkien

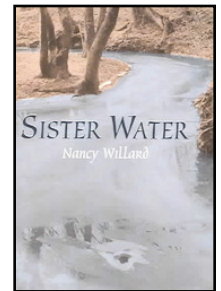


Mind and Meaning Book Club.

We read books of science and philosophy chosen by group vote after members have screened and suggested them. A volunteer leader summarizes the reading and discussion follows. People who have not done the reading do not share until the last minutes of the meeting.. The group meets in room 13A at 9:30 a.m. They are currently reading *Mind A Brief Introduction* by John R. Searle.

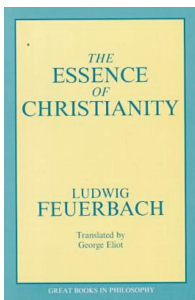
Heritage Book Club

meets on the second friday night of the month at someone’s home. The book discussion is preceded by a pot luck supper at 7 p.m. and the discussion gets started at approximately 8 p.m. People are welcome from the community. There are folks from not only First UU, but from Wildflower and Live Oak as well. The month of June will be hosted by Sally Scott, 4906 Beverly Hills Drive, (phone 453 2289). The group decides on future books and location for the meetings. The June book is *Sister Water* by Nancy Willard. For July the group chose two relatively short books: *Precious* by Sapphire and *A Framework for Understanding Poverty* by Ruby K. Payne.



The Sunday Book Group.

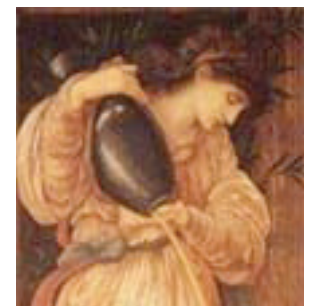
We have been meeting every Sunday morning for the last 14 years. Carol Knight (who is now at Wildflower Church) was tired of studying Unitarianism 101 and wanted to explore religion deeper, so we started the discussion group of books on religion and philosophy. We study classics and more modern books. We do not have a teacher or expert. The book is the expert. We choose the books ourselves, and we take turns facilitating the discussions. We try to discover what each author has to say, and we particularly learn from each other. We have three main questions: What does the author say; what does the author mean; and what do you think about the authors message. The first book, 14 years ago, was *God, A Biography* by Jack Miles, and we recently discussed *The Brothers Karamazov* by Dostoevsky.



We average 12 people per Sunday. We will meet at 8:30 a.m. in Room 13B this summer and are currently reading *The Essence of Christianity* by Feuerbach.

The Recovery Circle For Alternative Faiths

This is an inclusive recovery group for Atheists, Pagans, and anyone whose faith preference is not "mainstream." Our intention is to open a door for healing and hope, growth and tolerance. We meet Wednesdays each week at 7 p.m. We rotate locations between members' homes and places like Central Market on N. Lamar. Please email ThunderhoofDesigns@yahoo.com for location/ directions, or call Stephanie at 512-291-3106 (or Brooks at 512-512-371- 3228) It’s okay to leave a message. This is a healing time for us to share sacred space together. Come and be welcome!

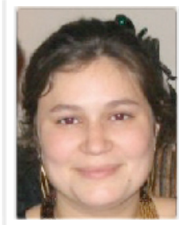


Singalong: We will meet on the fourth Saturday, June 26, from 7:30 to 10:30 at the Friend's Meeting House on 3701 E. MLK Blvd. Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing . Copies of "Rise Up Singing" will be available. Please do not bring alcohol, since this is not a custom of the Quakers. For more information contact Larry Vaughn 469-0029 or email lavest@sbcglobal.net. To be added to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at mjaneford@grandecom.net.

Thanks Cyndi!



and



Welcome Beth!

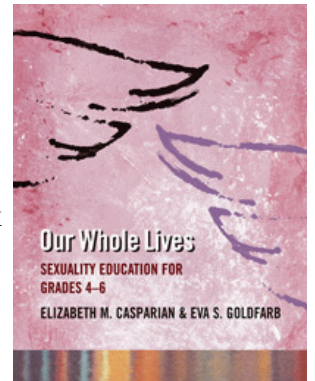
In late April, our longtime Children's Religious Education Assistant, Cyndi Stein, resigned to spend more time with her family. Cyndi is not gone, however! She continues to serve on the Children's Programming Committee and volunteers her time with the Wednesday night "Meet and Eat" program.

Right here, in our very own church, Beth Cortez-Neavel was looking for a part-time job and accepted the Children's RE Assistant position. Beth recently graduated from Simmons College in Boston with a degree in communications. Beth is a homegrown UU, active in our own programs as a child and youth. Beth is a church member and a very welcome addition to the Religious Education Department.



Our Whole Lives (OWL) for grades 4-6 this summer.

Trained facilitator, Bill Douglass will teach this class, with the assistance of Natalie Freeburg. For more information, please contact beth@austinuu.org. **Mandatory parent meeting June 13th.** This is an 8-session program for learning about and discussing the physical and emotional changes of puberty. Participants will read *It's Perfectly Normal* by Robie H. Harris, and examine topics such as values and sexuality, communication and decision making. Each session includes a HomeLink - a homework activity for parents and children to complete together.



Completing our Study of the Faiths

While the YRUU was busy with the Youth Service and Bridging, the middle and high school students will have finished studying Mormonism and will be starting to learn about Buddhism, hearing directly from a local Buddhist. Some of the students have been suggesting and implying all year that they think their beliefs are most in line with Buddhism so it will be interesting to see if that is the case.

Buddhism is the last of the faiths we are studying as part of the Neighboring Faiths curriculum. We also studied Hinduism, Judaism, Islam and Christianity. In each case we also attended a religious service and had a chance to talk directly to adherents of that faith who patiently answered our questions. The resulting conversations have led to very high level, intense dialogue which makes this teacher proud. *Scott Butki*



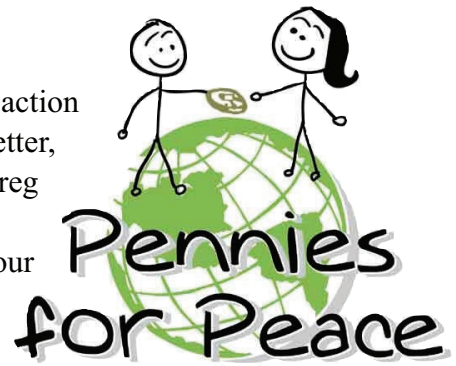
Report from Hogwarts: Camper Spots Filled!!

The excitement is building toward Camp UU, which takes place here at First UU the last week of July (the 26th-30th). All of the camper spots have filled and owl letters will go out in the next few weeks.

We are still seeking a few enthusiastic high school students to serve as prefects (and earn volunteer hours), as well as individuals of college-age and beyond to help in various ways. If you are interested in learning more about these opportunities, please contact camp leadership at CHARM-committee@yahoo.com.

Focus on Pennies for Peace

Religious Education is very excited to once again focus on a social action project this summer. As you may have read on the front page of the newsletter, that project is called *Pennies for Peace*. This program was developed by Greg Mortenson, author of the book *Three Cups of Tea*, to help build schools in Afghanistan and Pakistan. The *Pennies for Peace* curriculum will broaden our youth's cultural horizons and help them learn about their capacities as philanthropists. But wait. Let's start at the beginning. Below is a bit of the story from the beginning as told on the Pennies for Peace website:



It all started accidentally. In 1993 on his way down from a harrowing and unsuccessful climb of the world's second tallest mountain, K2 in northern Pakistan, an exhausted and dehydrated Mortenson stumbled into the village of Korphe. The people of the village helped him get well. While recovering he noticed the children had nowhere to learn.

"When I saw those 84 children sitting in the dirt and they asked for help to build a school I made a promise that day that I would help them," Mortenson explained. Mortenson returned to the United States and began to try to raise money for the project. He composed letters on a borrowed electric typewriter and sent them to 580 celebrities asking for help. He got one \$100 check.



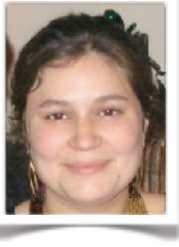
"What changed things around was that my mother, who is an elementary school principal in Wisconsin, invited me to come and talk to the kids. A fourth grader named Jeffrey said I have piggy bank at home and I am going to help you," Mortenson said. Jeffrey and his school mates raised 62,400 pennies. It was the start Mortenson needed. Three years after he had left, Mortenson returned to the remote Pakistani village. But his difficulties weren't over. He had to let go of what he calls his controlling ways.

"The village chief Haji Ali he took me by the side and said if you really want to get a school built, son, you have to sit down and be quiet and let us do the work. And six weeks later the school was built," said Mortenson. "It was a lesson I had to let go and let the communities be empowered."

This summer project will teach us about the world beyond our experience and show us that we can make a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time. Our children and youth will learn the rewards of sharing and working together to bring hope and educational opportunities to the children in Pakistan and Afghanistan. While a penny is virtually worthless in our country, in impoverished countries a penny buys a pencil and opens the door to literacy. We ask you to please read *Three Cups of Tea* so you can learn along with our youth!

The major part of this project is for EVERYONE in the church community to read *Three Cups of Tea*..(There are two versions of the story. One is written for kids and one is written for adults). Your first job is simple. Read the book. Thanks for participating and making our community grow, supporting the young people as they lead us in the second part of our job which is to have Pennies for Peace. The last part of the project is to join together at the end of the summer for a pot luck and celebration of our community reaching out into the world.

-Lara Douglass, Director of Religious Education



This is Beth Cortez-Neavel here, your new Children's Programming Assistant. May was my first full month in the Religious Education Office. Many thanks to all who helped make everything run smoothly.

Over the next few months the RE Department will be getting a make-over, so to speak. So, here's "What's UUp" in the RE world:



We're keeping Sundays colorful!



The RE Department has been allocated a small budget to help us paint the RE Classrooms. I'm heading a painting committee to pick out the colors and help facilitate the volunteers for our painting days.

We need volunteers! We'll be painting some of the weekends in July and August.

We need painting supplies! We're asking for donations of paintbrushes, drop-clothes, paint rollers, paint trays, edging tools, painting tape, scrub-brushes, buckets and whatever other supplies you have sitting around collecting dust!

And last but not least...

We're adding more volunteer opportunities!

Not only can you volunteer to paint rooms and work as a Sunday Teacher's Assistant, but now you can volunteer just 15 minutes of your time to help keep our classrooms clean!

Sunday RE Classroom Clean-Up Volunteers will be asked to help pick-up the classroom after class time. This gives the teacher more time to spend with the class. This also is a great way to help give back the eight hours you committed to when you registered your child with the church.

If you want more information on volunteering to be a Sunday Teacher's Assistant or a Sunday RE Classroom Clean-Up Volunteer, please e-mail me at Beth@austinuu.org.



Coming up next month... Get to know the Nursery Childcare Workers... Get an update on the painting process... and find out about even more volunteer opportunities!

And don't forget to pick up your Summer RE Curriculum Pamphlet or Calendar of RE Dates to Remember outside the RE Office!

We have a new Sunday Religious Education Teacher!



Stephanie Mayoral Armond will be teaching the Pre-K class this summer, while Bill Douglass focuses on instructing the Our Whole Lives class. Ms. Stephanie is a mother and a teacher at a local Montessori school. She is an alumnae of the University of New Orleans and will graduate with her Master's Degree in Elementary Education next May. Some of her hobbies include art, yoga, dancing, reading and organic gardening. "I love working with my class because I love making a difference and supporting our next generation of Unitarian Universalists." she said.

But wait!

We want to reintroduce all our Sunday Religious Education Teachers to you!

Adriana De La Rosa teaches the K thru 2 class. Ms. Adriana has been working in Children's RE for four years. She has three children that attend the church. She is studying for a degree in Education. Music and Yoga are just some of her many passions. She says: "I absolutely love teaching my kinder through 2nd-Grade class because the children are so inquisitive. Even as young as they are, [they're] such independent thinkers. It is truly an honor to be a small part of their spiritual journey through life."



Kami Cornell is the third thru fifth grade teacher. She has been teaching Religious Education for at least five years. She is also the Kitchen Manager here at First UU. Ms. Kami likes to read, do collage and watercolor art, and row. She has one daughter who attends church. She says she was nervous to teach the 3rd thru 5th graders at first, because she'd never worked with that age group before. "But," she says, "It's so much fun. The kids and I can have such great conversations. I always learn something from them."

Scott Butki, other than being the Youth and Adult RE Programming Assistant, teaches the Middle School class. He is a newspaper reporter turned educator who moved to Austin about one year ago to be near family and make some life changes. He says: "I love reading, writing, reading, making people think about topics they have never considered before, laughing, reading, making others laugh and



Ron Phares teaches the High School class. Mr. Ron is finishing up course work at Austin Theological Seminary and will soon be leaving Austin to serve his internship in Ogden, Utah. A candidate for ministerial fellowship, Ron has taught middle school and facilitated the YRUU group here at First UU. "I currently enjoy exploring mind blowing ideas and actions with youth in the High School Sunday School class," he says.



First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

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Austin, TX 78756

One Church. Many Beliefs.

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Executive Director:

Sean Hale ext 308

Director of Religious Education:

Lara Douglass ext 305

Director of Music: Brent Baldwin

Board President: Erik Stimmel

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

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E-Mail: info@AustinUU.org

A Covenant of Healthy Relations

As religious community, we promise:

- To nurture the spiritual growth of people of all ages in our church.
- To keep communications with one another direct, honest, and respectful in a spirit of compassion, love and trust.
- To support our church with generous gifts of time, talent, and money in gratitude for the fellowship, joy and inspiration we receive.
- To be present with others through life's inevitable transitions.
- To make our church a safe place to express our deepest fears and our greatest joys.
- To forgive ourselves and others when we fall short of expectations, showing good humor and the optimism required for moving forward and calling ourselves back into covenant.
- To engage with the larger world to justice and peace.

We acknowledge and commit ourselves to the work of sustaining our beloved community, welcoming all in good faith and ministering to each other.

Thus do we covenant with one another.