



FIRST UU NEWS

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

All aboard for the fall stewardship!

by Meg Barnhouse



All aboard for the long haul! Pledge 1-2-3 is the theme of this fall's stewardship drive. We're picturing First UU as a train, on track to be the church of our hopes, the church that carries us and our children into a future of strong UU identity and practice, a church well known for its hospitality, depth of heart, art and intellect, and for justice-making.

This train we're getting on, where is it going?

Having listened to the church for a year now, and in studying the goals by which we steer into the future, I have a sense of where we would like to be:

Could we be a congregation with a reputation for generosity, a church that gives away 5-10 percent of its budget to efforts for justice? This includes giving away the (non-pledge) collection plate every week.

Could we be a congregation where the youth and adults have many experiences of hands-on justice work, from demonstrating on the steps of the Capitol to going on service trips?

Could we be a congregation whose strength in the arts is well-known in central Texas, and where we weave art into worship, into justice work, into intergenerational projects and outreach projects?

Could we be a congregation whose people give and receive skilled pastoral care, where we teach one another, where we pass on our faith and our traditions from generation to generation?

Could we be a congregation with enough space to welcome all who need us, and that space reflects our pride and our joy in the gifts our church brings to our lives and the lives of others?

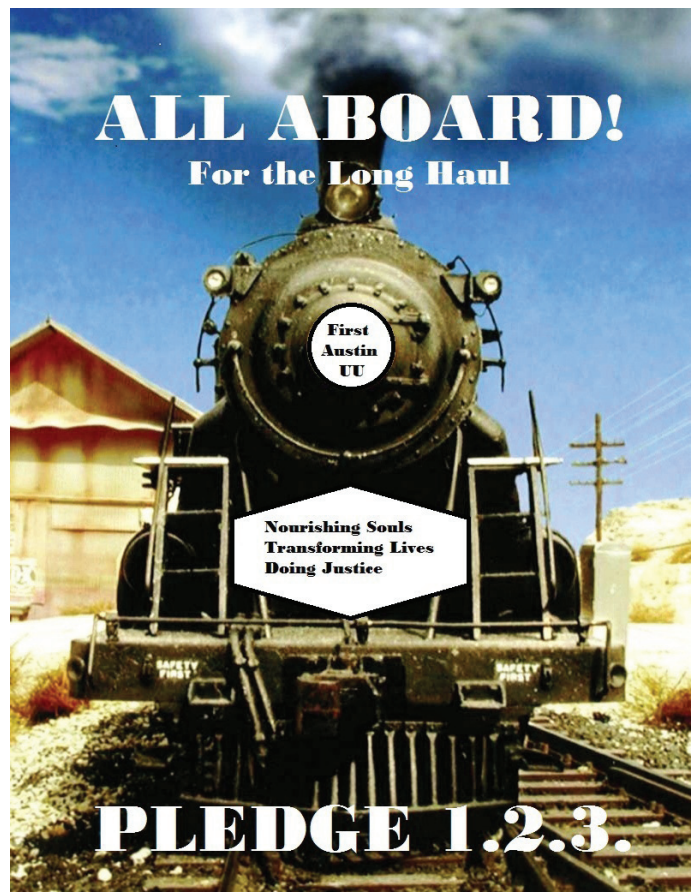
Could we be a church so skillfully and effectively run, where our staff and financial practices reflect our values, that other churches look to us as a model?

Could we be a congregation where people experience transcendence and deep connection, whether in worship, in chalice circle conversations, in justice work, in doing art, in teaching or fellowship?

Why a 1-2-3 pledge?

This speaks to the "long haul" part of the stewardship theme. We are asking for a three-year pledge, hoping that each year, you will increase the amount of your pledge. If

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You are invited to a conversation

One of the responsibilities of a church board member is to engage in conversations with people around the church to hear what they have to say so we can better represent our shared values and purpose. The board is especially interested in having conversations about what it means to transform lives and nourish souls. We would like to hear about specific times in your life in which your soul has been nourished.

In order to facilitate these conversations, members of the board will be at a special table Sunday mornings for the next few weeks. Look for the table with the bright yellow table cloth on the patio (if the weather is nice) or in a corner of Howson Hall (if the weather is not nice).

The conversational table will be set up each Sunday from Oct. 7 through Nov. 4 right after the Sunday services.

Join the conversation. Stop by the conversational table, and share your ideas with your board members. ■

All Aboard ...

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you would like to aim for a certain percentage of your income, that would be wonderful. Five percent is the minimum of what we want the church itself to give away. I am making a 1-2-3 pledge, increasing our commitment year by year until I reach 5 percent of my salary.

Not only will a 1-2-3 pledge give leadership a more stable idea of funding for the church's mission, it will speak volumes about how we are in this together, in this for the long haul. What might happen if a large percentage of the congregation were com-

mitted for the long haul? Changes in practice and church culture take time. A long-term commitment lets everyone know that this is understood, and that you are "in" for all the efforts it may take to get to where we are and to who we want to be.

We have a skilled and committed staff, who are invested in helping us achieve our vision. We have enthusiastic and committed lay leaders, who love this congregation and want it to be a more and more inspiring, fun, challenging, and comforting place. This is the time to board the train for the long haul. Are you aboard? ■

All Aboard! activities

Speed Pledging and All-Church Pizza Party

Oct 7 (Sunday)

12:00-2:00 pm

Howson Hall & Gallery

Join us in celebrating the official opening of the 2013 All Aboard! Stewardship Ministry mission! Fellowship, pizza, drinks, and salad provided, free of charge! You'll have the opportunity to participate in a "Bullet Train Pledging" activity (think speed dating/musical chairs). This should be a riot and will allow you to make your pledge and chat with the canvassers in record time! Childcare provided.

Game Night

Oct. 19 (Friday)

6:30-8:30 pm

Rooms 15 A/B

Join us for a train-themed game night! In the spirit of our All Aboard! Stewardship Ministry mission, the Stewardship Ministry is sponsoring a game night with a train theme. We will have train songs playing in the background and will be sure to have a few rounds of Mexican Train (dominoes) and other train games going. You can also pledge during this event if you have not already done so. Bring games and snacks to share. Childcare provided.

"Becoming Out" All Aboard! Hill Country Flyer Celebration

Nov. 3 (Saturday)

6:00-8:30 pm (tentative)

Cedar Park to Burnet (Roundtrip)

A key focus of our All Aboard! Stewardship Ministry mission this year is to dedicate ourselves increasing the generosity of our church community through multi-year pledges, while the church works to do the same, allowing us to confidently live out our justice mission.

Join the Stewardship Ministry as we celebrate the end of a successful, fun-filled canvass and look forward to "becoming out" in the Austin and wider UU communities by publicly modeling our justice mission with the support of adequate, predictable, growing multi-year pledges! Ride the Hill Country Flyer with us from Cedar Park to Burnet and back. Hors d'oeuvres and alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks provided. This event is free and open to the first 100 or so people who generously agree to become multi-year pledgers and who RSVP. More details coming in the weekly announcements and November newsletter, or contact chris@chrisandtoby.com for more information! Childcare provided (location TBD). ■

Equinox Auction a resounding success!

Thanks to all of you who participated in the Equinox Auction and Ball, Saturday, Sept. 22. More than 253 members and guests ... young and old alike ... danced to the great music, ate the wonderful food, and participated in the auction. We raised more than \$12,000, which will help fund the programs and work that fulfill our mission.

Thanks to all of the people and their committees who put this wonderful event together ...

Kiya Heartwood for organizing the whole thing;

George Denny and Monty Newton, awesome auctioneers;

Mary Patrick for dealing calmly and efficiently with the finances;

Carolyn Gremminger and Dana Lehman for business donations;

Sally Scott for the wonderful food;

Mary Ann Stafford for goods and services;

Tom and JoAnne Johnson for successful PR;

John and Geri Neemidge, along with Paige and David for spectacular decorations;

Jacob Williamson and Josef Ricketts for the lights ... and for the many others (you know who you are) who tirelessly gave your time to make this event successful. Go First UU! ■

Connections Fair reflects diversity of First UU

Although it was the morning after the Equinox Masquerade Ball and Auction, many First UU members showed up for the Connections Fair Sunday afternoon after the second service.

More than 41 groups spread out on the patio and in the Gallery, showcasing their programs and projects. These groups offer almost unlimited opportunities for First UU members to get involved ... study groups and other educational opportunities ... committees that manage the church's resources ... social justice and congregational care ... and many more.

First UU is a seven-day a week community with activities going on every day to fulfill our mission. These 41 groups reflect the diversity of interest among the entire congregation and give everyone the opportunity to participate. ■



The Gabacha Cha Chas display their musical talent at the Equinox Masquerade Ball.



Vickie Bailey and Geri Neemidge party at the Equinox Masquerade Ball.



Allen Pope, Richard Halpin, Dale Bulla of the Green Sanctuary Committee at Connections Fair.

Where do we grow from here?

First UU is growing and that is a wonderful thing ... however, with this growth, space has become an issue. As a congregation we must continue to be intentionally welcoming to all who enter our doors. That means that we must have sufficient space to fulfill our mission.

To address this issue, First UU held the first in a series of Town Hall meetings on Sept. 9 in Howson Hall. Rev. Meg Barnhouse and Sean Hale led the meeting and identified several options for dealing with our current and future space needs:

- “Build big” by building a new church;
- Let out the seams in our current location by renovating our existing building;
- Move the church to an existing building in another location;
- Status quo - stay where we are with no changes.

Participants were asked to look carefully at these options and to identify the pros and cons of each.

A second Town Hall meeting is scheduled for Oct. 14 at 1:15 pm. Come and let your voice be heard! ■

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

How big are we and why does it matter?

This is the second in a series of columns I am devoting to church growth. Last month I asked us to consider two questions. How big are we, and why does it matter?

We know we are growing numerically ... just look around on Sunday mornings. But there are other aspects of church growth that are more reflective of our mission to gather in community, to nourish souls, transform lives and do justice.

Maturational growth is the ability of a congregation to encourage all members to grow in the maturity of their faith and deepen their spiritual roots and religious imagination. Incarnational growth is the ability to take the meanings and values of our UU faith and

make them real in the world beyond our walls. It seems to me that by adopting

The efforts we make as a congregation to live our mission will result in both maturational and incarnational growth.

our mission, we have made an implicit if not explicit statement that we want to grow maturational (nourish souls and transform lives) and incarnationally (do justice). Do you agree?

The efforts we make as a congregation to live our mission will result in both maturational and incarnational growth. Measuring how we are performing as a church in maturational growth and incarnational growth is more critical than simply focusing on numerical growth...it is these aspects that speak to our mission ... our reason for being. Measuring is the job of your board.

There is a fourth aspect of church growth that provides the crucial underpinning for the others. Organic growth captures the tasks of building our community literally and figuratively. It is creating our organizational structures and infrastructure, developing the practice and processes that result in a dependable, stable network of human relationships

and systems in which we can grow and from which we can make a difference.

Our transition to policy-based governance is a form of organic growth. Hiring Carla Jo Schaefer to be our first director of membership and communications is another step in the right direction. We lag behind in organic growth, however, with regard to our physical space. We have recognized for a number of years that our facilities are inadequate for our current congregation, much less the congregation we are becoming.

Meg and Sean are hosting a series of town hall discussions about this very subject: what kind of church we want to be and what kind of facilities we need to accomplish this vision. One of these discussions took place in September (see sidebar). The next one is Oct. 14 at 1:15 pm. Please put that date on your calendar.

We are also in the midst of our stewardship campaign: *All Aboard for the Long Haul*. Committing to our mission, to maturational and incarnational growth and to the organic growth necessary for support requires a long journey, not a trip with lots of starts and stops on the local bus. This is why we are introducing multi-year pledging, a new concept for our church, but one that has been used by other thriving congregations. Will the budget we vote on as a congregation in December support our organic growth and help us in turn achieve our maturational and incarnational growth? Will it help us live our mission? Will our pledges over the long haul enable us to nurture our growing congregation and welcome those yet to join us? Let's all get on board and find out! ■



-Susan Thomson

SOCIAL ACTION

UU United Nations office celebrates 50th anniversary 1962 – 2012

The UU United Nations Office will celebrate 50 years of representing UUs at the UN with an event in New York City on Nov. 4. Some of the milestones of the past 50 years include:

- Each year materials are made available for congregations to celebrate the anniversary of the United Nations on a Sunday closest to Oct. 24. Many congregations around the country and in Canada celebrate a UN Sunday, and First UU Austin will host a forum on immigration in the gallery at noon in the Sanctuary, Oct. 21.

- Bruce Knots, executive director of UU UNO is a leader in the Faith and Ethics Network for the International Criminal Court.

- Since 2001 the UU UNO has had a strong Internship Program for students to work at the New York office and participate in briefings and meetings at the UN. Locals interested in applying may contact Celestine Cox with the UU-UNO Internship Program at office@uuuno.org

- The “Every Child Is Our Child” (ECOC) Program began as a response to the UN Millennium Development Goals and the HIV/AIDS crisis. UUs currently support the education of 160 children in Ghana. In addition to school supplies, uniforms, backpacks, and so forth, the children and their foster

families are provided with medical insurance. Our own RE children collected money to send to the program last summer.

- From an initial focus on peace and security and denominational support of the UN, UU UNO continues efforts to bring our UU values to the UN’s global peace work and current emphasis on climate change and human rights, especially those of women and girls and the LGBT community.

- The UU UNO office provides educational information on current issues on the website. A new religious education curriculum is now available online for children and youth, “UN Me.”

- The UU UNO hosts an annual intergenerational seminar each spring. Next year’s seminar on the topic “Stop Violence and Discrimination Based on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity” is planned for April 4-6 in New York City.

Look for more information about the UU United Nations Office at the Social Action Table during October or visit the website at www.uu-uno.org. ■

Calling all volunteers for Hands On Housing

It’s that time again ... Sat., Oct. 27 is our fall “Raise the Roof” Hands On Housing project. We recruit UUs from area UU congregations to paint and repair a home owned by a low-income elderly or disabled person. This “sweat equity” allows families living in poverty to stay in the homes they love. Hands On Housing is a great opportunity for UUs to live our values, make a tangible difference, and get to know other UUs better. Last spring, a chalice circle signed up as a group and had a great time working together.

We have tasks for all skill levels. Volunteer shifts are from 9:00 am-12:00 pm, 1:00-4:00 pm and 4:00-6:00 pm. We also need volunteers to help with prep work, lend a truck

to pick up supplies, organize supplies early on Saturday morning, serve as shift and project leads, bring healthy snacks, or supervise a children’s painting project. Hands On Housing is a family-friendly event for all ages: supervised children are welcome. We provide lunch for all volunteers and take a group picture from 12:00-1:00 pm

To sign up or get more information, contact handsonhousing@austinuu.org, or sign up at the Social Action table in the gallery between and after Sunday services. Join us! ■

Complete your holiday shopping early and for good causes!

Nov. 18 is the date for our annual Alternative and Fair Trade Holiday Gift Market.

This year ... rather than giving more things, give more meaning. In addition to Alternative Gifts through Church World Service, we will have Fair Trade coffee, tea and chocolate, and crafts from Guatemala and Africa. ■

Fellowship Committee seeking new members

If you are interested in joining the Fellowship Committee, please come to our next meeting on Tuesday, Oct. 23, from 7:00-9:00 pm at First UU, or contact: fellowship@austinuu.org.

Senior Luncheon Oct. 9, noon Howson Hall

Public welcome. \$5 donation request for lunch. RSVP to seniors@austinuu.org, by Oct. 7.

Sharing Suppers

Oct. 20th
jubarker@
yahoo.com for
time/location

Sharing Suppers are casual adult dinners, open to anyone in the church ... new or established, couples or singles. You need not be a member to participate. They are held the third Saturday of each month. Participants take turns hosting and planning the meal or helping co-host in another's home. The signup deadline is Oct. 14. Contact Jeanne Barker at jubarker@yahoo.com to sign up. For monthly reminders join email list: sharingsupper-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

Eclectic Folk Jam

Oct. 12, Rm. 17
7:00-10:00 pm

The Eclectic Folk Jam, an open jam session for singers and instrumentalists, is held on the second Friday of every month.

More info: Pete and Kim Akenhead, 512-834-0188 or Mary Jane Ford, 512-926-4122, or singalong@austinuu.org.

PARADOX PLAYERS

Party with the Stars

Friday evening, Oct. 5, is your date to celebrate with the cast and crew of Gore Vidal's *The Best Man* at the Opening Gala following the show. After feeling astounded at Vidal's prescient writing and Gary Payne's clever directing, you can enjoy a menu of Americana delights, from chicken wings to apple pie! An added attractions this night only will be Z Studio Jewelry by Zosia Hunt. So, gather

your friends, neighbors and colleagues for an evening of astonishing theatre treats, and benefit the church at the same time. A percentage of all sales is returned to the church. ■

Reservations are highly recommended, as seating is limited. Visit the Paradox Players table on Sundays, go to paradoxplayers.org or phone 512-744-1495. The show runs three weekends, closing Oct. 21.

New outreach from Paradox Players

Paradox Players is proud to present *Three Billy Goats Gruff and Too Much Noise*, the first show of our new Children's Theater Season. Performances will be held for elementary school students on Dec. 10, 12 and 14. The general public is invited to a special performance at the First UU on Sunday, Dec. 16 at 3:00 pm.

The folk tales are staged using the story dramatization format for children ages 4 to 6 years. The performances include adult actors and puppets with creative movement.

Jean Boehme, a member of First UU, is the director and producer of these performances. She has an MFA in Children's

Theater from the University of Texas. As the storyteller, she draws upon her 10 years of experience doing story dramatization in her classroom as a pre-K AISD teacher.

If you are free for morning rehearsals and performances and would like to have a good time with a fun-loving group of people, please consider joining our Children's Theater Company. We need actors, helpers, and musicians. There is very little to memorize and a lot to get from the laughter and enthusiasm of our young audience members. ■

Contact: Jean Boehme at 512-517-7720 or joboej@hotmail.com

Art Mission: Creativity to transform lives

Art Mission is a new all-volunteer multi-generational creativity outreach program of First UU Austin that offers workshops, art actions and events that use creativity to transform lives, build community and do justice. Art Mission's artistic director is Kiya Heartwood.

If you would like to volunteer, or if you have questions about the program, please contact Kiya at kiya@kiyaheartwood.com.

Art Mission Writing Workshop

The Writing Way
Tuesdays, Oct 16- Nov. 20
1:00-2:00 pm and 7:30-8:30 pm

The Writing Way is a creative writing workshop for ages 10 and up that explores

a variety of writing styles from poetry to short stories, songwriting to autobiography. Learn techniques for breaking writer's block and experiment with writing from many different angles. No experience is necessary. A notebook and a pen are the only materials you need. The workshop is led by Kiya Heartwood, a prize winning poet and songwriter, published author, composer and playwright.

Please note: there are two sessions offered each Tuesday, so select the one that better fits your schedule. A suggested donation of \$5 per class will go to future Art Mission materials and projects. No one will be turned away for inability to pay. Childcare provided. ■

DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS**What's ahead for Southwest UUs?*****Fall Harvest: Leadership Training***

FUUA's Southern Region, Nov. 9-11, 2012, Glen Lake Camp & Retreat Center, Glen Rose, Texas Choose from five tracks:

- Making a Meaningful Worship Year (Leader: Rev. Susan Smith)
- Unitarian Universalism: The Great Adventure - Why are we here? What is Unitarian Universalism called to be in the world? What is at the core of our faith? What would happen if we were generous about and with the faith? How could we affect the world? What kind of a legacy do we want to leave? (Leader: Connie Goodbread)
- Multiculturalism in UU Leadership: Cross Cultural Empathy (Leaders: Razio Brown and TBD)
- Administration of Religious Education Renaissance Module (Leaders: TBD)
- Pastoral Care Training (Leaders: Jennifer Nichols, Elandria Williams)

Why attend the Southern Region Fall Harvest Leadership Training?

- This annual training aspires to strengthen and extend Unitarian Universalism in the Southern Region by developing congregational leaders, providing the resources needed to carry out congregational missions effectively, and encouraging and establishing/strengthening lateral relationships among member congregations.
- It is multigenerational.
- High school youth are welcome and encouraged to attend any of the five tracks.
- Again this year, they will offer an EvolUUtion Camp for elementary and junior high youth (ages 6-13).
- Saturday evening entertainment: Julie Hazzard ... Acoustic Rock from the 70s, 80s, 90s and Today!

Register SOON! Early Registration ends Oct. 10; cost will go up \$50. Visit www.swuuc.org or see the Denominational Affairs bulletin board in the hallway across from Meg's office for program details and registration/housing information.

Annual Texas UU Singles Retreat

Oct. 26-28, 2012 at UBarU Retreat & Conference Center near Kerrville, Texas. For more information and registration, visit www.ubaru.org.

Semi-annual Heart of Texas Men's Retreat

Nov. 2-4, 2012 at UBarU Retreat & Conference Center near Kerrville Texas. For more information and registration, visit www.ubaru.org.

UUptown Saturday Night: Nov. 3, 2012, 7:00 pm

San Gabriel Unitarian Universalist Fellowship has invited us to its fall fundraiser, a silent and live auction, at the Cowan Creek Amenity Center, 1433 Cool Spring Way, Sun City, Texas (Florence & Georgetown rooms). There will be door prizes, hors d'oeuvres & beverages. \$10 per person. See website for ticket information: www.sangabrieluu.org or call 512-864-0641.

Chalice Lighter sighting!

The Summer 2012 Chalice Lighter Call for the SWUU Conference has been awarded to San Marcos UU Fellowship. Each year the Chalice Lighters select three worthy causes from among its 80+ congregations, from Tenn. to Mexico. Each member of the group agrees to donate a minimum of \$10 per call. Many hands make light work; affordable contribution can make a lot of difference.

The San Marcos Fellowship, headed by our own Brian Ferguson as consulting minister, is seeking to add land to a plot they have already purchased to build a sanctuary. The group, founded just 25 years ago, has doubled in membership and ordained a (great) minister in the last three years. It is bursting at the seams in its rented space in an Episcopal church. The church hopes to raise \$25,000.

The Chalice Lighter has ZERO overhead; every cent goes to the recipient congregation. Contribute by writing a check payable to SWUUC Chalice Lighters, P.O. Box 560246, Orlando, FL 32856-0246, or go to <http://www.swuuc.org/pages/stewardship/support.php> and pay with Pay Pal. Indicate that your contribution is for Summer 2012 Call. Include your email to receive future notifications. ■

Curricula for fall

Pre-K: Rainbow Seekers

K-1st Grade: Picture Book UUism

2nd & 3rd Grade: Moral Tales

4th & 5th Grades: UU Explorers

**Jr. High Group
10:45-11:45 am**

**Sr. High Group
10:45 am-12: 45 pm**

For full curriculum descriptions, see the September newsletter.

Fall schedule

**9:15-10:30 am
& 10:45 am-noon**

Preschool
(3 and 4 year olds)
Kindergarten-Grade 1
Grades 2-3
Grades 4-5

9:15-10:30 am only

Two Children's Choirs
(first service)

10:45 am-noon only

Jr. Youth Group
(Grades 6-8)

10:45 am-12:45 pm

Sr. Youth Group
(Grades 9-12)

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

October religious education highlights

Thanks to my awesome RE staff, wonderfully enthusiastic volunteers, and support from this great congregation, I am beginning to truly feel my feet beneath me in this role as your Interim Director of Religious Education! I am having a great time here and look forward to getting to know all of you better. To read more about me, please refer to the August newsletter or, better yet, come up and introduce yourself sometime!

This will be an eventful October for Religious Education at First UU Austin. Our children's Sunday School program will be suspending their regular curriculum for one Sunday this month in order to study the Mexican tradition of El Dia de los Muertos (The Day of the Dead), the holiday that honors and celebrates the memory of loved ones who have died. Their artwork will adorn the sanctuary for our Intergenerational El Dia de los Muertos worship service on Oct. 28. This year, we will not be holding our annual Halloween party, allowing families to participate more in their community events.

Our Jr. and Sr. Youth Groups have been bursting at the seams this year with record participation! These youth are energized after their similarly well-attended retreat in Sept., and have begun to plan a year filled with service projects, worship, learning, and community. The first Austin area H.O.T. (Heart of Texas) UU youth rally (conference) will be the weekend of Oct. 13 and will have the spooky and fun theme of "UUn Dead" (theme chosen by the youth, of course)! Contact: andrew@austinuu.org for more info.

Adult RE is proud to kick off the second season of Chalice Circles in the first week of October! If you are a new member of this religious community, have been around for ages, or are anywhere in-between, Chalice Circles are for you! This model of small-group ministry is a unique way to connect with others and for spiritual exploration in a nurturing and intellectually stimulating environment. If you haven't joined a Chalice Circle yet and would like to, contact: chalicecircles@austinuu.org asap.

Looking forward to a great October. ■

Mari Caballero

Music matters

Adult Choir

The First UU Adult Choir meets Wednesdays at 7:30 pm in the Sanctuary. The choir sings on average at two to three services per month, and features a wide variety of music. Open to ages 15 and up. No audition required. Not sure about choir? No problem! Come check out a rehearsal with no commitment. For more information, email director Brent Baldwin at brentb@austinuu.org.

Children's Choirs

The Children's Choirs meet during first service in Room 13 (Jr. Choir Grades 4 - 8) and Room 11 (Primary Choir, Grades K - 3). Our excellent directors

provide top-notch instruction – and a lot of fun!

Pick up your registration packet and schedule outside the RE office. For more information, contact Chris Heidel, Children's Choir Coordinator 512-694-5870 chris@chrisand-toby.com.

Austin Chamber Music Center: Artists-in-Residence

The First UU Music Program is VERY excited to continue our partnership with the Austin Chamber Music Center. ACMC's entire 2012-2013 season will occur at First UU, with discounted tickets available to our church members. They will also lend their world-class musical talents to our services

*Nourishing Souls and Transforming
Lives through Music*

UU Youth form close and lasting bonds at UBarU

September 7-9, 40 UU middle and high school students participated in a weekend retreat at the UBarU to kick off the new school year. LuLu Newton, a First UU 9th grader, shares her experiences at the retreat.

The closeness we formed within less than a day was like no other. We were all there with something in common ... a love for the people we were with and what we were doing. There was an excitement, and everyone came with an open heart and an open mind. And when people come so ready, ANYTHING can happen and it did!

The things the advisors had planned for us were fantastic. They really knew what they were doing. It seemed like everyone felt like they could put themselves in the advisors' hands and they could trust them. I knew that they would make sure we got the best out of this adventure, and that we would all have fun and be safe.

We all piled into the vans after the chaos of waiting and singing in the parking lot. We had a great ride with games and fun and music. After we arrived at UBarU, it was night and we were overwhelmed by the stars ... it was absolutely gorgeous...taking in the serenity of UBarU. Even cleaning up the kitchen was fun after breakfast. Max brought in music (LMFAO Party Anthem!) and everyone was dancing, blowing soap bubbles, and enjoying ourselves.

We took a hike up to the labyrinth, which was a very emotional process. We walked in silence with just our thoughts and the sound of nature all around us. It made it possible to think deep thoughts and look inside yourself. I got a very emotional and wonderful experience out of it ... there's just something special about labyrinths.

The worship services that Andrew planned were BEAUTIFUL. I had to go up to him after the first service and tell him that he's going to make a FABULOUS

UU minister! He found a pretty green stole with little wheat plant crosses on it, which really completed the whole thing. We had worships with the themes of the elements. We cleansed each other with water, shared our fire, engaged the earth ... but, we ran out of time for air.

All the worships and discussions just brought us even closer. One of the cool things about the youth groups is the freedom they give us. Although it is guided freedom, we decide what we're going to do ... it's youth run ... we still get help from the advisors. We're in charge, but we need help and they are helping us learn how to do the things we want to do.

We had meetings, elected officers, and decided what our goals are for the coming year. It was great to hear everyone's wonderful ideas and opinions. From listening to everyone ideas, we are gonna have a great time this year. ■

The Heritage Book Club

Oct. 12, 7:00 pm
4906 Bevery Hills Drive

Potluck dinner followed by discussion of *The Lacuna* by Barbara Kingsolver. Next month's selection is *City of the Century, the Epic of Chicago and the Making of America* by Donald Miller. Contact: heritage@austinuu.org.

Chalice Circles kicks off second season

The second season of Chalice Circles kicks off the first week of October. To join, contact: chalicecircles@austinuu.org.



Floater needed

If you see one of our members circulating around before and after the Sunday services greeting visitors with a big smile on his or her face, that is one of our "floaters." A "floater" is a member who has generously agreed to donate his or her time to make visitors and new members feel welcome. If you would like to be a "floater," please contact either Gary Payne or Rue Wood, co-chairs of the Membership Committee, membership@austinuu.org.

We are looking for lay leaders!

If you are interested in becoming a lay leader, please come to a training session with our minister, Meg Barnhouse on Saturday, Oct. 13 from 9:00-11:00 am in the sanctuary. Light breakfast will be served. Please contact at 512-372-9813 if you have any questions. Hope to see lots of you there!

SUNDAY WORSHIP

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

OCT. 7

Land of Hope and Glory

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

The Springsteen song ends "Well this train carries saints and sinners. This train carries losers and winners.... this train, dreams will not be thwarted, this train, faith will be rewarded, this train, hear the steel wheels singing, this train, bells of freedom ringing." Can First UU be that kind of train? What would it look like for our faith to be rewarded? What does it take for the bells of freedom to ring?

OCT. 14

A Safe Place

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Another part of our Covenant of Healthy Relations says that we promise "to make our church a safe place to express our deepest fears and our greatest joys." What makes a place safe? How do you know abuse if you see it? What are its patterns and methods? How do you stop it?

OCT. 21

Kicking the Statue of Shiva

WITH REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Using a story from an ancient Hindu text, we'll talk about how a faithful bitterness toward a person, a place or a religious tradition can keep you as connected as you would be if you loved that person, place or tradition.

OCT. 28

Day of the Dead

WITH MARISOL CABALLERO

INTERGENERATIONAL

(NO PRE-K- 5TH GRADE

SUNDAY SCHOOL)

El Dia de los Muertos is a Mexican holiday that celebrates the lives and personalities of our loved ones who have died. Come to this intergenerational worship service ready to celebrate and remember your loved ones (pets included) who have died. We will create a congregational ofrenda (altar) to honor their memory and briefly share the name of the deceased and our relationship to them. Please bring items to place on our ofrenda, such as a favorite food, drink, photograph of your loved one, or another item that represents who they were and what they loved in life. We ask that you do not bring valuables and that you are responsible for collecting your items after service.

THE FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

OCT. 7

The Aftermath of Citizens United - Money Talks and Voters Walk

WITH LOU MCCREARY

Guest Speaker Lou McCreary, appearing in costume as John Adams and joined by his friend, "Thomas Jefferson," previously presented his musical play, "Corporations Are People, too, Just Like Me and You !," at the First UU Public Forum, followed by a discussion of *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010). In a return appearance as himself, McCreary talks about the current state of "money in politics" after *Citizens United*. He will pose these questions: "Has the inflow of huge amounts of money corrupted our Democratic process and if so, what can be done about it?"

OCT. 14

***Why Dealing with Climate Change Is Good for the Texas Economy**

WITH JIM MARSTON

Jim Marston, vice president of energy at the Environmental Defense Fund, discusses why dealing with climate change is beneficial to the Texas economy. Given the severe drought, wildfires of 2011 and the northern movement of tropical diseases, such as West Nile, we cannot afford to continue on the current path. Many of our state elected officials deny climate change and the effect of greenhouse gas emissions because it is inconvenient for their donors. It is crucial that we reverse this mindset now to prevent further effects and better leverage the tremendous opportunities we have for renewable energy, which will lead to lower carbon emissions in the Lone Star State. *Green Sanctuary Committee meeting after forum. See sidebar.

OCT. 21

Current Immigration Issues: Detention, Deportation and Dreamers

WITH BARBARA HINES

Barbara Hines, clinical professor of Law, Immigration Clinic, Univ. of Texas School of Law, talks about current immigration issues. Hines was the first co-director of the Lawyers Comm. for Civil Rights under Law of Texas, Immigrant and Refugee Rights Project, and serves on the board of directors of the National Immigration Project of the National Lawyers Guild. Hines has litigated many issues relating to the constitutional and statutory rights of immigrants in federal and immigration courts.

OCT. 28

Human Rights and Civil Liberties:

Where are we at the beginning of the 21st Century and where should we be at Mid-Century?

WITH JIM HARRINGTON

Jim Harrington provides an overview of the current status of human rights and civil liberties in the US and worldwide. He discusses threats to these rights as well as trends favoring expansion and protection of human rights. Harrington, a human rights attorney for nearly four decades, is founder and director of the Texas Civil Rights Project. He graduated from the School of Law at the University of Detroit in 1973, where he also holds a Masters in philosophy. He has taught at the University of Texas School of Law

Circle of Friends singles retreat

Dwayne Windham is the keynote speaker at the third annual UU Circle of Friends Singles' retreat. Relax as you build up your energy for the bustling holiday season coming your way. Mark your calendar for Oct. 19, 20, and 21. At UBarU, meet UUs and some who aren't UUs from our district, and have fun in this comfortable and supportive environment. Great people, good food, and wonderful music by the campfire. Drop by our table in the gallery to sign up, and get more information. Cost is \$125. Contact Pat at: pat.whalen@grandecom.net <https://sites.google.com/site/UUsinglesretreat/> www.ubaru.org/home/

***Join Green Sanctuary Committee**

As a sponsor of this Forum, the Green Sanctuary Committee invites you to join us after the Forum presentation for further discussion of these issues facing our planet. We will meet at Central Market, 4001 North Lamar, around 1:30 pm.

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SPECIAL OFFERING FOR OCTOBER

Front Steps

Front Steps' mission is to provide a pathway home through shelter, affordable housing and community education. Its vision is to provide real answers and real solutions to the needs of people experiencing homelessness. Front Steps strives to treat each person who uses the services with dignity and respect and to restore their hope for their future.

Front Steps' programs include the Austin Resource Center for the Homeless (ARCH), an overnight men's shelter and daytime resource center; the Central Texas Recuperative Care Center, a home health care facility for homeless men and women; and housing programs, transitional and permanent solutions.

Our church is partnered with Frontsteps/ ARCH for three of our social action programs: the Cold Weather Shelter (Freeze Nights at the church), the Sack Lunch Program for the working homeless, and the First Sunday Suppers (serving dinner at the ARCH cafeteria).

On Oct. 14, please make a generous contribution to our Justice Fund special offering so that we may continue to support Front Steps/ ARCH and our other worthy recipients. ■

More info: www.frontsteps.org

Volunteer info:

Cold Weather Shelter at socialaction@austinuu.org

ARCH First Sunday Suppers at arch@austinuu.org

Sack Lunch Program sacklunch@austinuu.org

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.

First UU saves soles

We've been a busy church with sneaky recycling, seedy Sunday activities and water saving heroics. On Sunday Aug. 26, for the Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle Celebration we recycled 96 sneakers. Now that's sole saving! If you want to recycle more tennis shoes, you can always take them to Run Tex. A young friend of Sylvia Pope's, Tara Hauwert, and her parents, sold native plants and vegetable seeds that Tara grew and harvested. Proceeds from her sale went to Wildlife Rescue. The teens had a fabulous bake sale while aspiring Picassos did spin art on recycled CDs. What a great day!

On Sunday, Sept. 2, the Green Sanctuary Committee gave away water-saving kitchen and bathroom aerators, low flow shower heads, and garden moisture meters provided by the City

of Austin. It was a great day for nourishing souls and saving water! Thanks to everyone who participated in these events. ■



Sylvia Pope (2nd from left) and Tara Hauwert, 12, (2nd from right) with Tara's parents sell native plants, seeds and wildlife paintings, all created by Tara. Photo by Jane Parsons