

July 2012

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF AUSTIN

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



FLOWER COMMUNION

Tradition Creates Festive Bouquet of People



In late May, First UU held its annual Flower Communion. By bringing and exchanging flowers, participants became part of a particularly Unitarian service created by Rev. Norbert Capek in 1923.

Capek started the ritual to celebrate the worth, value and beauty of all people and celebrate the community of faith. "Capek saw hope for humanity," Rev. Meg Barnhouse told the congregation. "He would later die at the hands of the Nazis because this belief was so different from theirs. Let us remember him and his principles and dreams."

Rev. George "Kim" Beach, former minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Arlington, Va., and his wife, Barbara (both pictured at bottom), helped Barnhouse lead the service.



Sharing Suppers
 July 21
 time and location TBA

Attending Sharing Suppers is a great way to meet lots of newcomers and long time UUs. Sharing Suppers are casual adult dinners, the third Saturday of each month. Groups of 6-10 people gather in various participants' homes, and everyone contributes to the dinner. Sharing Suppers are open to anyone in the church, new or established, couples or singles, and you need not be a member to participate. Sign up for one dinner at a time; no long-term commitment. Participants take turns hosting and planning the meal or helping co-host in another's home. The signup deadline is July 15. More info: jubarker@yahoo.com. Monthly reminders: sharingsupper-subscribe@yahoo.com.

MEG BARNHOUSE

Wearing My Traveling Shoes



I want to let you know about my summer plans and tell you some good news. By the time you are reading this, I will be traveling to South Carolina to visit our boys and our new granddaughter, Piper Leigh, who was due this past week. She isn't born as of this writing, but I assume she will be two weeks from now. Kiya and I will do a lot of baby-holding and baby feeding, we'll be helpful around the house, and it is likely that we will start teaching the baby the history of rock 'n roll.

We'll sit on the porch with friends, looking out at the Blue Ridge Mountains. I will be reading the books that will nourish sermons and leadership development here in upcoming years, and planning all of my preaching topics through next June.

Then we come back to town for two days and launch ourselves down the road to Alaska. We're playing concerts in Denver, Fairbanks and Anchorage, and I'm preaching in UU churches up there. Kiya is closing out the Southeast Alaska State Fair, where we'll watch lumberjack contests, pig races and marvel at all of the things that can be deep-fried.

My mother took us van-camping all of my teenage years, so this feels like a return to childhood for me. Part of me is confident and excited. Kiya is planning everything, and she is the Girl Scout equivalent of an Eagle

Scout, so I'm not worried about the organization of the trip. All I have to do is not get in the way!

Part of me is pessimistic as a chicken. Chickens seem always to be convinced that death is right around the corner, from a snake or a raccoon, a black bird or a piece of cantaloupe.

The van will break down, tires will explode, I won't be able to sleep in the back of the van, one of my children will need me, it'll rain the whole time, we'll get stuck in the mud, we'll be cold. It would be smarter to stay home.

I'm wearing hiking boots in the office for these last two weeks of June because I know it's not smart to try to break in new boots on the trail; they need to be comfortable and familiar by the time you really need them. Some things require an investment of time

Investments of time, love and money have helped us in our mission to transform lives, nourish souls and do justice

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING: SAVE THE DATE

SUNDAY, NOV. 11, 1:30 p.m. - Pre-congregational Meeting
 (to discuss the agenda of the December congregational meeting)

SUNDAY, DEC. 9, 1:30 p.m. - Congregational Meeting
 (to vote on the annual budget and more)

This notification of the congregational meeting will appear monthly, throughout the year, and will serve as an official notification of our semi-annual meetings. In order to save time and money, we will discontinue the practice of sending targeted mailings announcing these meetings.



and love before they become the best they can be. I'm investing in me too. I don't want to be the kind of person who thinks it would be smarter to stay home.

And now some good news: This church has received investments of time and love from so many people. I have faith that it is continuing to become the best it can be. People are investing their money as well. It is my great joy to announce that the church has received a bequest from Martha Leipziger's estate. Martha Leipziger made a decision to make this church's mission part of her life's legacy. Because of the \$136,000 dollars she left this congregation, the Justice Fund—which receives 10 percent of all bequests not otherwise designated—is substantial. A process for disbursement of that fund is being created. The church's Savings Fund has also grown, as it receives 10 percent of all bequests as well. The rest goes to a new fund called Living Our Mission. It is from this fund that we will create scholarships for service trips for adults and youth, fund our efforts to have intelligent conversations about managing our growth, hire a parking lot greeter to wrangle cars on crowded Sunday mornings, and continue to find ways to transform lives, nourish souls, and do justice.

If you would like to make this congregation's goals and mission part of your legacy, please do think about putting First UU in your will. Martha's gift will be transformative for this church. Your future gifts will create nourishment, transformation and justice as well.

We prepare for the journey with as much intelligence as we can muster. We draw from our experience. We focus our strength on the tasks that lie ahead. We will make mistakes. We may have failures, but we will not be the people who thought it was smarter to stay "home!"

"Friend" me on Facebook to see pictures and read the mini-blog about our summer.

Rev. Kathleen Ellis will be available for pastoral care emergencies. The church office will have her contact information.

FACILITIES

Upgrades and Other Adventures



The grounds committee happened to be meeting the night a tree fell in front of the entrance, adding impromptu tree removal to the group's agenda for the evening.

- **Fallen Tree at Entrance:** The evening of June 12, a tree fell across the entrance to our property, preventing entry or departure. Fortunately, our grounds committee was meeting that night and sprung into action! Our neighbors lent help in clearing a path and Joe's Tree Service removed the rest.

- **Automatic Door Opener:** Thanks to the generosity of Karen Neeley, we have installed an automatic door opener for the south sanctuary entrance. It is now fully operational.

- **Watering:** To mitigate the impact of another dry summer, we are looking for folks to water critical parts of our landscape that our irrigation system doesn't cover.

- **LED Bulbs:** Dale Bulla replaced the bulbs in the main hallway can lights with LED bulbs. These highly energy-efficient bulbs should last up to 20,000 hours.

FRESHEN UUP

During the coming year, Vicki Almstrum is coordinating Operation Freshen UUp, an effort to make our facilities at 4700 Grover ... well, fresher!! We visualize many changes (painting, reorganizing, decrowding) to make our church building feel more welcoming. This will dovetail with activities already underway by various groups in the church and we will seek to involve many volunteers as specific tasks get underway. If you know of a resource that might help along the way, please contact Vicki at freshenUUp@austinuu.org.

CampUU/ Hogwarts July 30-Aug. 3

CampUU/Hogwarts takes place again this year the week of July 30-Aug. 3. Campers in grades 1-6 will enjoy activities related to the magic of the Harry Potter series, including Diagon Alley, a sorting ceremony, wizard sports such as Quiddich, and classes ranging from potions to transfiguration to Defense Against the Dark Arts. Prefects in grades 7-college help make the event successful and fun. This volunteer-driven camp benefits from the talents of many individuals both within First UU and from the Austin community. On Sunday, Aug. 5, we will share a taste of the Hogwarts experience with everyone attending church services, R.E. classes, and fellowship after the service. More info: CHARM-committee@yahoo.com.



Participants in last year's Camp UU/Hogwarts had the chance to meet Dobby the liberated house elf.

Summer of Social Action

Conservation-minded activities in R.E. classes and other areas of the church will culminate in a celebration on Aug. 26. Look for more info next issue, but get a head start on the recommended reading: *Low Carbon Diet* by David Gershon, copies of which the Green Sanctuary Committee hopes to have available soon.

Women's Spirituality Group
July 7
10:30 a..m.
room 13

This month the Women's Spirituality Group will focus on African American Spirituality, including honoring the Ancestors, learning from the Outraged Mother, and creating quilt patterns. On July 21 and Aug. 4, we will learn about Shakti and Kali Ma, Goddesses from India. We meet on the first and third Saturday mornings of each month. This group is for women high school age and older. We are open to new members at all times. More info: Linda Webster, women@austinuu.org.

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Survey Says! Give First UU Your Input



We want to hear from you! The Board of Trustees has placed a brief congregational survey on our church website. We have also distributed it via e-mail. Hopefully, you have noticed it. Even better, we hope you have completed the survey. If you have not, we encourage you to do so.

Let me explain why this is important for our church. One of the responsibilities of the board is to monitor compliance with the policies the board has written. This includes monitoring our progress in achieving the ends, or goals, that the board created with your input. We have established a monitoring calendar that identifies the particular policies or ends (goals) we monitor each month. We use several methods for monitoring. The congregational survey is one of the methods we are using to monitor our progress in achieving these ends.

Our plan is for this survey to become an annual measure of how well we are progressing as a congregation in achieving our ends: making our church an intentionally hospitable community, nourishing souls and transforming lives, and witnessing to justice in our personal lives and beyond. This means the survey is particularly important because it will serve as a benchmark for surveys in following years.

The congregational survey is essential to identify where to dedicate more time and resources as a church.

THE SURVEY, IN A NUTSHELL

The survey is anonymous, should take only ten minutes, and is critical to both the board and executive team.

Section 1 deals with the goals of the church; we're interested in your perception of how the church is doing in these areas.

Section 2 will tell us how you feel about your personal spirituality and how you live your life.

Section 3 assesses how likely you are to recommend the church to a friend.

Section 4 gathers basic info about demographics and church involvement.

Your response counts. Hearing from everyone is our goal. Results will be shared with you in the fall. Obviously, the more of you who respond, the more meaningful and useful the results will be. The Board will be compiling and analyzing the results this fall and will share them with the congregation. The deadline for completing the survey is Aug. 1. Again, we want to hear from you!

— Susan Thomson

NEW TOBACCO POLICY: WE CAN HELP

To our beloved church members who can no longer smoke on First UU's campus: We are offering to help you get set up with an e-cigarette kit, a realistic-looking cigarette that delivers nicotine without creating smoke. This is not an ideal substitute, but it's a way to let you know that you are cherished. First UU only wants to ban tobacco, it does not in any way want to ban you! If this is a solution that has some appeal, just call Sean Hale 452-6168 x308 or e-mail him at Sean@austinuu.org.

CARING

Caring Ministry: A Friend Indeed in Time of Need

From the perspective of summer, my “to do” list for September was mostly the usual: family activities, teaching, projects. Then came the unusual: Surgery on the 8th, followed by weeks of recovery. That foiled the prospect of doing the usual in usual ways.

To the rescue: Vanessa and the Caring Ministry! With my permission, Meg put Vanessa MacDougal, the chair of the Caring Committee, in touch with me.

Once Vanessa and I had discussed my family’s needs and the options for support, she arranged for members of the Caring Ministry to provide mid-day transportation from the class I was teaching for DeVry University.

This made life simpler for me, because I didn’t need to arrange for rides myself; instead, each Caring Ministry chauffeur arrived as scheduled to escort me home. One of my



The author (left) and Rev. Meg Barnhouse.

drivers even brought a delicious batch of lentil soup for my family to enjoy for dinner.

A lovely side-benefit was the chance to become better acquainted with several church members with whom I perhaps had talked earlier, but had not yet had the chance to know better.

The moral of my story: The Caring Ministry is a wonderful, loving way to find one’s way through challenging times!

— Vicki L. Almstrum

PASTORAL CARE PROGRAM ARRIVES THIS FALL

Beginning Sept. 5, our church, in partnership with Threads of Hope, will host an eight-week Pastoral Care Associate Certification Program to enhance congregational care-giving.

The program will begin with an intro to guiding, sustaining, healing and reconciling. Participants will review their family as a resource for learning the use of the self in care giving. They will learn how growth and change impact those who give and receive care. Participants will be able to name, claim and reframe their own and others’ suffering; learn respectful boundaries in offering pastoral presence, and the importance of knowing our limits and how to refer for help.

Participants must attend all sessions to be-

come certified as a PC Associate. From there, they may apply for specialist certification: four sessions of giving another person direct pastoral care under professional supervision.

The training program will be led by Barry Click, D.Min., Diplomate Supervisor American Association of Pastoral Counselors; Sam Riccobene, graduate of Austin Presbyterian Seminary and a retired Pastor in the PCUSA and Meg Barnhouse, M.Div., Fellow, AAPC.

PASTORAL CARE CERTIFICATION
Wednesdays, room 15, 6:45-8 p.m.
Course fee: \$80, payable first day of class
Registration deadline: Aug. 15
More info: maptrick@gmail.com

Prayer Vigil for Lightning Medicine Cloud

July 3, Butler Park, 7 p.m.

Join Yew Grove Pagan Interfaith and the Social Action Committee as they complete their petition drive with a circle to honor the slaughtered Lakota Sacred White Buffalo calf. More info: “Calendar” at austinuu.org/yewgrove. Please note: The Yew Grove Moon Circle is cancelled this month.

People’s Community Clinic Volunteer Collate Group

July 10, 9:30 a.m.
 At the PCC

Arrive anytime after 9:30 a.m. and leave when you need—we always finish by noon. You don’t need to participate each month. More info: pcc@austinuu.org.

ARCH Lunch Preparation Mondays 6 p.m., kitchen

For 2nd Monday off-site location, email lyndawest@earthlink.net

Singalong

July 28

7:30-10:30 p.m.
3701 E. MLK
Blvd.

As usual, we meet on the fourth Saturday. Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of "Rise Up Singing" will be available. Please do not bring alcohol, since this is not a custom of the Quakers. More info: **Larry Vaughn**, 469-0029. Contact **Mary Jane Ford** at singalong@ustinuu.org to add someone to the e-mail list.

Eclectic Folk JamJuly 13, 7-10 p.m.
Howson Hall

Gather on second Fridays for an open jam session with singers and instrumentalists. Genres include 1960s folk, bluegrass, gospel, blues, protest songs, Irish, Scottish, Appalachian, Dixieland, and more. Potluck and snacks are encouraged. More info: singalong@ustinuu.org; Mary Jane Ford, 926-4122; or Pete and Kim Akenhead, 834-0188. Next month's session: Aug. 10.

PARADOX PLAYERS**GARY PAYNE IN THE SPOTLIGHT****What's your theater background?**

I have done theater since high school, having directed or performed in over 80 shows through the years. In addition, I have a theater troupe, the Capital City Mystery Players (since 1991), that performs audience interactive whodunits with dinner.

What about the Paradox Artistic Director job inspired you to take on more UU work?

It was too good an opportunity to pass up. I've directed five shows for Paradox and always enjoy it. The volunteer support staff is incredibly talented and hard working and the theater is very well respected in the community.

Anything especially challenging about staging the upcoming shows?

I have a great play reading committee that includes Ann Edwards, Barbara Weeks and Sherry Coombes that patiently read a LOT of plays before choosing the 2012/2013 season. We wanted something about presidential politics for October and Gore Vidal's *The Best Man* is the perfect vehicle. We wanted some-



thing totally fun for February and *The Complete Works of Shakespeare (abridged)* more than fits the bill. The June show, *Next Fall*, is a pretty new script that deals with issues that should really resonate with our audience, with humor and heartbreak. We will produce the Austin premier. All three plays will present unique staging challenges, but I'm sure our volunteer staff will be up to the task.

Any changes you have planned for the way Paradox does its thing?

My plan is to try and maintain the high quality of theater established by Poullette MacDougal and Ann Edwards over the last 12 years.

PARADOX PLAYERS: THE NEW SEASON
*Vidal, Nauffts and The Bard***October 5-21**

We open the season with Gore Vidal's wickedly funny political satire of 1960's presidential politics, *THE BEST MAN* (enjoying a revival on Broadway this year). It's about the race to the presidency, as two front-runners vie for their party's nomination in the midst of back stabbing, double-crossing, dirty-dealing and all the games politicians play. It makes you wish that Vidal were writing the dialogue for this year's presidential debates.

February 8-24

In February we bring you a Valentine bouquet from William Shakespeare (sorta). *THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE ABRIDGED* is an irreverent, fast-paced romp through the Bard's playbook. Join these three (that's right, only three) madcap men in tights as they weave their wicked way through ALL of Shakespeare's Comedies, Histories and Tragedies in one wild ride that will leave you breathless and helpless with laughter. It was London's longest-running comedy – 10 years in the West End at the Criterion Theatre!

June 7-23

We close the season with Geoffrey Nauffts' riveting *NEXT FALL*. Luke believes in God. Adam believes in everything else. *NEXT FALL* portrays the ups and downs of this unlikely couple's five-year relationship with sharp humor and unflinching honesty. It paints a beautiful and funny portrait of modern romance, asking the hard questions about commitment, love, and faith.

FIRST UU HISTORY CORNER

HOWSON HALL: A SIMPLER SERVICE

In July last year, with the A/C in the sanctuary non-functioning, the Worship Committee made the call to move the worship service into Howson Hall. The worship leader, Mark Skrabacz, shared a bit about the days when services were held regularly in Howson Hall, prior to building the sanctuary in the mid-1980s. He mentioned three ministers from that time: Charles Howe, Kim Beech and Matthew McNaught.

Barbara Denny reflects further: “We founded the First Unitarian Universalist Church soon after moving to Austin in 1978. Matthew McNaught was the minister then and Sunday service was held in Howson Hall. Folding metal chairs were all set up for the service, but afterward we each folded up our chair and maybe someone else’s chair too. Then coffee hour started! I remember thinking



Forum attendees in Howson Hall in the 1980s. For fun: Find George and Barbara Denny (on the left side). Also pictured are Pat Spurr and Dr. Spurr, former president of UT–Austin.

how beautifully simple the decor on the wall behind the podium was (it was the same podium we use now in the Sanctuary). The simplicity was especially good in my view because I was pretty upset with the opulence of many other churches I had seen. I thought the others should have spent the money on something more important ... like people in need. I think behind all those Paradox Players black curtains the very simple, very handsome wooden slats are still there.”

Lynda West recalls that when she first attended services in Howson Hall, it was the community that drew her, not the building. She observes that this space had served the church community well and that it was delightful on the recent weekend to see how thoroughly the congregation has now outgrown Howson Hall!

YOUTH UPDATE

GHANA AID, CAR WASH IN THE WORKS

FIRST UU KIDS COLLECTING \$120 TO HELP A CHILD IN GHANA

This summer our children and youth will include a morning offering during their time together. We ask that all children grades K–12 bring their nickels and dimes for our collection from June 3–Aug. 26. The money will be sent to the “Every Child is Our Child” program. It only costs \$120 to send an orphaned child to school for a year in Ghana. You can read more about this program at www.uua.org/giving/funds/199854.shtml.



SUMMER YOUTH GROUPS

The high school and middle school youth groups will follow the same basic schedule:
1st Sunday—team building and planning
2nd Sunday—middle school: “Families” workshop; high school: “Value Ethics”
3rd Sunday—attend worship service
4th Sunday—social action, service projects.
5th Sunday—playing games, hanging out.

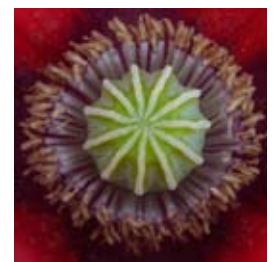
UPCOMING YOUTH EVENTS

- July 1:** High school youth carwash during 10 a.m. service to raise money for youth group September kickoff.
- July 22:** Social action for Austin Pets Alive.
- Aug. 26:** High school youth group helping out at the Austin Food Bank.



Equinox Auction and Ball Donation Deadline Sept. 1

This Sept. 22 event, one of our major fundraisers for the year, is the perfect opportunity for you to donate your hidden treasures and special skills in support of our many church programs! Questions? Visit equinoxauction.org or email info@equinoxauction.org.

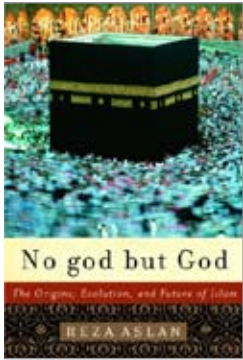


Fleeting Moments Captured June 29–July 29 The Gallery

Macro photography exhibit of flowers by multimedia artist Daniel Llanes.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CHILDREN AND YOUTH PROGRAMMING



The Sunday Book Group
8-9:45 a.m.,
Sundays

No God But God, by Reza Aslan. More info: James Burson, 794-1086

Mind and Meaning Book Club

11:15 a.m.-1 p.m.,
Sundays

More info: mindmeaning@
austinuu.org

Heritage Book Club

heritage@
austinuu.org

Pot luck dinner followed by a discussion of a book at members' homes.

THIS SUMMER
Hour-Long Children/Youth Group Programming

STARTING JUNE 3, 10-11 A.M.
JUNE 3-AUG. 26 NO STORY TIME AT SERVICE

This summer, children and youth will go directly to their classrooms for an hour of worship, learning and fun. All ages will participate with the age group/grade that they will be in the fall. Children who will be age four and under in September will enjoy playtime in room 19 and 21.

Awesome UU Kids (K-5) to Take Conservation Scavenger Hunt at First UU

JULY 8 AND 15

A big thank you goes to several members of the Green Sanctuary Committee for helping us develop our Scavenger Hunt.



Jr. High Youth Group (GRADES 6-8)
Sr. High Youth Group (GRADES 9-12)

Both groups will focus on the six components of community building: Worship, Learning, Team Building, Social Action, Leadership and Youth/Adult Partnership. Come be a part of the future this summer and beyond.

COMING THIS FALL
Class Offerings

We will have the same class offerings for our children in Preschool-5 grade during both services. Jr. and Sr. High youth will meet only during the second service. Plus our children's choirs will still rehearse during the first service. You will be asked to complete a new registration form in August and indicate which service and class your child will most likely attend to help us with planning. Classes will run 15 minutes past the service hour to allow children and youth to attend the beginning of each service and then an hour of community time in the classroom

- 9:15-10:30 a.m. & 10:45 a.m.-noon**
Preschool (3 and 4 year olds)
Kindergarten-Grade 1
Grades 2-3
Grades 4-5
- 9:15-10:30 a.m. only**
Two Children's Choirs (first service)
- 10:45 a.m.-noon only**
Jr. Youth Group (Grades 6-8)
- 10:45 a.m.-12:45 p.m.**
Sr. Youth Group (Grades 9-12)

We want to build up the number of adults attending our first service, so please start thinking about the service you will attend if you have younger children. The curriculum will be the same at both services. Classes will be grouped in smaller age ranges—which are much better for all toward creating a nourishing, exciting community. NOTE: We also hope that our UU Choir Kids will consider joining us for classes during the second service as often as possible.

HELP WANTED

Lead Teachers Needed for Children's Program (CYPC) Year-round Beginning Sept. 9

- Teach grade 2-3 or grade 4-5 classes during both services
- Prepare and lead all elements of lessons (and gather supplies as needed)
- Provide guidance to classroom assistants • Will consider job-sharing

NOTE: Church members can only be considered volunteers.

Non-members can be compensated as staff, as per our personnel policies effective Aug. 15, 2011.

Apply to Barbara@austinuu.org

DENOMINATIONAL NEWS

Summer Institute in July

What is SWUUSI? The Southwest UU Summer Institute, July 22-27. It's our district's week-long multi-generational summer camp, offering opportunities to learn about our UU faith more deeply, to be entertained, and to enjoy music, art, and recreational activities. It's a camp for children, youth, young adults and the rest of us!

SWUUSI will be held at Western Hills Guest Ranch on Fort Gibson Lake in Hulbert, Okla., part of Sequoyah State Park.

There will be theme talks, sunset talks, an artist-in-residence, workshops, activities and events, children and youth programs, social action projects, and a marketplace. Young adults have the option of group lodging in

the bunkhouse. For a great short video about SWUUSI, all the information you need, and registration, visit <http://swuuc.org/pages/services/camps/swuusi/what-is-swuusi.php>

Registration deadline: July 13.

(After this date, you must register on-site at SWUUSI.)



ONLINE WORSHIP

Church of the Larger Fellowship

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is an online congregation for Unitarian Universalists. Its mission: "to provide a ministry to isolated religious liberals, and to offer a spiritual home within the Unitarian Universalist movement."

Its website (www.questformeaning.org) describes CLF as "a Unitarian Universalist congregation without walls. Our 3,500 members, with their children, live all over the world. What brings us together is the desire to connect, seek, share and grow. You are welcome here whether you are a CLF member or not."

CLF has an online community and a prison and military ministry. Anyone can join CLF worship services each week. There is even The Church of the Younger Fellowship (www.uucyf.org), a worldwide congregation for UU young adults (age 18 to 35).

UUA BOOKSTORE

Got your summer reading list made out yet? Visit the UUA Bookstore at www.uuabookstore.org to find books on a wide range of topics, such as UU history, family life, faith traditions, contemporary issues, justice, ecology and nature, religious education, meditation and prayer, as well as posters, jewelry, music, and more. With your purchase, you'll help make a difference for immigrant justice if you enter the code PhoenixGA at checkout or mention the code when ordering by phone. The UUA Bookstore will donate five percent of your purchase to The Comités de Defensa del Barrio (CDBs) and Puente Ariz. These organizations, which perform vital human services and migrant justice work in Arizona, are approved by the General Assembly Planning Committee.

www.uuabookstore.org

SWUUC Summer Camps

July 1-21

The Southwest Unitarian Universalist Conference will offer three separate summer camps at U-Bar-U for ages 8-19 in July.

July 1-7

rising 3-6 graders
SWUUC Junior Camp

July 8-14

rising 7-9 graders
SWUUC Senior Camp

July 15-21

rising 9-12 graders and 19-year olds who have just graduated
Register: <http://fd8.formdesk.com/swuuc1/camps12/>

UU Austin Area Cluster

Want to learn more about our UU neighbors? Check out their Internet presence

Live Oak UU Church

www.liveoakuu.org
www.facebook.com/liveoakuu

Wildflower UU Church

www.wildflower-church.org
www.facebook.com (search for "Wildflower UU")

San Marcos UU Fellowship:

www.smuuf.org
www.facebook.com/smuuf

San Gabriel UU Fellowship:

www.sangabrieluu.org

Flower Power Take a Spot on the Calendar

Please consider filling an empty spot on the Flower Calendar. You can honor or memorialize a special person or date, or just provide flowers to warm your own heart! You may sign up in the hallway across from the office. More info: Barbara Denny, flowers@austinUU.org

**First Unitarian
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Church of
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Minister
Rev. Meg Barnhouse
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Director of Finance
and Operations
Sean Hale
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Interim Director of
Lifespan Religious Ed.
Barbara Stoddard
ext 306

Director of Music
Brent Baldwin
ext 314

Board President
Susan Thomson

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 10 A.M.

JULY 1 What is Patriotism?

WITH REV. MARK SKRABACZ, MINISTER,
UU CHURCH OF THE HILL COUNTRY

On the Sunday before the Independence Day holiday, let's examine the idea of patriotism and its varying degrees, interpretations and practices. We like to think we are patriotic. How do we define patriotism? What does it mean? Mark serves as called minister for the UU Church of the Hill Country in Kerrville. Beginning in September, he will also serve as half time consulting minister for San Gabriel UU Fellowship in Georgetown.

JULY 8 THE COURAGE TO TRUST

WITH JIM CHECKLEY,
FORMER FIRST UU CHURCH MEMBER

According to polls, "trust" is at an all time low within our country. Government, lawyers, the media, politicians, and others are setting all time low marks for trust. They say that when trust is broken in a relationship, it is very difficult to repair and it is usually time to move on. But how do you move on from yourself? Moreover, trust is not just an external phenomenon; it is in fact important to our own inner well being, and somewhat like forgiveness, often says more about us than about them. Trust Checkley, he'll explain on Sunday. Checkley first attended the Church in 1977 and has been conducting services since 1987. He looks forward to taking the pulpit for the 28th time.

JULY 15 The Elderly, the Beautiful, and Children of God

REV. KATHLEEN ELLIS, UU MINISTER

As Bollywood brings glimpses of India into our consciousness, the overall impression is that India is complex on multiple levels. Beauty competes with squalor; spirituality competes with greed; generosity competes with corruption; elders, children and homeless people compete for scraps of welfare. Compare it all with the United States: We're not all that different, but issues become invisible for the most part unless we have some philosophical discussion about it. Nourish souls, transform lives, and do justice? Ellis is a Unitarian Universalist minister, ordained in 1993, who has served several congregations in the Southwest and Southeast Districts. She served as treasurer of the UU Ministers Association, ministerial settlement representative for the Southwest, and most recently minister of Congregational Life at Live Oak UU Church in northwest Austin for eight years. She is now Good Offices person for the Southwest. (Good Officers advise and advocate for colleagues who experience difficulties in their ministries.) On sabbatical last year she traveled to India on a three-week spiritual pilgrimage. Kathleen's husband Jon Montgomery is a member of First UU-Austin.

JULY 22

It Looks like the World is Going to Hell. So Let's Change it—and Our Selves—Religiously.

WITH AMANDA YAIRA ROBINSON,
TEXAS INTERFAITH POWER AND LIGHT

The news is grim: war, hunger, poverty, global warming. Sometimes the scope of these challenges is overwhelming, and we wonder whether our efforts even matter. Jewish teachings remind us to focus on the distance between our experience of the world as it is and visions of what it could or should be. What do we do with these tensions? How can we bridge the distances? Today, we'll talk about possibility, transformation and what Karl Barth called an "uprising against the disorder of the world." Amanda Yaira Robinson coordinates Texas Interfaith Power and Light (TXIPL), the environmental program of The Texas Interfaith Center for Public Policy (TICPP). TXIPL is one of 39 state Interfaith Power and Light programs, each voicing a religious response to global warming. Amanda served for five years as director of Religious Education in Unitarian Universalist churches before joining TICPP staff in 2008, and she is currently working on a Master's in Theological Studies at Austin Presbyterian Theological Seminary. Granddaughter of a Christian minister and daughter of Sufi teachers, she is joyfully Jewish.

JULY 28

Bouncers at the Palace: Royal Weddings and the Rest of Us

WITH TIMOTHY TUTT

On July 29, 1981, Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer were married amid grand celebration in St. Paul's Cathedral. A divorce, a death, a remarriage, thousands of paparazzi photos and 21 years later...what can we learn about fairy tale weddings, marriages, and our own relationships?

WEEKLY MEETS

Mindful Meditation Practice

Mondays
6:30-7:30 p.m.

Covenant Yoga Practice Group

Tuesdays
1:30 p.m.

Philosophical Discussion Group

Wednesdays
1-5 p.m.

The Presence Group

Thursdays
7-8:30 p.m.

EVERY-OTHER WEEK MEETS

Mighty Platypi Campfire

Saturdays
10-11 a.m.

Massage Group

Saturdays
9:30-12:30 p.m.

EXTRA SUNDAY PARKING
For the sake of members with physical challenges and small children, please park at the Credit Union or the School for the Blind. You'll find the Credit Union parking lot next door to the north of the church and can park in any spaces (but not in the drive through-lanes). You can access TSBVI through its Burnet Rd. entrance at 47th Street. Along Wildcat Run, roughly halfway between Burnet and Lamar, you'll find parking spaces near the sanctuary door. The gate to cross over to the church is at the southeast corner of our property. Please note: the speed limit at TSBVI is 5 mph.

**First Unitarian
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**One Church
Many Beliefs**
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Photography
compliments of
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Margaret Roberts

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SPECIAL OFFERING FOR JULY *IEN Energy Action Team*

The Energy Action Team is a group of representatives from Austin's faith communities organized by the Interfaith Environmental Network of Austin (IEN) to address the challenges and opportunities we face today with global warming, climate change and meeting the world's future energy needs. The goals of the IEN Energy Action Team include:

- Building awareness about the environmental degradation occurring from our reliance on fossil fuel energy sources and other harmful human activities that impact adverse climate changes,

- Learning best practices for energy conservation, efficiency and the promotion of renewable energy sources at both a personal level and a congregational level.

- Making commitments to reduce carbon emissions, identify a sustainable energy plan for Texas and Austin, create a pledge program to encourage congregational participation, promote public policies as a matter of our faith convictions about caring for the Creation on which our lives depend.

More info: www.interfaithenvironment.org/events/energy-action-team.htm

A NOTE ABOUT SPECIAL OFFERINGS

On the second Sunday of every month our church collects a special offering. Your generous donations at the worship service go to the First UU Justice Fund, which is divided among worthy organizations, thereby extending our church's mission into the greater community. Organizations are nominated and then approved by the congregation.