

June Newsletter

We did it!



Welcome
Reverend
Meg



Sunday Worship

The time for Sunday Worship is 10:00 a.m.

June 5: “Greatest Fairwell Speech in History” by Rev. Ed Brock

June 12: “Coming of Age Service” with Rev. Ed Brock and members of the Youth Program.

June 19: Farewell Service for Rev. Brock led by Members of the Congregation.

June 26: “ The Importance of Ritual” by Sandra Ries and Stephanie Gill, Worship Leaders.
Dwayne Windham, Lay Leader

Sandra Ries is passionate about communication and leadership. She has led our church's nominating committee for the last two years as they created a leadership development program geared towards committee and church group leaders. She also loves to garden and to quilt.

Stephanie Gill is an artist, mystic, and visionary. She created the "Ethical Witches" online discussion group and has been its moderator since 2006. She has independently and jointly coordinated fundraisers with local charities under the aegis of Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith here at First Church, and is an activist and speaker for religious tolerance issues.

Sunday Forum

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

Forum Committee

will have a planning meeting for the Fall season
on Wednesday June 15 at 6:45 p.m. at the church.

June 5: Abby Rapoport, Reporter and Columnist for the Texas Observer. The Texas Observer: Investigative Reporting Over the Decades and Journalism at its Best. Abby Rapoport will discuss the founding and history of the Texas Observer, an independent journalistic voice in Texas for many decades, and its values and commitments. She will highlight recent issues of public importance covered by the Observer and the activities of the Texas Legislature.

June 12: State Representative Donna Howard (District 48) The Good, the Bad, and the Ugly: Update on the Texas Legislative Session. State Representative Donna Howard will provide an insider's view of the Texas legislative session, the budget deficit, and how new legislation, as well as funding cuts in health and human services and educational programs, may impact the state in the years to come. She will also highlight some brighter prospects for the state's future.

June 19: Andy Brown and Joe Hamill: Texas Politics. Andy Brown (Chair of Travis County Democratic Party) and Joe Hamill (Lloyd Doggett's Field Director) have agreed to join a panel discussion to discuss the recent Texas legislative session and the impact of redistricting.

June 26: District Judge Karen Sage. Crime and Punishment or Rehabilitation? Perspectives from the Bench. Judge Sage will provide an insider's perspective on the workings of the criminal justice system and how it handles various types of criminal cases, including non-violent victimless crimes and crimes involving drug or alcohol abuse as well as more serious crimes. She will also discuss the challenges presented by people with serious mental illness and the efforts of the courts to divert this group to progressive and appropriate treatment programs and sentencing.

Welcome to our New and Returning Committee Chairs!



Social Action Committee
Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis



Adult Religious Education
Cyndi Louden



Children's & Youth Program Committee

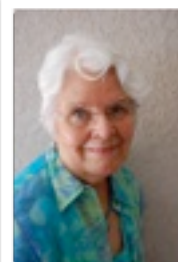
Vicki Almstrum & Cathy Echols



Public Affairs Forum Committee
Bonny Gardner & Leslie Currens



Membership Committee
Gary Payne & Jill Wiggins



Fellowship Committee
Sally Scott



Facilities
John Payne



Grounds

Bill Walters & Paige Hill (no picture)



Congregational Care
Vanessa MacDougal



Finance Committee
Kae McLaughlin



Denominational Affairs
Karen Franks & Rob Feeney

Share Ourselves with the World! Sing it to the Treetops!

Join the Board at the Eat & Meet on June 15th

The magnificent proclamation above was made by a participant in our first First UU-CAFÉ hosted by the Board at the March Eat & Meet. The First UU-CAFÉ is a structured conversation based on a World Café model that is a process for holding conversations about questions that matter. Our conversation in March centered on Radical Hospitality, one of our First UU Ends. We asked participants to recall their experiences with Radical Hospitality outside of and within First UU as well as what difference we will make at First UU and in the world as we practice Radical Hospitality.

The Board is inviting you to attend the second First UU-CAFÉ during the June Meet & Eat from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. Wednesday, June 15th in Howson Hall. There will be a continuation of our conversation about Radical Hospitality with particular emphasis on UU evangelism.

Summary of May 17 Board Meeting

During Visitor's Forum, Stephanie (Canada) Gill from Yew Grove Interfaith presented a situation for a "Sacred Cow BBQ" that has already been embraced by the fellowship committee. There was applause all around.

The board recognized Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis for her role in planning and maintaining the Journey with Food, Chris Cunningham for her work with forum, Lisa Carrell for her work on Sparkle Plenty, the Settled Minister Search Committee for their excellent work bagging Rev. Meg Barnhouse, and Beverly Donoghue for her work with the LEADD Project.

Susan Thomson reported that the next First UU Cafe will be held at the Meet and Eat on June 15. The First UU Cafe is an opportunity to explore whether the congregation believes our Ends continue to be representative of our mission. This meeting will continue our conversation about radical hospitality and will focus on UU Evangelism. Susan Thomson gathered volunteers from the board to be table hosts. Kae McLaughlin reported that the audit committee will hold their first meeting May 26th to determine the audit schedule.



What does it mean to us, as members of First UU of Austin and what difference will we make in the world when we "share ourselves with the world and sing it to the treetops!"

Please RSVP for the meal by Monday, June 13th to meeteat@austinuu.org or sign up on the bulletin board on the Gallery wall next to the library or at the Visitors table in the foyer. Childcare is available at childcare@austinuu.org. Then plan on joining the Board at the conclusion of the meal to explore the meaning of radical hospitality at First UU.

Chris Jimmerson reminded everyone that the board will begin the June retreat Friday evening, June 10 at Orpheus Academy of Music. The retreat will continue Saturday, June 11, with the nominating committee joining the meeting. Bring cash to pay for food. Chris also reminded us that there will be a "Making it Happen" retreat with Rev. Meg and Joe Sullivan soon after she arrives to begin her ministry.

Chris complemented Eric and Ed on their roles in our congregational meeting in setting us up to have a respectful and civil discourse in the midst of tremendous change and some serious disagreement. Eric S stated how the congregation shone and what a vibrant church we have and how incredible the civility was that was experienced. We hope to look forward and capitalize on the good will and trust that was experienced at the meeting. Several members have suggested that the board look at what other ways we might be able to fund a volunteer/member coordinator position in the future. The board ended the meeting in conversation with Rev. Meg. She asked each person present to share two things they love about our church.



DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS

~ **It's SWUUSI time!!!** What is SWUUSI? Southwest UU Summer Institute is the Southwestern District's week-long multigenerational summer camp experience. Each year SWUUSI offers opportunities for faith development, education, entertainment, and recreational activities for all ages in Wagoner, OK. Whether it be relaxing in the sun, discussing in the classroom, or singing in the choir, SWUUSI offers something for everyone! Check out this video: <http://swuuc.org/pages/services/camps/swuusi.php>

Members of our church community have already begun registering for this great Southwestern UU District week of family (and adult!) FUN. Register now for the week of July 24-29, 2011 at the above link.

~ **Summer Camp at UBarU!!** Would your young ones like to attend **summer camp at UBarU**, the Unitarian Universalist Retreat and Conference Center in Kerrville, Texas?

- July 3-9, 2011: SWUUC Primary Camp
- July 10-16, 2011: SWUUC Middle School Camp
- July 17-23, 2011: SWUUC Senior High Camp

You can register and send in your deposit now. For more information: <http://www.ubaru.org/home/Home/tabid/997/Default.aspx>



~ **Severe Storm Fund** If you would like to contribute to the Mid-South District **2011 Severe Storm Fund** to assist UU families and their communities as they repair their lives and properties after the tornado-filled storms, send a check payable to "Mid-South District," noted: "2011 Severe Storm Fund," and mail to: Mid-South District Bookkeeper, 4605 Elkins Ave., Nashville, TN 37209, or go to this link to donate online: <http://www.msduua.org/>

~ **50th Anniversary UU General Assembly**

The time is getting near, but it is not too late to sign up for the **50th Anniversary UU General Assembly** in Charlotte, NC, June 22-26, 2011. Join more than 14 of our First UU family for this special celebration and week of inspiration and connection. For details and to register, see: <http://www.uua.org/ga/>



~ **GA Video!!!** Can't go to GA in person? You can still be part of it by viewing live and on-demand video from your computer. Visit this website to check it out: <http://uugrowth.com/2011/05/05/uua-ga-video-party/> Make it an occasion by organizing a **GA Video** party and watching with some friends!



Let Us Know!!!

For any of these great summer events, let us know once you have registered so we can connect you with others from our church that will be attending.

Karen Franks and Rob Feeney, Denominational Affairs

Denom@austinuu.org





First UU Grounds Work Day

Saturday June 18, 9:00-noon. Our church landscape needs your “tender loving care” and in some cases your “tough love”. Join in and support the beautification and maintenance of our grounds. Mark the date.



Contact is Bill Walters –bfwpaw@sbcglobal.com

First UU's Special Offering for JUNE

Planned Parenthood provides women with basic health care as well as reproductive choices, regardless of their financial circumstances. Some of those choices are controversial and under attack, including birth control, sex education and, of course, abortion.

Because of those controversies, not every church would consider a Share the Plate for Planned Parenthood. It's a reflection of UU values to do so. Our congregation has endorsed Planned Parenthood as a recipient of our Sunday plate because we do care about basic health for everyone, and we think that contraception and family planning are reasonable options for all to have. Even in the difficult choice of abortion, we think it should be the individual, and not church, state, or economic circumstances that drive that decision. Please contribute generously to Planned Parenthood, our Special Offering in for June.



GARAGE SALE

to aid the
Bipolar Foundation of
Central Texas 501(c)3 needs your help
at our first garage sale We are raising money so we can



bring more of our educational programs into the community at large.

Needed: Donations of items and refreshments.

Help: We need help pricing items the week before, setting up and selling the day of and selling items.

Date: June 11 7:30am - 1:30pm.

Place: To be announced.

Vendors: Call Mary Ann Stafford to sign up. Many larger items can be picked up. Leave smaller items with Mary Ann on Sundays until June 5. During the week call Mary Ann at 587-8373. Thank you for all you do to reduce the stigma of Bipolar illness.

Membership Committee: A Stand for Radical Hospitality

“Radical hospitality,” one of the “Ends” statements of the Values, Missions, Ends and Covenants our congregation agreed upon in 2010, is defined this way:

- All people feel welcomed and are treated with respect and dignity
- Members and their families feel supported in times of joy and need
- Members find connection with one another in fellowship
- People are fully engaged and generous with time, treasure and talent

As the new Membership Committee co-chairs, we believe the committee’s mission perfectly meshes with the church’s end statement regarding radical hospitality. With the arrival of a charismatic and dynamic new minister, we see a unique opportunity to move our congregation forward in truly living our principles and bringing our church into an exciting new era.

If you too would like to actively participate in this new era, we would love to have you on the membership committee. Please contact us at garyjill@swbell.net or 441-4720 and let us know of your desire to participate in the activities of the membership committee.

We also feel strongly that the *real* membership committee of the church is the committee of the whole—every member of the congregation welcoming, greeting, and helping integrate newcomers into the life of our congregation. We look forward to working with everyone at First UU Austin in cultivating an enthusiastic spirit of radical hospitality as we enter this new era.

Jill Wiggins and Gary Payne Membership Committee co-chairs



Men’s Fellowship Breakfast

Saturday June 11th from 7 to 9 a.m. in the Kitchen and the Gallery.

You are invited to this Month's Men's Fellowship Breakfast at First UU Church, in the Gallery. Cooking begins at 7 00 a.m. in the Kitchen and eating begins at 8:00 a.m. in the Gallery. The cost is \$5.00. Come and enjoy the fellowship!

For those of you who have never attended before, join us. This is such a great way to get to know the other men of the church. Pitch in with the cooking for the first hour in the kitchen as well!



JUNE SHARING SUPPERS: A Great Way to Get Acquainted

Sharing Suppers will be held on the third Saturday in June. Please mark your calendars for June 18th and join others for food, conversation and laughter. Groups of 6 – 10 people gather in various participants’ homes. Everyone in the church, whether new or established, couples or singles are very welcome to attend. It’s easy to sign up – just call Linda Buehlmann at 323-5334 or email her at lindabuehlmann@sbcglobal.net. You may also sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the mailroom. Check your calendars and sign up today and, definitely, no later than Sunday, June 12th. Visitors are very welcome.



Independence

Don't Miss this show!

Make your reservations now! You won't want to miss out on *Independence*, Lee Blessing's powerful tale of a family struggling for individual autonomy, portrayed with "a hair-trigger sensitivity to what families are saying and doing now, this minute..." (Dallas Times Herald).



The Director, Lisa Foster, is an experienced actress (Lisa starred in our Feb production of *Biography*) and director (she most recently directed last June's *Charlie Cox Runs with Scissors*).

Opening Night Gala June 3 will feature a free drawing for the distinctive black velvet "pouf," a center-stage fixture from the February production. Tickets are available in the Gallery on Sundays, on the website paradoxplayers.org, and by phone at 744-1495. The show closes June 19.



Clockwise from left Christina Leidel, Kathleen Lawson, Courtney Outlaw and Shannon Davis
Isn't this how all families show love?



Solar Plant



Last 12-month Performance Report

Our solar-electric plant is going strong after two year of online operation. But first, the energy-unit shown in this report is the kilowatt hour, or kWh. A kWh is (the amount of energy a 100-watt incandescent light bulb would use in ten hours).

Based on 12 months' uninterrupted metered/billing data, May 2010 through April 2011:

Total First UU energy Consumption	100,188 kWh
Total billed energy	82,800 kWh
Our total cost	\$8430
Average cost per kWh	\$0.1018/kWh
Solar plant production	17,388 kWh @ \$0.10/kWh,
First UU saving	\$1,770

Solar Photo Voltaic (SPV) plant energy production was 17.4% of total energy consumption.

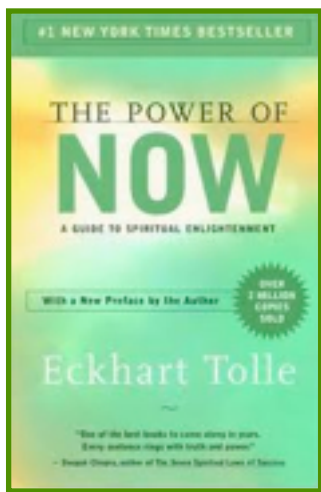
This 17,388 kWh SPV energy production, @ \$0.1018/kWh, represents an annual saving of \$1770 when considering the SPV plant investment as a member donation. As well the kWh production was almost a four-percent increase over the last 12-month period.

Our 17388 kWh SPV annual energy production approximates a displacement of:

- * 9 tons of coal
- * 176,106 cubic feet natural gas
- * 10.6 tons CO2 emission
- * or some combination of the above

More detailed technical information is available on a 1-page handout, that was available at our 15 May congregational meeting. Marcus Barnes, P.E. (inactive), First UU Member





Eckhart Tolle Presence Group

Eckhart Tolle is a spiritual teacher and author who was born in Germany and educated at the Universities of London and Cambridge.

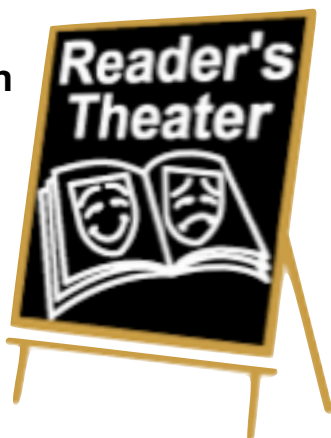
He is the author of the #1 New York Times bestseller, **The Power of Now** and the highly acclaimed follow-up **A New Earth**, which are widely regarded as two of the most influential spiritual books of our time. Eckhart's profound, yet simple teachings have already helped countless people throughout the world find inner peace and greater fulfillment in their lives.

We're starting a new round on Thursday on June 2nd, and we'll meet every Thursday, 7:00 to 8:30 PM, where we'll discuss a chapter each week from **The Power of Now**.

A donation of \$5.00 per person is requested. 100% of all donations will be given to First UU. Should you have any questions contact Joe Linsalata 512-327-5000 or Linsalata@austin.rr.com

Monday evening, June 13th, at 7:30 in Room 13.

We offer the experience of acting without stage fright! Enjoy unrehearsed reading aloud – one act plays – Monday evening, June 13th, at 7:30 in room 13. Newcomers are always welcome.



Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, June 14th (2nd Tues.)

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman
837-0988



Program: Come join us, and sing along with Charles Palmer, Baritone, and Kathryn Govier, Piano, favorite songs of the '40s and '50s by Jerome Kern, Richard Rodgers, Irving Berlin, George Gershwin and more.



Yew Grove Moon Circle:

June 14th at 7:30 p.m.

Gather with us under the full moon & let the mirth and reverence

within us unfold. This is an intimate inspiration-led

time to connect with the lunar energies & each other.

We do not exclusively follow any one tradition, & offer an opportunity for you to express your appreciation for

nature whether you are Deist or Atheist; Pagan, Christian, Buddhist, or any or none of the above.

And we have fun doing it, too! Bring your open heart and join us under the circle of oaks to the south of the sanctuary, and come ready to howl!



LEADD Comes to Texas!

From May 6th to May 8th, Twenty one high school students participated in the first **Leadership Education Advancing Democracy and Diversity (LEADD)** interfaith youth retreat in Texas. Interfaith Alliance in Washington, DC developed LEADD to prepare students for active citizenship in a multi-faith and multicultural society. The purpose of LEADD is to educate and empower our youth to become knowledgeable, passionate advocates for, and protectors of, religious liberty and the First Amendment. America is the most religiously diverse country in the world. LEADD's model counterbalances religious extremists' rants with calmer voices committed to achieving a pluralistic society -- going beyond "tolerance" to respect, dialog, friendship, and active community collaboration.



UUs are interfaith and were well represented by First UU's Henry Newton and Buddy Wilkes and Live Oak UU's Robert King. Our own Margaret Borden led the conflict resolution workshop. Students' other faiths included Presbyterian, Christian, "searching" Methodist, Quaker, multi-faith, Muslim, Jewish, Roman Catholic, Orthodox Catholic, and secular humanist. Students participated in a kaleidoscope of activities – discussing pluralism, singing silly songs at morning circle, studying the First Amendment and the complexities of applying it to everyday situations, learning about challenges to religious freedom in colonial days and now, "voting with your feet," role-playing a hilarious cross-cultural problem solving exercise, watching comedic movies and a documentary about religious conflict, creating entertaining skits, sharing what the retreat meant to them while creating a web connecting everyone – all interwoven with



interfaith discussions. At the end, students talked animatedly and hugged each other!

Feedback from students has been extremely positive. Their most memorable experiences were making new friendships, learning about other religions, thoughtful conversations, and the openness and respect they experienced. Students said they learned:

- "That we all have a right to be who we are"
- "We're all the same and all can be accepting."
- "A better way of dealing with conflict"
- "...to enjoy and find beauty in diversity and my [Constitutional] rights"
- "...a greater sense of what moves people in their faiths"

This was the first time that most students discussed religion with anyone outside their faith. Some felt relaxed and respected for the first time by people from other religions. One participant described the retreat as a "life-changing experience" The LEADD planning team sees this as a beginning. We envision facilitating future get-togethers of Austin LEADDers, expanding interfaith opportunities for other area youth, and bringing LEADD to Texas cities.



Austin LEADD was sponsored by Interfaith Alliance, First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin, Texas Impact, and iACT (Interfaith Action of Central Texas). Funding was provided by Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church Endowment, Veatch Program of the UU Congregation at Shelter Rock, and student registration fees. Thanks to Rev. C. Lena Breen and Beth Cortez-Neavel for their support.

Children's Religious Education

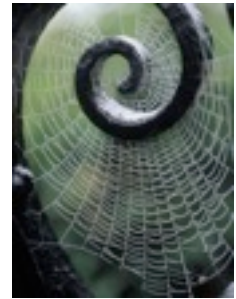
Summer Programming Schedule

Infant & Toddler Childcare, RM 19 9:45 AM to 11:15 AM

Childcare in this room is for Toddlers only. Please sign in and sign out your child and provide a number where we may contact you on site. We provide snacks and juice. This room is connected to an outdoor courtyard playground. Please provide sunscreen and bug spray if you would like us to apply it to your child (over 6 months). Please provide your own diapers, wipes, baby bottles, shoes and a spare change of clothes. Please pick up your child *on time*.

Pre-K, RM 23 Experiences with the Web of Life Stephanie Mayoral, Teacher 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

This curriculum is centered around our seventh UU principle. Children will experience respect for the “interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part” through song, stories, and engaging activities. This curriculum will address subjects such as growth, change, reproduction, death and grief.



Grades K-2, RM 17A&B Keepers of the Earth Laine Young, Teacher 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM



Curriculum from the three books *Keepers of the Earth*, *Keepers of Life*, and *Keepers of the Animals*, has been combined to offer a comprehensive look at our environmental community through Native American tales. Children will participate in fun activities to better understand our Native American ancestors and their connection and reverence for the Earth, Sky, Animals, and Plants.

Grades 3-5, RM 15A&B Keepers of the Earth Kami Cornell, Teacher 10:00 AM – 11:00 AM

Curriculum from the three books *Keepers of the Earth*, *Keepers of Life*, and *Keepers of the Animals*, has been combined to offer a comprehensive look at our environmental community through Native American tales. Children will participate in fun activities to better understand our Native American ancestors and their connection and reverence for the Earth, Sky, Animals, and Plants.



Middle & High School, RM 11 Honoring Our Mother Earth 10:00 AM - 11:00 AM



Curriculum from *Honoring our Mother Earth* has been combined with *Keepers of the Earth* to offer an in-depth exploration of our Native American ancestors and their reverent relationship with the Earth. Youth will supplement this information by participating in discussions with special guests about their place in our environmental community.

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

Interim Director of Religious Educ.:

Rev. Lena Breen 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

www.AustinUU.org

Next Newsletter Deadline

15th of the month

Please submit information to

news@austinuu.org

Camp UU Hogwarts

The magic begins July 25th

- **Waiting list** only for regular campers (entering grades 1-6)
- **Prefects may still apply** (entering grades 7 through college)
- **Adult volunteers needed to serve as:** house elves, professors, sports directors, chaperones, set-up/clean-up



Questions? Contact the camp leaders at campuu@austinuu.org

Website: <http://austinuu.org/wp2011/religious-education/camp-uu-hogwarts/>