



FIRST UU NEWS

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

Black Lives Matter.

by Rev. Meg Barnhouse



I remember several months ago when I first saw a “Black Lives Matter” post on Facebook. Without even thinking (a strong sign that this is a deeply taught reaction) I commented “All Lives Matter.” Which is true. However, I realize now that the comment was my inner privilege saying “I don’t want to talk about this. I want to talk about it in a more general way, in a more gradual way. Don’t make me focus this narrowly on your life, which is being threatened in a tangible and immediate way. All our lives are threatened, eventually, by one thing or another...” It was a smoothing over of a sharpness, a plea not to have to deal.

All lives matter, but we are obviously not there yet. All lives matter, but the lives of people of color seem systematically and historically to be treated as negligible.

Black lives are paradoxically given so much power so that even an unarmed, fleeing Black¹ man is

seen as a credible threat by some armed trained police officers; and, at the same time, given so little power that there is no fear among certain racist police organizations of being dealt any meaningful consequences for rough treatment, disproportionate penalties, harassment, and execution of Black men and women. A recent study by the Guardian shows that, while Black citizens make up 13 percent of the population, 31 percent of unarmed people killed by law enforcement are Black. (See <http://bit.ly/31-percent>.)

We all know that the second paragraph of the Declaration of Independence says “All men are created equal,” but we also know that women and Black men were not included in either the understanding or the implementation of that great assertion. We know that all are equal under the law, but we know how hard the struggle was for women to get the vote, and we

know the Equal Rights Amendment still has not been ratified. We know that all are equal under the law, but we also know that this is not lived out in the day-to-day experience of the citizens of this nation. We know that all lives should matter, but the reality is that, in our culture and others, there are wide swaths of cities and rural areas which are economic or environmental “sacrifice zones,” where we have given up on the quality of life of residents. All lives should matter, but the facts remain that it is more dangerous for people of color to be in police custody than it is for White people.

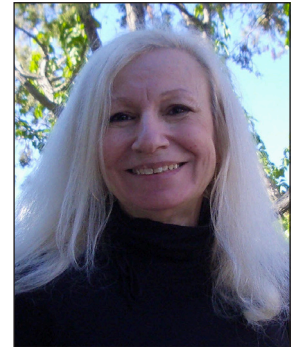
This congregation’s mission statement says one of the reasons we come together is to “do justice.” Justice means fairness. It means standing up for those who are disenfranchised. It means using what privilege we may have to amplify the voices of those with less privilege. It means refusing

1. Capitalization intended; see <http://nyti.ms/11hYFJC>

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS

Mad, mad, mad world

by Angela Smith



These days, more often than not, I feel like I'm living in that 1963 movie – "It's a Mad, Mad, Mad World." I'm a news junkie from childhood and, try as I might, can't give up the habit. I saw a caption on a cartoon recently that fits me perfectly: "My desire to be well informed is currently at odds with my desire to remain sane."

The world is too much with me when I read headlines that would better grace a publication called "The Daily Slaughter" than the newspapers and other media outlets from which I get my news daily.

I'm confused when I see more moral outrage over the killing of a lion – horrible as that may be – than the killing of yet one more black person by a racist cop, or, for that matter, a random mass killing in a theatre, church or other public place. Certainly, a lion is a majestic creature and deserves to be protected. But so is all of humankind.

I read daily and hear about those legislators who claim they are protecting their second amendment rights when they refuse to even consider any bill remotely related to gun control. Yet, they have no

problems trying to force restrictions on a woman's reproductive rights. How crazy is it when it's easier in some places to acquire an assault weapon than it is to vote. Yes, it's a mad, mad, mad world.

I deplore reading yet another story about Westboro Baptist Church, whose "Christian" theology seems to be based on nothing more than pure hatred of gay people and the straight people who support their gay/transgender friends. The vitriol in social media astounds me. I can't understand the cruelty, vulgarity and incivility of some toward others who happen to oppose their viewpoint. I have many friends with whom I disagree on social and political issues, but rather than demeaning them as human beings, I just say "I don't understand."

I look forward to Sundays and going to church, because for that hour or so my world doesn't seem so much a circus, zoo and theatre of the absurd all rolled into one. After a week of media overload, my mind finally comes to rest. I breathe; I pray to that little bit of the divine in each of us; I'm inspired by the

music, readings, stories and always thoughtful sermons by our incredible team of ministers, Meg, Mari and Chris, and our outstanding new intern Susan Yarbrough. And when church is over I leave a bit better ready to face another week, knowing that for at least a little while -- it was not such a mad, mad, mad world, after all.

I'm filled with gratitude for what this church gives me not only on Sundays but every day of the week when the world and the news seem to overwhelm me. I'm grateful that I'm part of a faith community whose work goes far beyond the walls and grounds at 4700 Grover – a community of courageous, committed persons who daily fight for justice – and, yes, a little more sanity and a little more kindness toward this planet we call home.

And for that reason I'm happy to give something back. I won't hesitate when I'm asked to pledge to this year's stewardship campaign. How can I not give as generously as I can? For me, it's a personal investment in taking some of the madness out of this mad, mad, mad world. ■

“Black lives matter” continued

the comforting denial of the real situation of our culture. We have a nation that has been built on the extermination of native people, the granting of land only to its British and European immigrants, and the forced labor of enslaved men and women. We have a nation whose economy works best for those who are already landed and wealthy. We have police departments that tolerate racism in their officers, and we have departments who encourage it.

Here at First UU we are going to try something. We plan to hang a “Black Lives Matter” banner on the outside of the church building. It will be uncomfortable for many of us. It will feel healing for others. It will feel like “too much” to some, who may long for a chance to retreat from this fray. Others, who are never able to leave the fray, as people of color, may feel “It’s about time!” My hope is that it starts conversations, both within our own selves and here among our mem-

bers and friends. Let’s see what comes out of it. No, we can’t fix the whole culture right away, but, as part of our working for justice, let’s refuse to allow ourselves to ignore this particular problem for the next few months.

I’m a privileged White woman, and one of my privileges is not to have to think about the violence of parts of our justice system if I don’t want to. And I don’t want to. One of my privileges is to decide when I’ve done enough. I helped found a women’s shelter in a town where none existed. Isn’t that enough? Our congregation is giving sanctuary to a refugee and surrounding her as she campaigns to make a safer life here in this country. That is our main focus, and that is taking some energy, money, and attention. It’s also been immensely enriching for our congregation, and it feels like an honor to help in this way. I can and must decide when I have done enough, but I cannot decide on the congregation’s behalf

that it has done enough. Only the congregation can do that, and I am open to conversation about when you all feel the church is doing enough.

One of my privileges is to know that my life will stay sweet if I don’t make any trouble and don’t upset anyone. And I don’t want to. One of my privileges is to get overwhelmed, burnt out on compassionate activism, and withdraw with a resigned sigh when I can’t make a problem go away. I may do that, but not yet. I wouldn’t be the minister you all called me to be if I did. Some of us would be happier and more comfortable without these conversations, but I would be failing you on a daily basis, and I can’t stand to do that. Others among us are waiting to see what will be said, hoping that the rest of us will work to “get it.” Please let me hear from you about this banner when it goes up. I look forward to our conversations. ■

DENOMINATIONAL CONNECTIONS

**Deep In The Heart
Womens’ Retreat, Oct.
9-11**

Women are invited to this event at UBarU Retreat and Conference Center near Kerrville, TX. Recharge your spirit in the fellowship of Unitarian Universalist women. No responsibilities other than to be your own true

beautiful, authentic self. Deepen your relationship with old friends and build new friendships. Sing, meditate, dance, walk the labyrinth or the hill country, do what your spirit needs. Free from workshops and classes. Don’t miss it! Early registration ends Aug. 31; find details at www.ubaru.org/home/Womens-Retreat.

Save the Date!

Nov 13-15: Fall Harvest Conference, Glen Rose, TX

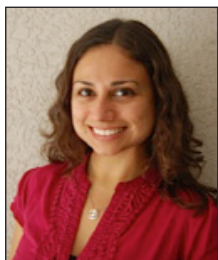
Carpool Opportunities

Looking to carpool to a UU event outside Austin? Email Margaret Borden at denom@austinuu.org and she’ll attempt to pair you with someone to share the ride.

LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Lifespan RE highlights

by Rev. Marisol Caballero, Assistant Minister



Fall Children and Youth Religious Education

Summer has zoomed past! Is it just me, or does it seem to get shorter every year? We begin our “Sunday school year” on September 6. This year promises to be loads of fun, full of friends, creativity, and playing while learning. We have an excellent batch of dedicated volunteer teachers and youth group advisors (as always!) whose fascinating stories will be featured here each month. Do yourselves a favor and introduce yourselves to them when you can, especially if you do not have children in our RE program. The role our religious educators plays in realizing the mission of our church is an enormous one, and we are so lucky to have such a dynamic crew.

Please consider assisting in a classroom at some point this school year. It is an experience that will nurture your soul and teach you so much about living our shared Unitarian Universalist faith. And, it is absolute F-U-N hanging out with our tiny theologians!

This year’s RE registration forms have been mailed out to all families who were enrolled last year, but there is also an online form available at: <http://bit.ly/FirstUUREg>.

This year, we have created helpful bookmarks with the 2015-16 Children/Youth RE calendar! Pick one up on the Lifespan RE table in the gallery.

Pre-K (3 and 4 year olds): “Chalice Children”

“Chalice Children” delves deep into our Unitarian Universalist faith. It strives not just to teach about our faith, but also to provide experiences around the strength of community, the wonder and awe that

transcend everyday understanding, and life issues we all share. In a group setting with loving adult guides, young children can engage in spiritual seeking, develop their openness to sharing, and experience the benefit of a supportive community.

K-1st: “Picture Book Unitarian Universalism”

This tried-and-true kid and teacher favorite uses fun picture books, along with related activities and crafts, to teach UU identity by bringing our values and principles to life in the land of make-believe! This year-long curriculum teaches our younger UUs the art of self-expression, to value individuality, to think for themselves and simplify their lives, and to understand that everything is connected – in fact, radically related.

2nd-3rd: “Signs of Our Faith: Being UU Everyday”

UUA President Rev. Morales asks us to think about religion as the practice of being faithful to what you love. In order to do this, you must decide what you love and do your best to live that love faithfully every day. Signs of Our Faith guides children to do their best to live faithful lives every day. It presents fourteen traits or values that most Unitarian Universalist love, including the quest for knowledge, reverence for life, supporting one another on our faith journeys, and public witness.

4th-5th: “Windows and Mirrors”

Windows and Mirrors nurtures children’s ability to identify their own experiences and perspectives and to seek out, care about and respect those of others. The sessions unpack topics that lend themselves to diverse experiences and perspectives—for example, faith heritage, public service, anti-racism and prayer. The program teaches that there are always multiple viewpoints and everyone’s viewpoint matters.

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Jr. Youth Group: “Families”

This multimedia interactive program explores families through venues that are based in the central tenets of UU faith. The focus is on what matters to and about families. By thinking about family function, participants move beyond accepting simple appearances toward empathic inquiry.

Sr. Youth Group: “The Talking Teds”

Each workshop of this year-long curriculum is based on presentations from the wildly popular, inspirational, and oftentimes challenging “Ted Talks” series. Each highly participatory workshop will bring the youth into dialogue through small and large group discussion, opportunities for creative expression, and youth-led small-scale social justice projects.

F.R.E.D. Begins Again Sept. 2

F.R.E.D. (Fellowship, Religious Education, and Dinner) is our all-ages Wednesday night programming that runs from September through May. We serve a simple, delicious \$6 dinner (kids eat free!) at 6 p.m. that always includes vegetarian options, followed by a variety of adult and children’s programming, choir rehearsals, and small group ministries from 7-9 p.m. Childcare always available. The Fellowship Committee is highlighting the “F” in F.R.E.D. at our kick-off dinner with an ice cream social! It will surely be a sweet time!

Sept. 2, “Documented” Screening and Discussion

Pulitzer prize-winning journalist Jose Antonio Vargas chronicles his life as an undocumented American and his quest to reconnect with his Filipino mother.

Sept. 9, “Breaking the Taboo” Screening and Discussion

Featuring interviews with former heads of state, including presidents Bill Clinton and Jimmy Carter, this documentary examines the War on Drugs and its subsequent effects.

Sept. 16, “#Chicagogirl: The Social Network Takes on a Dictator” Screening and Discussion

A Chicago Muslim teen helps coordinate the Syrian Revolution via social media until her network must choose how to fight a dictator: with Facebook or with AK-47s.

Sept. 23, “A Fierce Green Fire” Screening and Discussion

This documentary profiles the evolution of environmental movements, from early efforts at conservation to current concerns over global climate change. Featuring Robert Redford, Ashley Judd, Van Jones.

Register for Chalice Circles!

Time and time again, Chalice Circles are cited by our members as the best way to establish deep and meaningful connections here at First UU. Chalice Circles are primarily monthly, lay-led small groups that are dedicated to intentional, deep listening in a confidential, covenanted group of no more than a dozen adults. Each group plans and participates in a service project together. Monthly topics are pre-determined, so that each group will discuss the same theme each month. Registration is ongoing through the month of September. Grab a registration form on the Lifespan RE table in the gallery on Sundays! Childcare available upon request.

First Sunday Seminars, Sept. 6

First Sunday Seminars take place on the first Sunday each month. This multi-track, adult religious ed. experience has options in areas such as leadership development, spiritual practices, UU identity development, and spiritual practices. No prior registration required. A simple lunch will be available in Howson Hall from noon-1 p.m. for \$5 (available to-go for Forum attendees) and childcare will be provided. Please check each monthly newsletter for detailed information on Sunday Seminars!

Faith Formation Track: “Exploring Immigration as a Moral Issue”

The 2013 General Assembly of UU Congregations voted to declare “Immigration as a Moral Issue” a UU Statement of Conscience. As we consider continuing on the journey of offering sanctuary, let’s learn more about how this work fits in with the work of the larger UU movement and how it informs our faith as Unitarian Universalists.

Spiritual Practice Track: “Art As Meditation”

How often do we as adults take the opportunity to

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FIRST UU IN PICTURES

Camp UU/Hogwarts casts a spell on First UU



by Headmistress Esmirelda McGonagall (aka Vicki Alstrum)

Campers and prefects experienced a magical week at Camp UU/Hogwarts in late July. As they passed Platform 9¾ and alighted to Hogwarts, they were greeted by Headmistress Esmirelda McGonagall and volunteers to a transformative week of fun. Children entering grades 1-6 enjoyed dressing in capes and hats and wielding wands as they participated in a variety of Harry Potter-themed camp experiences. Teens in 7th grade and above served as prefects, assisting the organizers and helping ensure the success of the camp.

Each day of camp began with wizard sports (quiddich or wizard chess) and a music session with the Maestra and the Professor of the Piano. This year's groups learned the songs very quickly—the practices were lovely. There was a moment later in the week where I was brought to tears by the beauty of their voices.

Campers acquired their wizard garb at Madame Malkin's and were placed into four different Hogwarts houses by the Sorting Hat. The rest of the week included classes in herbology, potions, wandsmanship, defense against the dark arts, charms, labyrinth, astrology, butter beer, and delectable delights. Campers also watched the Harry Potter films, went to a swimming pool, and enjoyed some bowling—where they even had a visit from a pet pig!

Several guests, both animal and human, facilitated the camp's social action activities. We created lunches for the ARCH program, made 20 fleece blankets to donate to Emancipet and Animal Trustees of Austin; made beautiful cards for the mothers and children staying at the detention centers; and created intricate labyrinths for the "comfort bags" the chaplain at Christopher House provides to families with a loved one in

hospice care. Our campers were also delighted with visits from a ukulele wizard (George Denny) and a pyromancy wizard (Malenko Loncar).

The grand finale of the camp was the Great Feast. The food was delicious, the music wonderful, and the skits most entertaining! In addition, the campers presented an enchanting musical performance during Sunday services on Aug. 2, and congregants enjoyed magical elements in Howson Hall and the gallery.

The campers and prefects were so enthusiastic about this year's Camp UU/Hogwarts! I so enjoyed seeing the ideas that the children developed to share with their families and professors, and was proud of how well the campers and prefects worked and played together and enjoyed one another's company. This camp is truly blessed with great kids, as well as invaluable volunteers who make the magic possible. ■

“Lifespan RE” continued

spend some time with crayons, scissors, and colored pencils? Who knew there were coloring books for adults? Join us for a dedicated time for play, creativity, and stress-relieving nostalgia.

Science and Religion Seminar Series with Bruce Naylor, every 2nd Sunday, 1-2:30 p.m.

Science and Religion are considered the two great schemas for understanding existence. We will be exploring how science provides a “naturalistic” understanding of the universe, and how religion can be recast from the naturalistic perspective. We will begin with the social brain, exploring how being a social animal shaped the evolution of our brains, and how religion evolved as part of this process.

Positive Child Guidance Workshop, \$10 fee/parent (or couple/guardian), Sept. 13, 12:30-2 p.m.

Positive child guidance is discipline that works. By focusing on positive approaches designed to help you and your

child build skills, positive child guidance can help you get back to the part of parenting you love: connecting with and enjoying your child. Learn to: better understand why your child is misbehaving; set your child up for success by controlling what you can; quickly shut down sassy, annoying and disruptive behavior; correct your child’s behavior while still being the kind of parent you want to be.

A bit about instructor Sam Schlickeisen: “I discovered my passion for working with children and families as a teenager working as a camp counselor for the YMCA of Austin. Since receiving my B.S. in Development and Family Studies, I’ve served in the Austin nonprofit community both in child and family focused settings. I currently work for the University of Texas at one of their child development centers.

I provide training primarily on positive child guidance and developmental trauma with a focus on encouraging caregivers to be mindful, self-aware participants in guiding and healing children.” ■

Young adult summer events

Join the young adults (ages 18-35) for the following summer meetings. Email youngadults@austinuu.org for more details or information on the group. We’ll also be organizing monthly brunches after the second service, so email us or watch the orders of service! Meetings are typically from

7-9 p.m. with some adjustments based on event time for outings.

Thurs, Sept. 3: Potluck at First UU, followed by volunteering at Inside Books (www.insidebooksproject.org)

Wed, Sept. 16: Potluck at First UU, planning for fall, and game night.

Alphabet Soup Social Club

Monday, September 14
Trudy’s Tex-Mex
7:30 p.m.

This group is for any and all persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer, questioning, intersexual, pansexual, or asexual. The goal is to provide a safe and nurturing environment for us to gather in community and nourish our souls. If you are a heterosexual ally we welcome your support but ask that you refrain from attending these meetings.

Our next gathering will be for drinks at Trudy’s (North Burnet Location). For more info please contact Hannah Barfoot at alphabetsoup@austinuu.org or follow us on Facebook.

“Getting to Know UU” class

Sunday, October 11
12:15-1:15 p.m.
Rm. 15

This class is a basic introduction to Unitarian Universalist history, as well as the history of First UU of Austin. You will also have opportunities to ask questions and share faith histories with other attendees. Childcare is provided.

Mary Patrick to receive honor at Trio of Stars Brunch

**Saturday, September 19
Westin Hotel at the Domain
11 a.m. - 1 p.m.**

We are happy to announce that one of our church members, Mary Patrick, will be honored at the Travis County Democratic Party Trio of Stars Brunch this month. Each year the Travis County Democratic party honors three exceptional women and their leadership within the party.

As you all know, Bruce Elfant, our Travis County Voter Registrar, honored First UU in Jan. 2015 with the Partner of the Year award, for providing the space in the church for volunteer deputy registrar training. It was Mary's idea to bring this important civic and community service to the church. With Meg's approval and the sponsorship of the chair of the Social Action Committee, Mr. Elfant and Mary began offering the weekly classes in March

2013: over 2,000 people have been deputized at First UU. The classes are now ongoing on a monthly basis.

Increased voter registration directly benefits our community, our state and country. This is just one of several volunteer jobs Mary does to work for the democratic process: "Voting is the way," as she says.

Mary hopes you can attend to celebrate with her. If you would like to attend this event, please contact her at: maptrick@gmail.com.



Paradox Players' "Starry Messenger" is coming!

by **John Archibald**

For over 15 years Paradox Players, our in-house theater group, has been putting on high quality, live theater while bringing fellow UUs closer together in volunteering. All aspects of theater production such as stage management, costume design, front of the house management, as well as ticket taking, concessions and more are carried out by wonderful volunteers in an atmosphere of fun

and fulfillment.

Personally I have gotten more and more involved over the past couple of years, and I just love working with such a special group of exciting and interesting people. There is always something to do, and we are always on the lookout for talented individuals (or even those with questionable talent such as myself).

Our next production will be "Starry Messenger" opening this October. For more information check out www.paradoxplayers.org. Also keep your eyes open for more information in the weekly announcements, and be sure to check out our booth at the upcoming Connections Fair to see how you, too, can be a part of Paradox Players!

Stewardship 2015-16 kicks off this month

by Carolyn Gremminger

The theme for our stewardship campaign this year is “Building Justice – Building Sanctuary.” I am excited to announce that I will be serving as the chair. This means that I will be helping the staff and other volunteers to coordinate efforts to have a successful canvass. The campaign will have a formal kickoff on September 13 and should last through mid-November.

Below are listed some of the ministries where we are already building justice and sanctuary:

- Providing sanctuary to Sulma Franco and participating with allies in a successful campaign so that she could get supervised release and a Stay of Removal, allowing her to live and work safely out in the community.

- Packed worship services and the launch of our experiential third services: “We Gather: Another Kind of Worship.”

- Forming a People of Color group, as well as White Allies group.

- A successful capital campaign and a building committee hard at work on upcoming renovations/additions.

- Expanded social justice, interfaith and environmental activities.

- Innovative summer religious education – extracting DNA from strawberries and making lemon volcanoes!

- Increased leadership within our larger Unitarian Universalist faith.

It is our hope that a strong canvass will strengthen the foundation already set and enable us to create even more events and opportunities in our church and in the Austin community. In mid-September, one of your fellow church members will be contacting you to discuss your experience at First UU and your pledge for 2016.

September Seniors Luncheon

*Wednesday, September 9
Howson Hall
12 p.m.*

Please join us to hear First UU member Ernie Wood review his novel, “One Red Thread.” This has gotten good reviews from church members who have read it and Ernie will have some books there for purchase and to sign.

Soup, salad and dessert will be served for \$5. Please RSVP to Alice Cashman: (512) 837-0988.

Austin Presence Group

*September 17
Rm. 13B
6:30-8 p.m.*

Each month we will discuss a chapter from “The Power of Now.” Then we’ll spend some time on Eckert Tolle’s “Uncourse” and also tune in to Eckhart Tolle TV. A \$5 donation is requested in order to support the church. Visit our Meetup page at www.meetup.com/AustinPresence.

Come light another candle to illuminate your understanding along the spiritual path called life. Contact: Joe Linsalata, (512) 327-5000 or Linsalata@austin.rr.com.

HEALTHY RELATIONS MINISTRY

Austin NAMI Walk
Saturday, September 26
Long Center
12 p.m.

It's that time of year! Join the UU Uniques, chaired by Karl Weston, for the annual walk for Austin NAMI (National Alliance on Mental Illness). We'll have a table in the gallery during September to sign up to walk and/or donate to help change the way America handles mental illness. We gather starting at 8 a.m. at the Long Center (W. Riverside at South 1st), and the 5K walk starts at 9:30 a.m. up to the Capitol and back on Congress Ave. Registration is free. Register or donate online: <http://bit.ly/UUUniques>. Questions? Contact Karl: (512) 537-1529 or nami@austinuu.org.

It's time for the
Connections Fair!

Sunday, September 20
8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
Courtyard

The event has arrived! The annual Connections Fair is a great opportunity to learn more about First UU groups and ministries, and how you can get involved. Please email Shannon Posern at membership@austinuu.org to learn more about this event.

Advice from Covenant Corner

Dear Covenant:

My 13-year-old daughter wants to attend church regularly with her best friend. It is a Christian denomination. I won't begin to go into all the concerns I have with this. Needless to say, I don't know what to do. I know at her age that peer influence far outweighs a parent's influence. Do you have any advice for me?

– *Troubled Mom*

Dear Troubled Mom:

Your situation can be particularly troublesome for Unitarian Universalist parents. Our faith tradition and our church welcome everyone of good will regardless of their spiritual paths. We want our youth to do the same when we encourage them to learn about other faith traditions. In both our principles and our covenant we promise to “encourage the spiritual growth of people of all ages.” Many see spiritual growth as part of another principle, “a free and responsible search for truth and meaning.”

Even as we work to live out our promises, we fear for young minds that are not yet practiced at discovering the deeper meaning within others' statements of belief or distinguishing between truth and belief. This fear is especially acute when our youth are struggling to find their own identity by separating from parents.

At the same time, we know that fear does not lead to open-mindedness, not with youth and not with adults. We encourage you to stay in dialogue with your daughter. For both youth and adults, questions rather than statements are far more likely to encourage continuing discussion. Draw on another of our covenant's promises and ask questions of your daughter with curiosity and respect. Look for respectful questions that ask her to explore the meaning behind the belief statements she will hear. Demonstrate by your actions what our UU principles and promises mean as you help her on her spiritual path.

And you might suggest that she and her friend sometimes attend your church. Whether you find she merely wants to spend time with a friend or she wants to explore another path, you will be able to maintain a healthy dialogue that can only strengthen your relationship as she moves through life.

The Healthy Relations Ministry is available to you as a resource if you need help with a difficult situation here at church. It includes Margaret Borden, Ann Edwards, and Sandra Ries and can be reached at healthyrelations@austinuu.org.

Sincerely,

Healthy Relations Covenant

MONTHLY SPECIAL OFFERING

The ABCs of People's Community Clinic

Amber, a young mother of four year-old Sam, along with her husband Jerry live with her widowed mother, Maria, who knows little English. Both Amber and Jerry work full time and Sam is left in the care of his loving grandmother. Sam suffers from a learning disability and asthma. Though Amber and Jerry have some healthcare coverage, it is not nearly enough to give Sam all the help he needs. They work with People's Community Clinic's Goals Program which aids in developmental, behavioral evaluation, and treatment for Sam. They also use the pharmacy services for help in paying for drugs that Sam needs.

Bradley, a 48-year-old construction worker, supports a family of four. Bradley developed Type 2 diabetes and started having seizures and other health problems that made doing his job very difficult. He used the local emergency room clinic as his healthcare provider until he went to a PCC primary care doctor. There he received ongoing care, health education about his diabetes and how to control it, and dietary education, all of which he pays for on a sliding-scale fee. Now he is able to return to his job and reduced his need for emergency room care and the underlying costs that entailed.

Catherine is a lovely, soft-spoken, 15-year-old mother

of a toddler. Catherine dropped out of school to have Beth. She has little financial or emotional support from family but is determined to finish her education and raise a well-adjusted, healthy daughter. She is receiving help from the Tandem Teen Preventive Care and Parenting Program. Beth receives her pediatric care and immunizations from the clinic. Catherine gets assistance and guidance from the clinic's Social Work Services, and given time, will receive her degree and be on her way to a healthy and happier future for herself and her daughter.

These are the sorts of stories that are the ABCs of People's Community Clinic: the basics of people's lives and health problems, and some of the programs the clinic offers. Though none of the above are real people, they represent real people who use and flourish from the help you, the community, and the clinic provide.

September is the month that People's Community Clinic is the highlighted organization of our Monthly Service Offerings. During the September 13 service you will hear from Dr. Celia Neavel on the physical, mental, and social work the clinic has been performing in a multitude of avenues for the betterment of our community since 1970. Dr. Neavel, a member of First UU,

is a physician for the clinic and has devoted her medical career to serving the vulnerable population in our area. We look forward to each of you and the church community to continue its assistance and support for the clinic and its mission: "To improve the health of medically underserved and uninsured Central Texans by delivering high-quality, affordable healthcare with dignity and respect."

For more information about the clinic, the services it provides, and how to volunteer, go to www.austinpcc.org. For information about First UU volunteer efforts with PCC, send an e-mail to pcc@austinuu.org. Members who volunteer with PCC will be in the gallery after each service on September 13 to discuss with you how you too can contribute your time and talents to this community effort. The next meeting of the PCC Collating Group will be October 5 due to the Labor Day weekend.

All groups supported by Monthly Special Offerings will receive a check at the end of the year, when the total of the 12 monthly donations will be divided equally.

WORSHIP SERVICES

Women's Spirituality Group

September 5 & 19

Rm. 13

10:30 a.m.-12 p.m.

Come join us in September! On the 5th we will continue our exploration of the book, "The Toltec Book of Transformation" by local author HeatherAsh Amara. We are finishing the chapter on Fire! Then on the 19th we will celebrate the fall equinox, a time of balance between light and dark, both on Earth and in our lives.

This group is for women who are high school age and older. We are open to new members at all times, and we invite you to join us. For more info please contact: women@austinuu.org.

September Art Exhibition

**Reception: Sat. Sept. 5
Gallery
6-8 p.m.**

"Moving the Soul Through Art" will feature a collection of watercolors and collages by Karen Schrupp.

What are our values?

We say our mission together every Sunday, but you may not be as familiar with the set of religious values our church shares, and out of which our mission originally emerged. Rev. Chris will be leading a series of worship services throughout the 2015/2016 church year examining each of our values:

- Transcendence – To connect with wonder and awe of the unity of life
- Community – To connect with joy, sorrow, and service with those whose lives we touch
- Compassion – To treat ourselves

and others with love

- Courage – To live lives of honesty, vulnerability, and beauty
- Transformation – To pursue the growth that changes our lives and heals our world.

The first service will be on October 25 and will explore our religious value of transcendence. Chris would love to hear from you about what this value means to you or a story of when you may have experienced it. Feel free to contact Chris at (512) 452-6168, ext. 308 or chris.jimmerson@austinuu.org to set up a time to do so.

What's new with the building plans?

Capital Campaign update:

This fall, the CC team will be visiting with newer members who are not yet part of the building project and inviting them to make a pledge. They plan to coordinate their visits with the stewardship canvassers.

Building Team update:

We have an architect! We will be working with Mr. Al York, AIA, of McKinney/York Architects. (1301 E. 7th St.)

A short list of four impressive architecture firms and their teams were interviewed. We unanimously chose McKinney/York. Our next step is to determine their scope of work. One of the things that impressed us was how aware

they were of our budgetary limitations and how willing they were to let those shape the work. Another joy was how much they knew about the traditions of great architecture and Unitarian congregations, and how thrilled they were to have a chance to design a UU church. As they reach a point in the design process where congregational input will be helpful, the congregation will be invited to Town Hall Meetings to see the designs in process and give input. According to the current timeline, this should happen sometime in October. Watch the newsletter and the announcements! All building team meetings are open to all church members. Email Rev. Meg if you would like to come: meg.barnhouse@austinuu.org.

GREEN SANCTUARY

Inside Books still going strong



Here is a picture of two mighty volunteers, Sally Scott and Janis Beck, who shelve donated books properly so it's easy to send them to Texas inmates pro bono. Our own Sally Scott is a second Monday regular at the potluck book-sending party

at Inside Books. This is a joint program of our First UU Social Action and Green Sanctuary ministries. Our church chose Inside Books as a Monthly Special Offering recipient this past May. Thousands of fiction and nonfiction books are donated by our generous and staff. It's a great way to downsize! They make a lifesaving difference to Texas inmates.

Inmates often write comments like this: "The books you sent allowed me to become a better reader and for just a little while I have an alternative to the madness inside these walls." "Y'all are great. The

books you send get shared and others get a break from the tiny cell and giant depression we live in every day." "Hey, I'm learning to draw, thanks to the books you sent." A Texas-size thanks to you First UU book donors and those who come on the second Monday to lunch and send books to fulfill inmates' requests.

Donate your book in the gallery in front of the bookstore under the table any Sunday. Join us on second Mondays from 10 a.m.-2 p.m at Space 12 (3121 E. 12th St.) to help send books. For details, write the Halpins: texeagle@aol.com.

Music Matters



by **Brent Baldwin,**
music director

Adult Choir

The First UU Adult Choir meets Wednesdays from 7-8:45 p.m. in the sanctuary beginning Sept. 2. The choir sings on average 2-3 services per month, and features a wide variety of music. Open to ages 15 and up. No audition required. Childcare provided.

Not sure about choir? No problem—come check out a commitment-free rehearsal to see if it's the right fit for you. (Fair warning: it's a lot of fun!)

Children's Choir & Youth Choir

Our children's and youth choirs meet during first service RE in Rm. 13 (youth choir, grades 4-9) and Rm. 11 (children's choir, grades K-3) beginning Sept. 13. If you're a second-service family, your children may simply join us at 10 a.m. Choir ends at 10:40. Our excellent directors provide top-notch instruction—and a lot of fun!

Pick up your registration packet and schedule outside the RE office, or register online at <http://bit.ly/FirstUUREg>.

Nourishing souls and transforming lives through music

Eclectic Folk Jam

Friday, September 11
Rm. 17
7-10 p.m.

The Eclectic Folk Jam, an open jam session for singers and instrumentalists, is held on the second Friday of every month. We have “Rise Up Singing” song books, and some people like to bring copies of their favorite songs to pass out. Bring drinks and snacks to share.

Contact Pete and Kim Akenhead at (512) 834-0188, or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or singalong@austinuu.org.

UU/Quaker Singalong

Saturday, September 26
Friends Meeting House
(3701 E. MLK Blvd.)
7:30-10:30 p.m.

Please bring snacks and finger foods, musical instruments, and copies of songs you want to sing. Copies of “Rise Up Singing” are provided. This is an alcohol-free event, round-robin format, held on the fourth Saturday of every month.

Contact Larry Vaughn at (512) 469-0029 or Mary Jane Ford at (512) 926-4122 or singalong@austinuu.org.

WORSHIP SERVICES

SANCTUARY 9:15 AM AND 10:45 AM

SEPTEMBER 6**Just Enough, Too Much, Too Little**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

Water Communion is a service for all ages, celebrating the beginning of another church year after the summertime. Bring water from a place that renewed and refreshed you this summer. Was it a neighborhood pool? Your garden hose? A faraway lake?

SEPTEMBER 13**All Beginnings Are Difficult**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

As some of us along with our Jewish neighbors celebrate Rosh Hashannah, the Head of the Year, we will talk about making intentions for what we would like to call into our lives this year and letting go of what no longer serves us.

SEPTEMBER 19**We Gather: Another Kind of Worship**

(4:30 p.m.) The new third service is in its own format, different from Sunday mornings. Pizza and drinks will follow! Please email childcare@austinuu.org to reserve childcare; however, children are very welcome throughout the entire service. We will have a carpeted area and coloring materials in Howson Hall.

SEPTEMBER 20**21st Century Atonement**

REV. MARISOL CABALLERO

This week, both religious and secular Jewish people will celebrate Yom Kippur, the Day of Atonement of sins in the past year. This date on the calendar invites all of us to reflect on the 364 days since last Yom Kippur and take an inventory of our “sins,” not for the sake of returning to that familiar place of liberal guilt, but for finding collective, relational means of moving past it.

SEPTEMBER 27**Good Grief**

REV. MEG BARNHOUSE

What are some of the ways people experience and express grief? What causes grief? How can we support those we love when they are grieving?

PUBLIC AFFAIRS FORUM

SANCTUARY AT NOON AFTER SECOND SERVICE

SEPTEMBER 6

State of the Unions

WITH RICK LEVY, AFL-CIO

The Public Affairs Forum series resumes this Labor Day weekend with a report on the state of the labor movement from Rick Levy, newly elected as one of the top two leaders of the Texas AFL-CIO. As the Texas labor federation's lawyer for more than two decades before his election this summer as secretary-treasurer, Levy has been in the thick of the political fight for all working people against rising income inequality. He is a leader in the union movement's campaigns for comprehensive immigration reform, labor-environmentalist alliances, and civil rights (including voting rights). For Levy and the 21st century labor movement, these issues are as central to the overall struggle for economic and social justice as labor's traditional workplace concerns.

This lecture is given in honor of Kitty Clark: a founding member of First UU, a long-term Forum Committee member, a member of the teachers' union, and a lifelong champion of labor.

SEPTEMBER 13

A Recap of the 84th Legislative Session

WITH STATE REP. DONNA HOWARD

The common refrain heard at the end of the recent Texas legislative session was "it could've been worse." With billions of surplus dollars left in the bank and billions more in tax cuts that largely bypass the average citizen, many vital services were left underfunded as the limited government crowd had the upper hand. And then there is the gun issue. So what happened? Rep. Donna Howard will share her insider perspective on the good, the definitely not so good, and the "could've been much better" of the 84th legislative session.

Donna Howard has represented District 48 since 2006. She is an Austin native and worked as a criti-

cal care nurse and as the first hospital-based patient education coordinator in Austin. She was also a health education instructor at the University of Texas. She is a distinguished alumna of the UT School of Nursing and the Dept. of Kinesiology and Health Education, and recently received a Texas Women's Health Champion Award from the American Congress of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Donna has served on the Eanes ISD School Board and on several community boards. In the Texas Legislature she is vice chair of the Higher Education and Appropriations Committee, a member of the House Administration Committee, and is recognized as an education and health policy expert. She and her husband Derek have been members of First UU since the 1970s and have served on committees and boards that support the life of the church.

SEPTEMBER 20

A Path Forward in Improving Reproductive Health Care Access

WITH HEATHER BUSBY

Texas is at an all-time low when it comes to access to contraceptive and abortion services in the state. With the highest number of uninsured people in the nation and the rapidly decreasing number of reproductive health clinics, we're at a crisis point and something must be done. This talk will outline the progression of attacks on reproductive health care and introduce the "Judgment to Empathy" framework, a new way of discussing abortion.

Heather joined NARAL Pro-Choice Texas as executive director in November 2012. Prior to NPCT, Heather was an assistant Travis County attorney, procuring protective orders for survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and stalking. Heather, a long-time supporter of women's rights, was a founding board member of The Lilith Fund and served on the boards of the National Network of Abortion Funds and Law Students for Reproductive Justice.

see final forum listing on page 16

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

(512) 452-6168

www.austinuu.org

Senior Minister

Rev. Meg Barnhouse

Assistant Minister

Rev. Marisol Caballero

Assistant Minister

Rev. Chris Jimmerson

Director of Music

Brent Baldwin

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Membership Coordinator

Shannon Posern

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Victoria M. Valadez

Board President

Angela Smith

**First Unitarian
Universalist
Church of Austin**

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THE FORUM, *continued*

SEPTEMBER 27

**What's So Grand about
the Grand Jury?**

WITH GARY COBB

Grand juries remain somewhat mysterious deliberative bodies for many of us. Travis County Assistant District Attorney Gary Cobb will provide a review of the history and evolution of the grand jury, an overview of its present workings, and its unique role in the Texas criminal justice system. He will make some predictions about how the recent legislative tinkering with the grand jury may affect this august body in the future.

Following a brief but litigious stint as a municipal court prosecutor with

the City of Austin, Gary found his true calling as a felony prosecutor with the Travis County District Attorney's Office which he joined in 1990. In addition to supervising and mentoring countless young and less experienced prosecutors, Gary formerly worked as a teaching specialist at the UT School of Law. Gary has lectured for the Texas District and County Attorneys Association, for the Austin Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and was previously on the faculty of the National District Attorneys Association. He volunteers for various community organizations, including the Men and Boys Conferences and the Council on At-Risk Youth. Gary and his wife, Nichelle, are south Austin residents and the parents of two boys. ■