



## September's here, it's time to make a connection!

Get ready for the CONNECTION FAIR Sunday, September 19, between and after services in Howson Hall and the Gallery. Every year all of the groups and committees and teams that keep the church both exciting and running get together to meet new faces and create opportunities for our members—come get involved! If your group needs a table-space and hasn't heard from us yet, talk to Jacob, [jvw@io.com](mailto:jvw@io.com) and we'll find a place for you at the table!



August and September are the two biggest church-shopping months of the year, and this year's no exception—with ten or 15 new faces every Sunday coming to see who we are, it's time we showed them! We're open, we're friendly, we love new ideas, and oh boy, do we like to talk!

This Sunday, go to Howson Hall. Find one person you haven't met before—maybe you've just never talked to them over the years, or maybe it's a new

face, either way you win! Ask them what brought them here, what they enjoy doing, what church were they at before. If it really IS a visitor

you're talking with, pass them along to a friend, introduce them! We can't survive as a church if we're not walking the walk of being an open, caring, welcoming community. And this is the best time to prove it!

*-Jacob Williams,  
Co Chair of Membership Committee*





## In the Interim

I am deeply inspired by the dedication, commitment and principled leadership I have seen in all my interactions with members of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin. I am very grateful for the gift of being able to serve the First UU Church of Austin this year as interim minister. Many thanks to the Rev. Dr. Janet Newman for all her wonderful work at Austin. She helped this congregation accomplish a great deal in preparing for its future and in making a productive passage through its current transition. I would also like to thank every settled minister who has ever served this church for adding their part to this church's rich, diverse, exciting and inspiring history.

Over the course of the year, I hope to help the congregation continue its preparation for the beginning of its next settled minister; support the Action Report of the Bridge Builder Plan in the fullest possible way; honor the newly created mission and values statement in all aspects of my work; and be helpful in whatever way I can to make this a very successful interim year.

Over the course of this church year I will preach a series of sermons on the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our UUA principles are a reflection of widely held values and principles in our congregations; as such, they help us define a common principle centered identity, providing a means of establishing a basis for unity amid our diversity. These principles give us a way of viewing ourselves as part of a community as well as a collection of robust individualists. During the course of the church year I will also preach on themes closely related to your very recently created Church mission and values. Also, I hope to have ample opportunities to share my understanding of systems theory and its application to the life of congregations in small group meetings, seminars, workshops and presentations to church leaders. In addition, I am available to provide pastoral care services to members of the congregation as needed.

You are well on your way to acquiring, a year from now, a new settled minister, and then from that point be well on your way to becoming one of the strongest UU congregations in the country. I am excited that I have the opportunity to walk with you on this part of your journey. Great optimism for your future is abundantly justified by all I have experienced of the people and leaders of this congregation. I am very excited by the work we will do together in the year ahead.

I am very interested in hearing from you. I want to meet you. I would like to have the opportunity to get to know you and learn about your involvement in, and hopes for, the congregation. Please feel free to reach me at [ed@austinuu.org](mailto:ed@austinuu.org) or call me at 452-6168, ext. 304 to set up a time we could get together.

*-Rev. Ed Brock, Interim Minister First UU Church of Austin*

## Thumpin' Big Bang Jewish New Year Welcome to Rev. Brock and the RE Curriculum!

Celebrate church fall season kickoff !! It is the year 5771 folks, and earth's birthday according to the Hebrew calendar. Huge luscious thump watermelons and traditional Jewish Tex BBQ Brisket will be served. Join the church family from 12:30 to 3 p.m. on September 12<sup>th</sup> on the patio to welcome Rev. Ed Brock and the first day of the fall Religious Education curricula. Bring your Big Bang UU attitude and shout l'hayyim....To Life.





## Sunday Worship



The time for the Sunday morning Worship Services is 9:45 and 11:30

**September 5: "Experiences That Have Shaped My Ministry" by Rev. Ed Brock. One service at 10: a.m.** In this first service I will share a bit about my history, with emphasis on those experiences that have been important influences on my understanding of ministry. I hope this will provide a way for you, the members of the congregation, to get to know me better and understand how I approach the work of my ministry at Austin this year. **Starting September 12 we return to TWO services each Sunday**

**September 12: "The Transformative Power of Lovingkindness" by Rev. Ed Brock** Inspired by one of the church's values to "treat ourselves and others with love" and to "pursue the growth that changes our lives and heals our world" I will talk about the spiritual practices of lovingkindness and compassion.

**September 19: "The Transformative Power of Gratitude" by Rev. Ed Brock** Inspired by one of the church's values to "connect with the wonder and awe of the unity of life" and to "pursue the growth that changes our lives and heals our world" I will talk about the spiritual practices of gratitude and appreciation.

**September 26: "The Worth and Dignity of All Persons" by Rev. Ed Brock** Inspired by the mission of the church to "gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice" I will talk about the first of the seven principles of the Unitarian Universalist Association. This will be the first in a series of sermons about the principles which help shape our common identity as a religious movement and provide the foundation for us to be able to "gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice."

## Sunday Forum



The time for the Sunday Forum is 11:30 in Howson Hall



**September 5: Eric Hartman, Texas AFL-CIO Vice President, Texas Labor Movement** On this Labor Day Weekend, First UU Member, Eric Hartman, will speak with us about the state of the "Union movement" in Texas! Texas has a reputation as a tough place for labor unions, and there's truth to that. But Texas also has a vigorous history of union organizing that Eric will explore with us. Beyond being on the TX AFL-CIO Board as VP, Hartman is also an active member of Education Austin. Currently Eric heads up the legislative and political department of Texas American Federation of Teachers. Join us for this exciting and timely presentation about the state of the "Union movement" in Texas!

**Sunday 12: UT Austin School of Law Domestic Violence Center Representative "Building Bridges from Exploitation to Empowerment"** Today, every 9 seconds a woman in the US is assaulted. Around the world, at least one in every three women has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. The University of Texas School of Law Domestic Violence Center represents victims of domestic abuse in the Austin Community. Join us to learn how this University of Texas program seeks to help survivors in Central Texas by "wrapping them in services".

**Sunday 19: NO FORUM** There will be a Connections Fair in Howson Hall

**Sunday 26: Lou McCreary, Attorney at Law, "Corporate Corruption in Politics in the United States Today"** Lou McCreary and the Ben Franklin Players will present a fascinating look at the corporate world and how it's impacting us. McCreary will speak to this topic and will also play this out in theater as part of the "Ben Franklin Players"! McCreary is a graduate of UT Law School and Board Certified civil trial lawyer, mediator, and arbitrator. He is also an expert in issues of Constitutional Law. Lou is actively involved in trying to restore honesty and fairness in elections and government. Join us for this fascinating and entertaining presentation!



## Update from Our Board:

*With all the tasks and projects at work in the church this year, the newsletter will focus on a Member of the Board speaking out about the job that is being done.*



Chris Jimmerson

### *“How can We Liberate our Energy and Creativity to Nourish Souls, Transform Lives and Do Justice?”*

For the past several years, many in church leadership have been examining best practices for governance in a church of our size, but what these church leaders discovered is that good governance gives us the

freedom and tools we need to live a vital, saving mission and a shared set of values.

After the Bridge Builders process identified governance as one of major issues our church wanted to address, the Board of Trustees appointed a task force that has spent the past year researching and studying governance best practices, speaking with other churches and attending training sessions on the topic.

Working with Joe Sullivan of Unity Consulting, the board and several church leaders attended a training session on governance and began having intentional discussion and learning exercises on governance best practices at each board meeting. The most coherent system of best practices we have found is called “policy governance;” however, because our church polity calls for shared ministry, we are adopting a modified, “policy-based governance,” system that many other churches and the Unitarian Universalists Association are using.

On Sunday, September 26 at 1:30 p.m. in Howson Hall, Joe Sullivan and the board will present a discussion of these governance practices that are intended to help bring alive the church’s new values, mission and ends. We invite all who are interested to come and learn about good governance and participate in the discussion. Following this discussion, there will be an All Council meeting where we will explore governance further. Of course, anyone who is interested is welcome to stay for this meeting also! We hope you will join us, as together we explore how our governance can liberate our energy and creativity!

In the meantime, there are a host of resources on the church website at <http://www.austinuu.org/wp/category/board-docs/governance/> -Chris Jimmerson, Vice President of the Board and Chair of the Task Force on Policy Governance.



### **NAMI Walk...**

### **More Walkers...**

### **More Community... More Outreach!**

This is the 4<sup>th</sup> year a team of walkers and supporters from First UUs, the “UU Uniques” will be involved in the NAMI Austin Walks for the Mind of America. We will be joined by teams from Live Oak and Wildflower at Auditorium Shores on Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup>. Donna Pauler and I are co-chairs of our team’s efforts and will be set up in the Gallery on the Sundays in September to sign up walkers and give out information about the Walk and NAMI

(National Alliance on Mental Illness). We are very excited to announce the opening of Austin Clubhouse, as of August 9<sup>th</sup>. The Clubhouse is a place that restores hope by giving people living with a mental illness a chance to regain what they have lost – employment, education, companionship, health, ties to their community and self-respect. Much of the money raised by the Walk has been used to get the Clubhouse up and running. Every year the number of walkers and the money raised to help overcome the stigma of mental illness has increased. With the efforts of the members and friends of First UU, I’m sure that will continue to happen. -Kathryn Govier, Co-chair “UU Uniques”



*Brent Baldwin*  
Music Director

# MUSIC MATTERS

*Nourishing Souls and Transforming Lives Through Music*

## Why Sing?

Plainly stated, singing is good for you. Many studies done over a number of years have focused on the health benefits of singing, and the evidence is overwhelming.

- Singing releases endorphins into your system and makes you feel energized and uplifted. People who sing are healthier than people who don't.



- Singing gives the lungs a workout,
- Singing tones abdominal and intercostal muscles and the diaphragm, and stimulates circulation.
- Singing makes us breathe more deeply than many forms of strenuous exercise, so we take in more oxygen, improve aerobic capacity and experience a release of muscle tension as well. -Professor Graham Welch, Director of Educational Research, University of Surrey, Roehampton, UK

The FUUCA Adult Choir begins fall rehearsals on September 1<sup>st</sup>, at 7:30 p.m. in the Sanctuary. Come sing your way to a healthier you! **For more info, contact Brent at [brentb@austinuu.org](mailto:brentb@austinuu.org)**

## Children's Choir Rehearsals

start September 12th (Sundays 10:45 - 11:25 a.m.) in room 15 (Youth Choir, Grades 4 - 8) and room 17 (Primary Choir, Grades K - 3)! Pick up a brochure, the registration form (EVERYONE), and a schedule outside the RE office, or just come to one rehearsal to see what your child thinks. We will also be available at the Connections Fair on the 19<sup>th</sup> to chat with you. For more information, contact Chris Heidel, Children's Choir Coordinator: 512-694-5970, [chris@chrisandtoby.com](mailto:chris@chrisandtoby.com). To join the Yahoo! Group, send a blank email to: [FUUCAchoir-subscribe@yahogroups.com](mailto:FUUCAchoir-subscribe@yahogroups.com).







## Comedies Close 10th Anniversary Year and Open 2011 Season

*Incorruptible* opens October 1st on the Bethke stage in Howson Hall. Directed by Gary Payne, this madcap comedy is set in the Dark Ages featuring destitute monks, a one-eyed minstrel, young lovers, and the eternal belief in miracles. Think monks run amok – Monty Python meets the Marx Brothers! *Incorruptible* is irreverent and irresistibly fun. Reserve your tickets soon! Tickets are available on Sundays in the Gallery, by phone at 744-1495, or online at [paradoxplayers.org](http://paradoxplayers.org).

The 2011 Season will open Feb 11 with *Biography*, directed by Charles Hill. This sophisticated comedy of manners set in 1932 is an American classic rarely seen today. When a free-spirited New York artist writes her autobiography, scandal is anticipated and chaos ensues. The June show is a summer surprise, to be announced soon! October closes the season with *Guest Artist*, directed by Karen Jambon. This comic drama examines the challenges playwrights (and all artists) encounter – getting started, becoming successful, staying hot. A cast of three men explore the tangled relationship of youthful dreams, the cynicism of age, and the imperative of artistic truth.

Season Tickets will go on sale soon, at the same price as former years - \$75 for 5 tickets to three shows (including two Guest Passes). Look for the Paradox Players table in the Gallery on Sundays throughout September and October.



## Seniors' Luncheon

Tuesday, September 14th  
Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert  
\$5

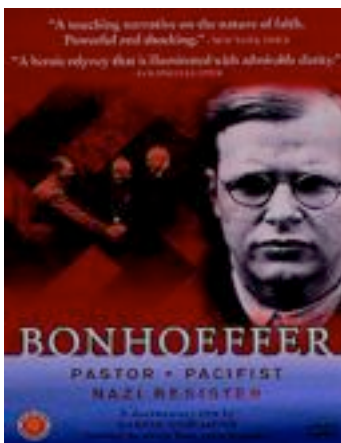
RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0998

**Program:** Rev. Ed Brock, Our new Interim Minister will meet with us, and **Stephan Windsor** from the Stewardship Committee will make a presentation.

## Readers' Theater Resumes

Monday evening, Sept 13, Readers' Theater will meet at 7:30 in room 13. We welcome anyone who enjoys reading aloud without rehearsing. This will be our first meeting after the summer break.

## Spiritual Movie Night: Sept. 17th



The September spiritual movie is the documentary 'BONHOEFFER' about the life of German Protestant theologian Dietrich Bonhoeffer, who was not only vocal in his opposition to Hitler but was part of an attempt on Hitler's life. The movie will be at 7 p.m. on Sept. 17. We spent the summer with different religions featured in our films. With this movie we're going in a different direction - looking at an amazing man in a terrible situation.

"The movie uses a conventional three-act structure, and for those not familiar with Mr. Doblmeier's subject, the blueprint gives the mounting tragedy a grave integrity. It weaves interviews with Christian scholars, historians and Bonhoeffer's contemporaries with film clips of Germany during Bonhoeffer's lifetime while excerpts from his work are read by Klaus Maria Brandauer." -*New York Times Review*

The movie includes interviews with Desmond Tutu and others concerning this brave man. Please come join us for the screening of the movie and what I expect will be a fascinating discussion afterwards. For more information contact [Scott@austinuu.org](mailto:Scott@austinuu.org)

## Special September Offering First UU's Freeze Night Program



On Sunday September 12 our Monthly Special Offering will be in support of our church's Freeze Night Program. Our church is part of a network of churches that shelters the homeless when the

temperature drops below 32 degrees. On our scheduled nights, up to fifty homeless men are sent to us when the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless downtown reaches capacity. Freeze Night started over ten years ago and has housed over 1,500 men and some women during that time. The guests are given a ton of hot coffee and a hot home cooked supper. Afterwards they sleep on the floor in Howson Hall. In the morning they are given hot coffee and a sack breakfast that includes a banana and hardboiled egg and, if available, breakfast or other types of bread that has been donated. Several of us have heard members of our homeless community say that they choose First UU because of the food!

Goals for use of donations will be to provide for volunteer expenses for those who come to Freeze Night nearly every time supplying the food. They will still cook the meals but the money can relieve the burden of having to pay out-of-pocket expenses especially during the winter holiday season. Our season is from mid-November through February and possibly during March. Last season we had Freeze Nights called for several Tuesdays during the holiday time which included Christmas Day and New Year's Day as extras. If you would like to help out this season, please stop by the Social Action table in the Gallery after service and sign up.



## First Annual UU Singles' Retreat at UBarU

Save the dates - November 5 through 7! Join with UU singles in the area for a weekend of fun and relaxation at UBarU near Kerrville. The theme is "A Single Perspective." Rev. Eliza Gallagher will be the main speaker and workshops will be presented by two other speakers. We'll explore what it means to be single with psychological and social implications. Friday evening we'll have a cook out complete with s'mores and great music around the campfire. There will be Lots To Do: swim,

hike, labyrinth walking, foose ball, bocci...Or Not So Much To Do...massage, reading under a tree, a leisurly walk. The organizers From First UU are Pat and Mary Anne (587-8373) and Marilyn Stone from Wildflower (644 1841). The Early-bird cost is \$110 and the price will go up to \$125 on October 10. Only 48 spaces -- sign up early at church or with the organizers. The Web site will be up soon and you will be able to register there as well.

## The Canvass Like No Other

Interim Minister Ed Brock plans to be elbows deep in the 2011 Annual Canvass. He has spoken of "developing a compelling narrative for reasons people should want to be generous."

To help this process along, Ed has signaled his intention to help in the canvassing of Board Members, Search Committee Members, Team Leaders, and – for want of a better name – big givers and potential big givers. This list includes just about everybody in the First UU family. Meanwhile, get ready to become immersed in the 2010 Annual Canvass. The start date is September 26, and the end date is Halloween. -Bill Edwards, Chairman of Stewardship Committee.

## Progress Report from the Minister Search Committee

With the arrival of fall, your Settled Minister Search Committee is hard at work gathering feedback from the congregation about what you're looking for in our next minister and compiling information about our community to share with ministerial candidates. By now, you should have received a copy of the survey, via email or U.S. mail, asking you to tell us the qualities and skills most important to you in our next settled minister. If you haven't yet received a copy, please email us at [search@ustinuu.org](mailto:search@ustinuu.org) or see one of us at the Minister Search Committee table in the Gallery after Sunday services. The deadline for completing the survey is Sept. 15.



In addition to the written survey, we have scheduled four focus-group sessions so that you can share your opinions in a group discussion. The sessions will be offered:

Thursday, Sept. 9, 10 a.m. to noon, in Howson Hall

Saturday, Sept. 11, 2 p.m. to 4 p.m., in Room 13

Saturday, Sept. 18, 10 a.m. to noon, in the Gallery

Thursday, Sept. 23, 7 p.m. to 9 p.m., in Room 17

Sunday, Sept. 19, members of the committee will visit the children in RE classes (grades 3-5, middle school, and high school) to hear their ideas about our new minister.

We urge you to attend one of these sessions and to complete the written survey. Your input is essential to ensure that we represent your interests in finding the best minister for our community.

We are also working on the documents that will make up the Ministerial Packet. This is a lengthy, comprehensive profile of our church and community, which we will share with candidates. A key element of the packet is our Congregational Record, which is a series of questions about our congregation that the UUA poses to all congregations in search. Many of the questions are quantitative—size, location, membership and attendance, budget, financial support from members, number of staff—but there are also narrative questions asking for descriptions of our church history, lay leadership, committees, music, religious education, and theology, as well as congregational goals, strengths, and challenges. Following the UUA timetable, we plan to have the Congregational Record ready in late October to post on the UUA web site.

To keep you updated on our progress, we are preparing a list of Frequently Asked Questions and expanding our web site with information that we hope will be helpful. As always, feel free to contact any of us at [search@ustinuu.org](mailto:search@ustinuu.org), if you have questions or wish to share your ideas or concerns.

*Your Settled Minister Search Committee Co-Chairs Michael Kersey and Sharon Moore, Gary Bennett, John Franks, Maria Nehring, Jill Smith, Lynda West, Dale Whiteaker-Lewis, Jill Wiggins*



## Harvest the Power, Session 9

This session continues with, "In what way will we lead?" The title of this month's program is "Facing Danger" and will be led by Margaret Borden and Eric Stimmel on Wednesday, September 15<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. Any one can attend (you do not have to do all sessions). This leadership development series has been held monthly since January and will conclude in December. You may sign up at the Adult Religious Education table in the Gallery on Sundays or you may e-mail Nominating Committee Member, [lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net). Come early for Meet and Eat in Howson Hall at 6 p.m. prior to class.





Hogwarts was once again at First UU. Campers, counselors (known as “prefects”), parents, and volunteers galore made the magic happen. The work of the oldsters allowed the campers to explore the world around them with the eyes of young wizards and witches.

We played wizard sports such as Quiddich, Wizard Chess, and Magical Movement. The campers made music led by our Primary Choir director,

Danielle Solan. A series of classes followed: Potions (chemistry), Transfiguration (origami) and Defense Against the Dark Arts (UU principals and antidotes for bullying and fear).

It was clear from the campers’ engagement that the service activities were an important part of the camp for them. Each day the campers also enjoyed a free-time activity, including an afternoon of Harry Potter movies, a bowling adventure at Dart Bowl, a swimming respite on the first non-rainy afternoon at Brentwood Pool, and various board games.

The grand finale of Hogwarts was a report during services on Sunday, August 1<sup>st</sup>. The Headmistress began with a brief description of the camp, followed by a musical offering from several campers and prefects. The Hogwarts report ended with campers doing magical meditative sketching in the air as the Headmistress shared a closing thought about the magic of imagination.

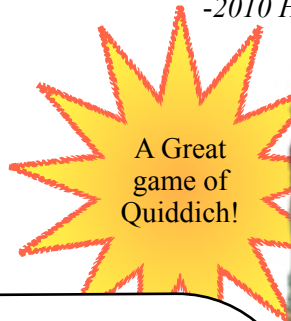
-2010 Headmistress, *Esmirelda McGonagall (aka Vicki Almstrum)*



Transfiguration (Origami)



Mary Jane Ford: Lunch bags stuffed for the homeless from ARCH



I'm Billy a 3-legged greyhound rescued by 2<sup>nd</sup> graders. Campers made fleece blankets to donate to the Animal Trustees of Austin and EmanciPET. **Billy loves Hogwarts!**



**bookspring**

Campers sorted 30 cases of donated books. “Yes” books got a sticker “no” were set aside. The buzz of dealing with so many books made for a wonderful energy that afternoon.



On Friday a host of “house elves” created a delicious repast for the Great Feast. Families were invited to join us for a program that included music and plays by the different groups of children.

## What's Happening in Classes this Year?

RE classes will resume a two-class schedule on September 5<sup>th</sup> with an introduction day. The Fall and Winter Curricula start day is September 12<sup>th</sup>, when we resume the two-service schedule.

**Pre-K:** "Just Because I Am" based on *Just Because I Am: A Child's Book of Affirmation*. Children build and strengthen their self-esteem through questions, readings and activities. They will learn *who they are* is just as important as *what they do!* **Teacher:** Stephanie Mayoral. Class: Room 23 at 9:45 and 11:30 a.m.

**K-2nd:** "Picture Book of World Religions" is based on a variety of picture books. Children are introduced to the worlds of Hinduism, Islam, and Buddhism through these children's books. Children will explore the comparison of these religions to their own spirituality. **Teacher:** Laine Young Class: Room 17 at 11:30 a.m.

**3rd-5th:** "Buddhism" curriculum will use the *Jataka Tale* series of story books about The Buddha's different reincarnations. Children learn about Buddhist practices and beliefs through story-telling and activities. They will compare Buddhism to their own spirituality. **Teacher:** Kami Cornell in Room 15 at 9:45 and 11:30 a.m.

Please reregister your family with the RE department for the 2010-2011 School Year, even if you have registered before, so we may provide you with the services you need.



### Meet New Teacher: Laine Young

Starting in September, Laine Young will be taking over for Adriana De La Rosa as our K thru 2nd RE Teacher. Laine joined the First UU Church in 2007. Apart from teaching in RE, she is a member of the Children's Programming Committee and loves volunteering at Hogwarts Camp. Some of Laine's hobbies include baking, gardening, and reading. She says, "I am very excited to not only have this wonderful opportunity to teach this great group of kids, but to learn from them as well".

### Our Whole Lives (OWL) Kindergarten – 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade:

Our Whole Lives is a human sexuality course for kindergarteners to adults. This fall and winter, the RE Department is offering the Kindergarten to 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade OWL course. Over eight sessions, children will learn about birth, babies, bodies and families through fun activities, songs, stories and readings from *It's So Amazing: A Book about Eggs, Sperm, Birth, Babies, and Families*. There will also be a weekly homework project for parents or guardians and children to do together at home.

There will be a Parent Meeting on September 12<sup>th</sup> and a Parent/Child Orientation on September 19<sup>th</sup>. The class will be held in room 17 every Sunday during the 9:45 a.m. class time. If you have a child in the K thru 2<sup>nd</sup> class, and do not want them to participate in OWL, either bring them to the 11:30 RE class, or move them to either the Pre-K or 3<sup>rd</sup> thru 5<sup>th</sup> class (depending on their maturity level). The class will be taught by Bill Douglass and a small group of volunteer teachers. Contact Bill Douglass for more information at:

Bdouglass@austinisd.org





## Coming of Age for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> Graders:



This year First UU is offering a “Coming of Age” program for 8<sup>th</sup> and 9<sup>th</sup> graders from 12:30 -2:00 on Sundays. It is designed to prepare and acknowledge our students for the transition from child to youth, and help them appreciate UUs, their own beliefs and values, and how these intersect. The classes will tie in closely with this year’s youth religious education curriculum, “Traditions With a Wink!” The two courses reinforce each other, so we encourage youth to attend both.

Games, worship, discussions, journal writing, mentor interactions, and rituals will help the youth explore their faith while having a great time. Social action projects, field trips, and two weekend-long retreats at U Bar U, joined by neighboring UU churches, will keep them engaged. Through these classes and outings the youth will get to know each other better and develop friendships which may last a lifetime.

The course is from October through June, culminating with a youth-led service. The youth will share individual credos that they developed as part of the program.

Mentors are a crucial element in our Coming of Age program. They provide a safe outlet for our youth to express their joys and concerns while giving the youth a window into congregational life. The goal is to match mentors and youth. If you are interested in learning more about the program, want to sign up to participate as a student or volunteer to be a mentor, please email me at [scott@austinuu.org](mailto:scott@austinuu.org) -*Scott Butki*

## Traditions with a Wink!

### Middle and High School Ready for a Great Year!

The middle school and high school religious education classes have wrapped up our summer curriculum *Three Cups of Tea* about the work Greg Mortenson has done to help educate the children of Pakistan and Afghanistan.

“Traditions with a Wink!” begins in September. The goal is to help the youth understand what it means to be a UU. When asked what UUs believe, youth sometimes reply, “We believe whatever we want to believe!” At the end of the year, we hope the youth will be able to say, “We come from a long tradition of questioning and searching as well as loving kindness and good works.”

UU history, our religious heritage, and the importance of science and reason in our faith are topics we will cover. Visits to other UU churches in the area will help the youth experience the variety of ways in which we create and nurture community. The youth will build fellowship through social nights and service projects. In addition, the high school students will learn more about congressional life by attending sermons and working with other groups within the church. Coming of Age and Traditions with a Wink will reinforce each other throughout the year. *Andrew Young,*

## Meet New Teacher: Andrew Young



Starting on August 1<sup>st</sup>, Andrew Young took over from Ron Phares as our high school RE teacher. Andrew has been active in the church since 2007, when he first started coming with his wife, Laine and his daughter, Kaitlyn. He is a member of the Children’s Programming Committee, helps

with the Our Whole Lives classes, is on Web Committee, and Camp UU. In 2007 he founded the “Mighty Platypi” club (Camp Fire USA club for boys and girls from 3 to 9 years old) that meets at the church on Saturdays. When he’s not working as a software engineer or helping out around the church, he likes to camp, hike, and geocache. Andrew is a science fiction, fantasy, and manga fan. Last year Andrew graduated from UT with an undergraduate degree in linguistics and minors in computer science and English literature.

First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin  
4700 Grover Avenue  
Austin, TX 78756

**Interim Minister**

**Rev. Ed Brock ext 304**

**Executive Director:**

**Sean Hale ext 308**

**Director of Religious Education:**

**Lara Douglass ext 305**

**Director of Music: Brent Baldwin**

**Board President: Eric Stimell**

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

Church Fax: (512) 453-5912

E-Mail: [info@AustinUU.org](mailto:info@AustinUU.org)

## Bits and Pieces

**Singalong** will be held on the fourth Saturday, Sept. 25th, 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 with the group. 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](mailto:lavest@sbcglobal.net). If you want to add somebody to the email list, contact Mary Jane Ford at [mjaneford@grandecom.net](mailto:mjaneford@grandecom.net).

**Save the Date! Hands On Housing! Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>**

**The UU Open Minds Covenant Group** is welcoming visits from potential new members from September 12<sup>th</sup> through October 3<sup>rd</sup>, after which time the group will again be closed to new members. We welcome church members and visitors of all demographics! Come see what we are all about. If you might like to join us, we would love to have you! We meet on Sunday mornings from 10:00 - 11:15 in room 11. Also look for us at the Connections Fair! UU Open Minds is a group of people who have committed to a personal spiritual journey and nurturing a connection to the larger church. For more info, contact Emily Hodges: 720-841-4277, [emmajo81@yahoo.com](mailto:emmajo81@yahoo.com).

**Heritage Book Club 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. September** will be the 50th anniversary meeting. September's book is **To kill a mocking bird**, which is also 50 years old. We will be meeting at **Sally Scott's** 4906 Beverly Hills drive, phone:453-2289. Pot-luck supper at 7:00 pm, Book discussion at 8:00 pm. Everyone is welcome even if you have not read the book.