

Installation of Our Minister

On Sunday January 15, at 4 p.m. First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin will host one of our most “high church” ceremonies.



Ministers come from all around the area in their most formal garb, processing in together to begin the service.

Dignitaries from the District and from the town are invited to speak. It is our distinct honor to have Rev. Peter Morales, the President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, presenting the sermon. Andrea Lerner, a former Director of Religious Education at First Austin, will speak as well.

The music will be gorgeous.

A reception with a live band and dancing will follow.

Please plan to attend if you can.

If you will be using the childcare, please call to let

Barbara Stoddard know. 452-6168.

Sunday Worship

Join us in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. or 10:30 a.m.

January 1: “Burning Bowl” Rev. Meg Barnhouse. We will talk about letting go, about clearing out the old as we get ready for what’s coming next. There will be a fire in which we can burn papers on which we have written the things we want to allow to pass out of our lives.

January 8: “The Democratic Process” Rev. Meg Barnhouse. Our fifth principle talks about affirming and promoting the democratic process in our congregations. Does that mean every voice should be heard? How should it be heard?

January 15th: “A Stone of Hope” Rev. Meg Barnhouse. How can we begin to dismantle racism in our hearts and minds? How can we dismantle it in the structures of our society? Are all humans racist when they are born? What transformations might we hope for?

January 15: Service of Installation at 4 p.m. in the Sanctuary

January 22: “Mary, Mary, Quite Revolutionary” with Marisol Caballero who reflects on the symbolism of the Virgin of Guadalupe as a feminine image of the Divine. How may this “goddess”, native to the Americas, speak to us, as Unitarian Universalists, as well as unite diverse populations in compassion, perseverance, and justice?

January 29: “Afri-Kin” The choir will perform three of Kiya Heartwood’s choral works. Rev. Meg Barnhouse will preach, and she collaborated with Kiya Heartwood on the readings. Science is showing us that we are all related to an African woman we call —Mitochondrial Eve, and we can trace each person’s ancestry through their mother’s mitochondrial DNA, from mother to mother, all the way back to one of 26 “daughters of Eve.”

Summary of December 20th Board Meeting

Routine board business included: receiving a report on Yew Grove activities including their recent gift of books to the library, signing appreciation cards, approving final board policies, delegating policies and procedures manual to Rev Meg, debriefing the congregational meeting, receiving an internal audit update, Rev Meg’s report about the welcome area construction and her Jan 15 installation, information on mission-based budgeting, and determining whether current board policies are sufficient to cover internet privacy issues.

Revisions to our end on radical hospitality were approved that include language more inclusive of all people of goodwill, outreach that invites others to join our spiritual community, and individual public affirmation of the UU principles underlying our social justice work. (E.g., “As a UU, I believe in marriage equality.”)

With radical hospitality on our minds, the board continued discussion of questions raised by Chapter 2 of *Almost Church—Revitalized*: How does the church welcome diversity (e.g., Republicans, Christians)? What is the church’s role in the modern civil rights movement and politics? How can the church express its values in the public arena? When and by what process should the church take official positions on controversial issues when there is no consensus (e.g., the death penalty)? Although further discussion of these questions among members is desirable, a forum for such is not yet clear.

Discussion of Chapter 3 of *Almost Church—Revitalized* was on the roles of leadership versus caretaking, which each includes, and when and where should board activity fall on the continuum between the two. Questions included: How do we nurture ideas? What permission do new ideas need? What does it mean to say yes to as much as possible? Discussion will continue at the January board meeting. -Margaret Borden, Member of Board

The Forum

Join us in the Sanctuary at 11:45 a.m. following the second service.

January 8: "Austin"Kathie Tovo, the newest member of the Austin City Council. A longtime neighborhood activist, with a PhD from UT, she served on the city Planning Commission, and the AISD's Community Committee on Neighborhoods and Schools before her election to our city council. Married, and the mother of two, she'll speak about her vision for Austin.

January 15: "Politics and the Power of Pictorial Symbolism" with Ben Sargent, Austin American Statesman cartoonist, Pulitzer Prize winner in 1982 and distributed nationally by Universal Press Syndicate since 1985! He will discuss cartoons as an ideal and unique medium for conveying opinion and will show some of his work. Born in Amarillo into a newspaper family, he studied journalism at U.T. Austin and drew cartoons for the Austin American Statesman beginning in 1974 to 2009. He has served as President of the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists. He is the author of two books and has won numerous awards for his work.

January 22: "Searching for the Most Distant Galaxies in the Universe" with Dr Finkelstein. The recent upgrade of the Hubble Space Telescope has opened a new window on the distant universe. Over the past year we have been able to discover the most distant galaxies ever. Dr. Finkelstein will discuss how we identify these most distant galaxies, and what their nature tells us about how galaxies form and evolve. He will also discuss the HETDEX project, which will use distant galaxies to probe the nature of Dark Energy. Steven Finkelstein is a Hubble Fellow in the Astronomy Department at UT Austin. He lives in Austin with his wife, Keely, who is also an astronomer at UT, and their young son.

January 29: "The Role of Money in Politics" with Gaye Kopas, Stewart Snider, and Joanne Richards. They discuss how money has corrupted the political process and how to organize our citizenry to reclaim our democracy. A documentary, "Priceless," will be shown. Gaye Kopas and her husband are Co Chairs Health Care for All Texans. Stewart Snider is President of the League of Women Voters in Austin and a campaign planner of Coffee Party. Joanne Richards is the President of the Board of Coffee Party Austin and a retired U.T. public policy expert. All are dedicated activists who encourage public policy discussion and civic engagement..

MEMBERSHIP: THE VISITORS KEEP COMING!

We are averaging 8 to 10 FIRST TIME visitors every week. This doesn't count returning visitors.

The Membership Committee needs your help in making sure these folks are properly welcomed. Our regular usher/greeters and floating greeters can't meet everyone. There are several things you can do before and after services to make sure all visitors feel welcome at First UU:

First of all, WEAR YOUR NAME TAG - it helps everyone distinguish between visitors and members. If you need a new one, order one at the table near the south entrance to the foyer.

Introduce yourself to any unfamiliar face or to people wearing RED BORDERED NAME TAGS (this indicates a first time visitor) or BLUE BORDERED NAME TAGS (this indicates a returning visitor). Go out of your way to greet visitors in the welcoming portion of the church service itself.

After the service, visit Howson Hall and seek out visitors. Hang out around our new Welcome table in Howson Hall, where visitors are likely to migrate. Include visitors in your conversations with fellow members.

Finally, if you would like to become an usher/greeter or "floating greeter" (a great way for new members to break in and provide a valuable service to the church) contact us at membership@austinuu.org. You could really make a difference in what will no doubt be an exciting new year at First UU.

Denominational Affairs



**REGISTER EARLY and
SAVE \$\$\$!**

**Feb 24-26, 2012: SWUU
Women's Conference with
Rev. Meg Barnhouse and
Kiya Heartwood in Houston,
TX.** The conference schedule is

now posted at: <http://www.swuuw.org/news/latest/66-swuuwcon-2012-info> Online registration is at: www.swuuw.org. Early registration ends on **Jan 15** (\$165), and regular registration ends on Feb 15 (\$185). Hilton room registration is separate and is \$80 per night (one king or two double beds per room). A block of rooms will be available until Jan 30 or until the group block is sold out, whichever comes first. Don't delay!

**June 20-24, 2012: UUA Justice General
Assembly, Phoenix, AZ** (www.uua.org)

Registration information is at: <http://www.uua.org/ga/registration/index> and on the Denominational Affairs bulletin board.

Southwest UU District Events:

For Details and to Register: www.swuuc.org or on Denominational Affairs bulletin board.

Feb 10-12, 2012: "Everything is Holy" Winter Retreat with singer-songwriter, Peter Mayer, in Dallas, TX. Join lay leaders and religious professionals from throughout our region for inspiring music, hands-on training and soulful worship.

Feb 17-19, 2012: "Colonization, Privilege and Resistance: Preparing for Justice GA 2012," Allies for Racial Equality UU Annual Conference, Robert Jensen (UT journalism professor and author) **and Megan Dowdell** (adjunct faculty at Starr King School for the Ministry). Fort Worth, TX.

March 29-31 or April 1, 2012: "Batter UUp" UU Spring Training (7 tracks) at First UU Church of Dallas.

Beyond Belief:

Reflections from UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales



One of the areas of work of [our Association](#) that I am most excited about is the expansion of our international connections. We have a long and proud history of [international work](#). We also have the opportunity to take it to a new level.

One of the ways we are doing this is expanding our partnership with the [Unitarian Universalist Service Committee](#) (UUSC) to provide international opportunities for learning and service. When I served as a parish minister I saw for myself how direct experience with other cultures and with issues of justice transforms people. I went on trips

to Guatemala and Mexico with members of my congregation and saw them return as human rights activists for life. I also saw how the life of our congregation was changed—from worship to religious education to public witness. Right now a group of UUs is in Haiti on a [JustWorks](#) trip that is a cooperative effort of the UUA and the UUSC. We can follow along in blogs by the participants. I urge you to [read what participants have to say](#) about their experience. I have a dream that all our ministers and religious professionals will have the experience of a culture in the developing world. I also dream that UUs of all ages, especially our youth and young adults, will have the opportunity to learn and serve together. We are [taking steps](#) to make that dream a reality. *Peter Morales' blog on Dec. 6, 2011 Beyond Belief*





Chris' Corner

Happy New Year to each and every one of you! This time of year always makes me think of renewal. We tend to make new resolutions and new commitments as the New Year dawns. At First UU Church of

Austin, we already have a wonderful resolution and commitment to each other that is worth renewing from time to time. We commit to walk together in our spiritual quests and in life's transitions through our Covenant of Healthy Relations.

What a terrific way of being together, gathering in community it is! It reminds us to nurture one another, to keep our communications direct and in the spirit of love, to support one another and our church, to practice forgiveness, to be present for one another and to live our commitments in our broader community and world. I cannot think of a better way of being or of people I would rather walk this path with.

You can review our covenant at <http://austinuu.org/wp2011/about-us/values-mission/> or it is also printed on one of the portable boards in Howson Hall.

As we begin 2012, I will be in intensive classes in Chicago for most of January but I will be with you in love and spirit as we launch the New Year, and my heart will soar the day that our church celebrates with an installation ceremony for our terrific minister. During this time, our wonderful President-Elect, Susan Thompson, will be available to you.

THANK YOU!

As most of you know each month we have a Special Offering on the second Sunday. This money goes directly to the organization that was pre selected by the congregation at the beginning of each year. Twelve groups each year. **Our Offering in December was Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, UUSC. We collected \$1,520!!** Our organization for January is the Interfaith Action of Central Texas iACT (see more on page 6).

Congratulations to First UU Children's Choir member Maya Heidel!

She is serving as a Patient Champion for the Dallas White Rock Marathon, which benefits the Children's Scottish Rite Hospital.

In 2009, Maya was diagnosed with Legg-Calve-Perthes, a childhood hip disorder which causes the hip bone to deteriorate. She received surgery at Scottish Rite, which was successful in treating the disorder. Today her mother Chrissy Heidel describes her as a "normal, happy little girl" who plays starting goalie on her soccer team.

If you would like to donate to Scottish Rite, Maya's fundraising page is here:

<http://www.runtherock.com/donate/?kwoAdvocateId=37UM3E4>

Congratulations again to the Heidels!

Kickoff Nominating Season for 2012-2013

Leadership and committee service are an important part of UU religious commitment. In January, the Nominating Committee will begin its search for committed and enthusiastic leadership for 2012-2013. Starting Sunday, January 22, the Nominating Committee will be available in the gallery to discuss and answer your questions about the recruiting process. A flowchart outlining the nominating process, applications and sample interview questions will be available. The complete nominating process is available on the First UU website under Nominating Committee.

If you would like to participate in the 2012-2013 leadership of our church, contact any individual member of the Nominating Committee: Pat Walters, Chair; Mike LeBurkien; Derek Howard; Lynda West; or Linda Buehlmann. You may also e-mail the Nominating Committee at nomcom@austinuu.org.

Social Action is Love in Action



January's Monthly Special Offering Recipient

On Sunday, January 8th, Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT) will be First UU's monthly special offering recipient at both services. iACT's mission is to "cultivate peace and respect through interfaith dialogue, service, and celebration." The deepest expression of iACT's mission is found in two exceptional service programs: Hands on Housing (repairs the homes of senior citizens living in poverty in East Austin) and the iACT for Refugees School (offers newly arrived refugees English as a Second Language classes and assistance transitioning into US culture). In addition, iACT encourages healthy, respectful interfaith relationships through its ongoing Red Bench interfaith dialogue program, which allows individuals from many different traditions the opportunity to explore the different points of connection between their faiths as well as their own distinctive faith journeys. Finally, iACT gathers the community together for interfaith worship and celebration at events like the annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service and this year's Interfaith Memorial Service commemorating 9/11.

Many members of our congregation have been actively involved with iACT (formerly Austin Area Interfaith Ministries) for years and participate in Hands On Housing, the Red Bench, CROP Walk, the Annual Interfaith Thanksgiving Service, and more. UUs are interfaith seekers, so there is a natural connection between 1st UU and iACT. You are encouraged to give generously to iACT during the monthly special offering collection on January 8th. If you would like more information about iACT, contact Lynn Adams or Beverly Donoghue at iACT@austinuu.org.

Monthly Special Offerings for 2012

On the second Sunday of each month, we pass an additional plate in support of a charitable organization that helps us extend our mission to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice. In 2011, we gave over \$15,000 to these worthy causes! In November the congregation was asked to nominate and vote for its favorite organizations to be recipients in this "Monthly Special Offering" program. Seventeen organizations were nominated for ten slots – two months are reserved for our church-wide spring theme and summer children's social action project. Thank you to all our nominators and voters! Eighty three ballots were received, and the results are below.

Recipients will be scheduled to complement social action projects, church events and themes, and the minister's sermon. At the end of the year we will divide all the money equally between the twelve recipients so that no one organization is negatively impacted by reduced attendance due to weather, marathons, etc. Questions? Contact Corinna Whiteaker-Lewis, chair, Social Action Committee at socialaction@austinuu.org.

People's Community Clinic - 73

Planned Parenthood - 72

SafePlace - 70

North Central Caregivers - 66

FrontSteps/ARCH - 66

Hands on Housing - 54

iACT - 51

Austin Groups for the Elderly - 49

Austin Child Guidance Center - 45

UUSC - 45

Red Bench Interfaith Dialogue

Tuesday, January 24th from 6 to 8 p.m., the theme of "Leadership" will be discussed at the Red Bench, a structured dialogue program of Interfaith Action of Central Texas (iACT). Red Bench was inspired by Dr. Betty Sue Flowers several years ago when she encouraged organizations to place red benches in public spaces; her idea was that sitting on the red bench would signal to others that you were seeking to have a conversation about something that really mattered to you. Come join people of diverse faiths on January 24th for the Red Bench small group discussions at the Family Life Center of First United Methodist Church, 1300 Lavaca. A light vegetarian meal will be served at 6:00 p.m., and the structured dialogue begins at 6:30.

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin January 2012 NEWSLETTER

We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.



Chalice Circles are lay-led small groups designed to deepen and expand the ministry of a congregation. The purpose of this program is to build community and provide opportunities for deeper relationships and deeper spiritual exploration and search for meaning. Groups will be small (6-8 people) and will meet twice a month to discuss a variety of topics and perform at least one service project as a group. You do not have to be a member of the church to join a group, but you have to be involved in other church functions or groups in order to fulfill the mission of expanding the ministry of the church. That could mean as little as attending services on a regular basis or participating in one of the other covenant groups or religious education programs but your connection to the church must extend outside of the Chalice Circles.

On December 17, members of the two pilot groups that have been meeting since February came together to receive additional training as facilitators. Most of them were present at the original training back in February led by former adult RE staff member, Lansing Bicknell and our former interim pastor, Ed Brock. Many thanks to those two for helping get this program started at FUUCA.

An orientation is being planned for registered participants in mid-January to help participants better understand the Chalice Circles program. More details will follow so be sure to check the weekly announcements

Stewardship Campaign: Over But Still Counting

Thank You. Many thanks are in order to folks for their work on our Stewardship Drive. Starting with Ed Parken for spending many hours in the Gallery. For the August pizza lunch: Kae McLaughlin, Rose Ann Reeser, Sylvia Pope, and Sally Scott. Canvass training thanks to Tyler Anderson. Gary Bennett the star canvasser. Thanks to the Howards for sharing their home. Bill Edwards for consulting services. John Franks led the matching Campaign. Rev. Barnhouse and Sean Hale for supporting this effort. Most of all, thanks to all who pledged.

We have received regular pledges from 296 families totaling \$502,327, bridge pledges, matching pool, and employer matching money promised in the amount of \$57,050. All this brings the pledged income up to \$559,377 as of mid December.

We are expecting to receive \$8,160 which would bring us to \$567,537 in total pledges. Pledging can take place all year long. You can still contact the email address: Stewardship@austinuu.org, stop by the church office and pick up a pledge form, or phone the office bookkeeper to give your pledge.

We hope that as we build we will have raised awareness of how much it takes in time, talent and treasure to keep things running smoothly. We focused on treasure: encouraging financial support is our responsibility. In the future we hope more people think in terms of giving a percentage of their income, as able, within UUA guidelines. We have reached for 5%, but now the ultimate goal is 10%. This is a standard to for, for people who are committed to the church and want to continue to be a place to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice. *-Mary Jane Ford and Luther Elmore, Co-Chairs*

Games Night

Fellowship will sponsor another games night on **Friday January 20th**. Bring your own drink and a snack to share. Also your favorite game, for more information contact Geri Neemidge@310-7863. The report from the last Game Night was that it is a not to be missed event! See you in Room 13 at



Changing of the Guard in 2012!

PARADOX

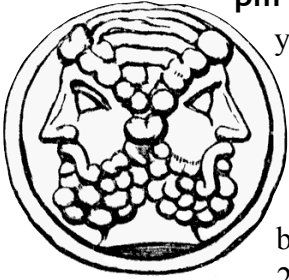


Paullette MacDougal, Artistic Director and Co-Founder, will be bowing out to spend more time on her play writing and singing. Paullette and Ann Edwards founded the theater in 1999, producing *Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten* in 2000, followed by 32 main stage plays over the last 11 seasons. After the current stub season, which will conclude with a preview production in May of Paullette's new Civil War drama, "Sisters under the Skin," the company will welcome Gary Payne as the new Artistic Director. Gary has directed, acted, and served in various leadership positions in the company.

Throughout Jan and Feb, you can still purchase Season Tickets for 2012 – *Searching for Eden: the diaries of adam and eve*, running Feb 10 - 26 and *Sisters under the Skin*, running May 4 – 20. We are planning a special treat for Season subscribers in late April a behind-the-scenes event featuring Paullette's perspective on the craft of playwriting.

Yew Grove Happenings

Are you a singer/songwriter? A poet? Brighid is a Celtic Goddess & later a Catholic saint who is celebrated by works of inspiration. **Yew Grove will be honoring the season by holding a Bardic Circle from 7-9 pm on Feb 3rd in the Gallery.** If



you would like to share your talents, please email YewGrove@AustinUU.org to reserve your spot. This is not an open mike, you must contact us to be part of the event. Deadline is Jan 25th, or when all the available

openings are filled. www.austinuu.org/yewgrove

On Jan 8th at 7:30 pm we invite people of any spiritual persuasion to join us in Rm 13 to celebrate the Full Moon. This is an intimate and inspiration-lead time to connect with the lunar energies and each other. For more information, see www.austinuu.org/yewgrove.

Join us at Genuine Joe Coffeehouse at 2001 W Anderson Lane to chat and munch and have fun. We'll meet at 7:30 pm, so be there or be rectilinear. www.austinuu.org/yewgrove

Senior's Luncheon

Tuesday, January 10th (2nd Tues.)

Howson Hall at Noon

Soup, Salad & Dessert \$5

RSVP to Alice Cashman 837-0988

Program: *Travels with Veryan and Greg..* They will share their exciting adventures of their recent travels driving through Newfoundland, New Brunswick and Nova Scotia using pictures and words to share their view of puffins, whales, icebergs, and high tides!

Readers' Theater meets in the Gallery Monday evening, Jan 9, at 7:30. We'll be reading an assortment of short plays, no rehearsing or memorizing! Newcomers are always welcome.

EsalenTrager Massage Instruction & Exchange Group

The fifth meeting of the ongoing **Esalen/Trager Massage Instruction & Exchange Group**, meeting on the second and fourth Saturdays of the month, beginning at 9:30 am, on January 8 and 22, 2012, at the First UU. Verbal and hands-on instruction will be provided by Carl W. Nelson trained at the world-renowned Esalen Institute, Big Sur, California. Learn how to integrate bodywork into your life for optimal health and vitality. Experience the easiest way to reach the meditative relaxed state. The massage movements lull the recipient into a dreamy altered state of consciousness and into a spiritual/mystical state.



First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin January 2012 NEWSLETTER

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“Texas Wine, Texas Stars”

A fundraiser for U-Bar-U, set Feb. 11-12

Dinner and wine tasting, music, stargazing, and Sunday worship and brunch

February... what a beautiful time of year to spend a weekend in the Texas Hill Country. The days and nights are cool, and the stars bright. So, on the evening of Saturday, Feb. 11, we'll celebrate with Texas wine tasting, dinner, stargazing and music, all to benefit U-Bar-U, our Unitarian Universalist retreat and conference center outside Kerrville. If you already love U-Bar-U, or if you've never visited the 142-acre welcoming, peaceful place, this is a great opportunity to enjoy our retreat center and join with other Southwest District UUs to raise money for facility upgrades. Check the website www.ubaru.org to see how U-Bar-U has grown and what activities are coming up in 2012.

Arrive Saturday afternoon in time to enjoy U-Bar-U before the festivities begin. You may hike the grounds, walk the labyrinth, take a dip in the swimming tank (polar bears?), or stake out your sleeping quarters. On Saturday evening, we'll listen to music as we gather together and then sit down to a gourmet dinner accompanied by the finest in Texas wines. Later on, we can watch the skies for familiar winter constellations, as U-Bar-U has become known as an excellent venue for stargazing. Afterward, we'll retire to the bunkhouse accommodations at U-Bar-U and then rise on Sunday for outdoor worship, followed by brunch.

Space is limited for this popular event, so reserve your place at the table NOW! If you want to attend the event but not spend the night at U-Bar-U, you are welcome. If interested, we have arranged for special discount rates at the Inn of the Hills in Kerrville. Wherever you stay, however, reservations are a must. Tickets are \$130/person through Saturday, Jan. 14, or \$150/person through Tuesday, Jan. 31 (covers meals, wine and overnight stay at U-Bar-U, and includes a \$75 tax-deductible donation to U-Bar-U Retreat & Conference Center).

For reservations and more information, contact Mark Kilpatrick at 512-917-8423 or texanmkk17@aol.com. *Event organizers, all from First UU Church of Austin, are Mark (U-Bar-U trustee) and his wife, Sharon; Derek (U-Bar-U vice president) and Donna Howard; Mike and Lynda West; Steve and Carolyn Swinnea; and Rose Ann Reeser and John Payne.*

See you there!



EAT AND MEET JANUARY 18TH Denominational Affairs Committee Nominating Committee Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith

These three committees want to help usher in the New Year by hosting the Meet and Eat which will be held on January 18th at 6:00. The menu will be homemade soups, salads, bread and dessert for \$5 per person or \$10 per family. The three committees will give a short update on their upcoming events. We ask that everyone who is interested, please sign up by Monday, January 16th. The Meet and Eat reservation sheet will be located on the bulletin board in the Gallery next to the library. There will also be a sheet on the Visitors table in the foyer. We hope to see you there.

JANUARY SHARING SUPPERS A Great Way to Get Acquainted

Sharing Suppers are casual, adult dinners held the 3rd Saturday of each month. They are open to anyone attending the church: including singles and couples of all ages. Participants take turns planning and hosting the meal and each attendee contributes something to the dinner.

Sharing Suppers are an excellent way to, meet new people, make friends and discover more about what is going on in various groups and programs in the church.

The January dinner will be held on the 21st. You may sign up on the sheet posted on the bulletin board outside the mail room or by e-mailing Linda Buehlmann at sharing@austinuu.org. Check your calendars and sign up today and, definitely, no later than Sunday, January 15th.

Visitors are very welcome.



Lifespan Religious Education

Welcoming Wednesdays at First UU Austin

Come join us on Wednesday nights for dinner plus an adult education course with childcare provided. Many UU congregations offer a midweek educational experience. The Adult Religious Education Committee will begin this practice in 2012 beginning January 11th and running through May 1st. We will start simply and hope to grow the program with offerings for children, youth and multi-generational experiences. On the 3rd Wednesdays – we will continue to hold our beloved “Meet and Eat” gatherings. Wednesday evenings will include:

- **5:45-6:30 pm** Dinner together. Arrive when you can.(provided by Kami except 3rd Wednesdays)
- **6:30-6:40 pm** Everyone cleans up.
- **6:30-9:00 pm** Childcare (6:30pm to 9:00pm)
- **6:45-8:15 pm** Class/program begins
- **7:30-9:30 pm** First UU Austin Choir

Welcoming Wednesday Class/Program Schedule for January, February and March 2012:

January

Jan. 11-Building Your Own Theology
Jan. 18-Meet and Eat led by:
Denominations Affairs, Nominating
Committees and Yew Groves
Jan. 25-Building Your Own Theology

February

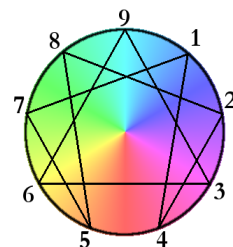
Feb. 1 -Building Your Own Theology
Feb. 8 -Building Your Own Theology
Feb. 15 -Meet & Eat led by: Social
Action Committee
Feb. 22 -Building Your Own Theology
Feb. 29 -Building Your Own Theology

March

Mar. 7 -Building Your Own Theology
Mar. 14 -Building Your Own Theology
Mar. 21-Meet & Eat led by Adult
Religious Education Committee and
Children/Youth Program Committee
Mar 28 -Building Your Own Theology

Building Your Own Theology: Wednesdays at 6:45pm, January 11-March 28 The Adult Religious Education Committee is pleased to sponsor a program titled "Building Your Own Theology" as part of the “Welcoming Wednesdays Program.” This course was designed by the Rev. Richard S. Gilbert, and will feature ten sessions in which participants develop and articulate their religious values. Facilitators will include Pat Walters and Cyndi Loudon.

Enneagram Class: Monday’s at 7pm, January 9-May 21 First UU Austin’s Adult Religious Education Committee is pleased to announce that the Enneagram class will begin on Monday, January 9 at 7:00 p.m. in room 13A and will continue on Monday nights through May 21, 2012. Come learn all about the enneagram...the “roadmap to the human psyche,” presented by Roland Reese. This will be a basic introduction to the Enneagram as a tool for growth. Participants will explore the different personality types and identify their own type. Eventually smaller groups will be formed for further discovery.



Byron Katie

The Presence Group Special Event: “Awakening into the New Year: Ending Needless Suffering Using ‘The Work’ of Byron Katie.” held at Casa de Luz in the Cielo Room South at 1701 Toomey Road, Austin, TX 78704 on 1/12/12 from 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.. The evening will include a Byron Katie video, discussion Katie’s wisdom, and a chance to experience the freedom that using her 4 question method offers to dismantle our troubling thoughts. The facilitator of the group is [Amanda Winters](http://www.thework.com), LCSW. More info at www.thework.com. Watch videos of Katie doing The Work at www.youtube.com For the remainder of January, our group will meet at First UU every Thursday, in Room 13 at 7:00 p.m. 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 or more info about ‘The Work’ technique, contact Amanda Winters, our Facilitator at 512-423-6529, mail@amandawinters.com *Amanda offers free private intro sessions and group trainings about ‘The Work’ as well.”

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Children and Youth Programming

Programming continues into the New Year. Note room changes during 10:30 a.m. hour

9:00 am Programming

Childcare	Room 19 and 21
Preschool (Silvia)	Room 23
K – 5 th Grade (Zoe & Laine)	Room 17 all ages
8 th & 9 th Grade OWL (Andrew & Chelsea)	Room 11
Youth Choirs	Rooms 13 and 15

10:30 am Programming

Childcare	Room 19 and 21
Preschool with Silvia	Room 23
K – 2 nd Grade w/Laine	Room 17 a & b
3 rd – 5 th Grade w/Zoe	Room 13b
6 th , 7 th & 8 th Grade w/Star	Room 13a
YRUU	Room 11

11:45-1:00 pm Childcare Childcare is available while attending Forum, Adult Ed classes and Committee meetings. Child must be in childcare by noon at the latest.

First UU Austin's Christmas Pageant Another Great Success, THANKS!

So many "thank yous" so little room in the inn. Thank you **Gillian Redfearn** for your fantastic coordination of the pageant and the evening. Thank you **Cindy Stein** for another remarkable dinner. Mary and Joseph and Baby Jesus were just too adorable, along with the wise folk, the shepherds, the angels and the animals and that Innkeeper – wow. Many thanks to the Rev. Meg Barnhouse for narrating the pageant and thanks to the children's choir for your lovely music and to our accompanist who helped us all raise our voices in joyous singing. Here's a partial list of some of the other folks that helped put on the dinner and helped make sure the pageant occurred without a hitch: Mary Ann Stafford, Kitty Traylor, Ethan Love, Susan Bethke, Michael LeBurken, John Keohane, Gerri Neemidge, Valerie Sterne, Jacob Williamson, Liz Cook, Paige and David Neemidge, Sally Scott, Andrea Klass, Vicky Bailey-Miller, Vicki Alstrum and the many many many folks that do so much without anyone really knowing. What a marvelous tradition and lovely way to celebrate the season. First UU Austin knows how to put on a show!



Lifespan Religious Education Program Welcomes Three New Staff People - Welcome Ya'll

Liz Cook, Administrative Assistant to the Lifespan RE Program Liz hails from Massachusetts and grew up in the North Parish Church of North Andover. First UU Austin is like an extended family! She is excited to be on

board at First UU and is eager to contribute to and support the organizational growth of the Lifespan Religious Education Department, especially the "little UUs." If she's not in the office or in class you can find her zipping around Austin on her trusty two-wheeled steed.

Zoe Engberg, Lead Teacher for 3rd - 5th Grade Class Zoe is a lifelong UU, originally from Pittsburgh, and loves getting to know new UU communities everywhere she goes. Some of her hobbies are: reading, doing things outdoors, making new friends, discussing social issues and learning new things. To quote Zoe: "I love discussing things with the kids and watching them make connections between what we're learning and their own lives. They continue to surprise me with their thoughtfulness and insight."

Silvia Giebitz, Lead Teacher Preschool Class: Silvia is from Argentina and came to America in her early 20's as a young mother. She was married then to an American man, who she met while they both were trying to serve humanity in the Peruvian Andes. Silvia is an artist by trade and studied at UT of El Paso. Silvia is a ballroom and tango dancer as well as a passionate cook, avid reader and traveler. In addition to teaching fine arts and making jewelry, she enjoys working with children. "They always surprise me with their candor and honesty. I have great fun and feel very honored to work with our little ones at First UU Austin."

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Austin January 2012 NEWSLETTER

We gather in community to nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice.

First Unitarian Universalist

Church of Austin

4700 Grover Avenue

Austin, TX 78756

One Church. Many Beliefs.

Minister:

Rev. Meg Barnhouse ext 304

Director of Finance and Operations

Sean Hale ext 308

Interim Director Lifespan Religious

Education:

Barbara Stoddard ext 306

Director of Music: Brent Baldwin ext 314

Board President: Chris Jimmerson

Church Phone: (512) 452-6168

Church Web: austinuu.org



Photos are by Jane Parsons & Margaret Roberts

You have undoubtedly noticed some construction by the office.

In mid-December, we began a remodeling project to create a welcome center. You will have a space where everyone who visits during the week can receive a warm welcome, where lively conversations can happen without disrupting vital office functions, and where callers can reach a live person during the day. This is another step towards your goals, as articulated in your mission and ends, of gathering in community, being more welcoming and hospitable, and finding connection in fellowship.

Once the dust has cleared, you will find that a portion of the main office has been repurposed to expand the main entryway from the courtyard. This will create a space for welcoming that looks and feels like what other successful churches use.

During the few weeks of construction, with its noise and dust, your office staff will focus their energy on ensuring that the basics and mission-critical activities get covered. That includes mailing your 2011 giving statements mailed no later than January 31. Throughout construction time, and during our catch up period once its complete, our response time will likely be slower than usual.

We thank you in advance for your support and understanding. Whatever temporary inconveniences we may encounter over the next few weeks will be more than offset by the long-term positive impact on the life of the church.

One additional bonus: as a congregation considering construction, this will give us a tiny preview of the excitement of building something new and its impact on day-to-day operations! *Sean Hale*