



In Touch

*First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita
founded in 1887*

January 2010

Let's Keep Making History

Did you know that in the late 1880s, abolitionist Julia Ward Howe came to speak at the brand-new Unitarian Society of Wichita? That in the 1890s, our youth—some 75 of them—formed The Unity Guild, which held weekly Sunday afternoon literary and musical events? That in 1963, our church minister and members helped organize and marched in the Fair Housing march on City Hall in downtown Wichita? Or that in 1997 the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita became one of the first 10 churches in the Prairie Star District, and the first in Kansas, to become a welcoming congregation?

One hundred and twenty-three years ago, our church was born in Wichita, and we've been making history ever since. This year, we celebrate our roots and our wings with our stewardship campaign "Let's Keep Making History."

The 2009-10 board of trustees has placed church stewardship, with the goal of ensuring the services of a full-time minister, as its highest priority. We are serious about this goal, and we have put our money where our mouth is by agreeing to serve as the members of this year's Financial Commitment Committee. In addition, Pat Felton has volunteered to serve on the FCC. This year's committee members are co-chairs Annie Welsbacher and Trina Wheeler, Anne Bailey, David Brewer, Carol Clark, Pat Felton, Amy Geyer, Dee Dee Jordan, Nicole Kaempfe, Dianne Waltner, Corey Swertfager, and Bonnie Till. In addition, Charles Merrifield, long-time chair of this committee, has volunteered to mentor and guide us. Please take a moment to thank the members of this group when you see them.

Our commitment to stewardship is not merely about money. We encourage all church members to think about how our church serves you, and how you can serve each other. Staying in touch with home-bound members, helping to pick up trash in the yard, singing in our Second Sunday Singers, noting a kind act during Sunday services, spending a year on a church committee, making an annual pledge of money, and being present on Sunday mornings are all ways we can give to, and take from, each other and our church.

In the months ahead, we will explore, through articles in In Touch and Update, presentations from the pulpit, letters, phone calls, visits, and special events, the ways that we as a congregation can move forward into the first of the next 123 years. We are counting on you to help us succeed. Let's keep making history!

Annie Welsbacher

Help Wanted: Child Care Provider (part-time)

Employee will care for children during

- Weekly Sunday services (typically 1 1/2 hours).
- Semi-annual congregational meetings (typically 1 1/2 hours).

Other scheduled church-related events, to be determined and based on need. These could include meditation classes, Adult Religious Exploration classes, etc.

Employee will be assisted by church volunteers as needed. Exact pay rate to be determined, but will be at least \$7.22 per hour. (Therefore, in the past, when 1 1/2 hours of child care was provided, the net check was about \$10.00 after payroll deductions were made.) No benefits. Position is open to members and non-members of the church.

Applicants should email cover letter, resume and 3 professional references to Debra Clements, Chair of the Personnel Committee, at debra.clements@cox.net by December 31, 2009. A background check will be completed prior to the candidate beginning work.

In Touch

with **The First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita** is published monthly
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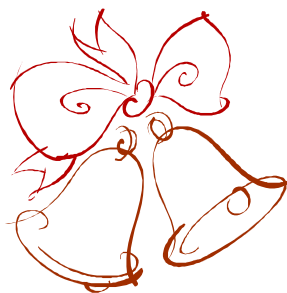
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The deadlines for In Touch and for the monthly Calendar are the third Wednesday of each month. The next deadline is Jan. 20 to be mailed Jan. 27. Please submit items for this issue to:

newsletter@firstuunet.net

or bring hard copy to the church office. Late submissions may be omitted.



Happy New Year

R.E. Corner

Shalom! I would like to thank all the children and youth who participated in our Intergenerational Peace service. You did a wonderful job. Let me say again what a joy you are to teach and to be around.

I would also like to thank Larry Cosby and Wendy Haynie-Cosby for building and installing our wonderful wooden tree for donated food, hats and gloves. And the wool garland that Bianca Kamnitzer and the children made is beautiful and worked perfectly to adorn the tree. We will be donating the collected food and clothing items to a local charity.

I would also like to take this opportunity to publicly thank the wonderful ladies who volunteer in our very busy nursery. They give their time once a month, in some cases twice, to spend time with our little ones. And our numbers are growing! Please let the following ladies know how much they are appreciated: Del Smith, Jana Rambo, Heather Eichbauer and Lisa Perkins.

In RE, we will end the year with a celebration on the 27th. Then we'll kick off the new year with Way Cool Sunday School on January 3rd. We will continue our Peace and Tolerance curriculum and will also begin implementing the "Pennies for Peace" project. P4P is designed to educate children about the world beyond their experience and show them that they can make a positive impact on a global scale, one penny at a time. Through cross-cultural understanding and a solution-oriented approach, P4P encourages children to be active participants in global peace.

Wishing you a peaceful, joy-filled holiday season with those you love. See you at church!

Denise Jackson-Simon

WayCoolSundaySchoolWayCoolSundaySchoolWayCoolSu

Church building safety

Thanks to all who use the church responsibly for various activities. As explained in our rental use agreement - but good information for church members to remember as well - the church should be left as it was found whenever it is used. Thanks to you all for cleaning up and moving items as needed.

Please note: do not stack chairs more than two high so that they do not get too heavy to move. Thanks!

Reeb Award Update

The Reeb Award Task Force continues to develop plans for Sunday, February 28, when the award will be given to a deserving group in Wichita which addresses basic human needs. The groups suggested as potential by members of the congregation have been researched and one has been chosen in the near future by the Board of Trustees.

February 28, 2010 is designated as Reeb Memorial Sunday and will include the worship service and a reception afterward to honor the recipient organization and to recognize Ermalee Skillman who has donated books for a Reeb Memorial Library Shelf. Among the items she has donated is an album of previous Reeb Award services, with clippings and photos. For a sneak peak, see Del in the Chalice Bookstore on Sundays after the service.

If you would like to add to the Reeb Memorial Library Shelf, *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination* by Mark D. Morrison-Reed, introduction by Andrew Young, is another Skinner publication which is available to purchase to donate to the Reeb Memorial Library Collection. See Del Smith to arrange this.

Elaine Bulatkin for the Reeb Award Task Force

Chalice Bookstore is a "Happening Place"

First UU's Operating Fund has received more than \$400 (to date) from Chalice Bookstore's recent sale. The "Recipes for Meatless

"The Romance of Italy" Valentine's Day Dinner

There will be a romantic, candlelight dinner at the church at 6 p.m. on Sunday February 14. Tentative plans for dancing to be included are in the works.

The menu will include antipasto appetizers, salad, garlic bread, a choice of one of the following three entrees: meat lasagna, vegetable lasagna, or vegan spaghetti with "meat" balls, dessert, water, tea, coffee, and wine.

The dinner will cost \$15.00 per person or \$10.00 for a child-size portion if paid in advance by Sunday, February 7 or \$20.00 per person after February 7 or at the door. Wine will be available for a suggested donation of \$4.00 a glass.

Child care will be available for \$5.00 per child and will include a light supper of macaroni & cheese, peanut butter & jelly sandwiches, applesauce, rice crispy treats, and fruit juice.

Please contact Karen Kimmel at karenkimmel@cox.net or 686-2731 with offers to help with one or more of the following:

- food or drink preparation and/or donation
- table setting & decorations
- publicity
- ticket sales
- cashier at the event
- dance-related help
- set up
- clean up

Meals" sold out and a third printing ordered. The books are \$5.00 each. Thanks to local authors Les Ruthven, Jerry Paske, Anne Welsbacher, Kay Roskam and Myrne Roe for donating books to the sale.

Don't forget that books may be ordered from the UU Bookstore catalog all during the year. Ordering through the bookstore benefits the church and also means a 50% savings in S&H charges for you.

A recent publication might be of interest to many since the topic of Social Justice keeps popping at in meetings and conversations: The book is "A People So Bold: Theology and Ministry for Unitarian Universalists," and is described as "compelling and articulate, these inspiring essays explore the

(Continued on page 5)

The President's View, December 2009

As noted elsewhere in this issue, the 2009-10 board and officers, along with church member Pat Felton, have donned stewardship hats to become members of this year's Financial Commitment Committee. We have begun planning a great year of church activities around the theme, "Let's Keep Making History." Initial meetings have unleashed creativity, discovery, and laughter, and I hope our enthusiasm catches on in the months ahead.

The congregational midyear meeting is January 24, 2010, and I encourage all church members to attend. In addition to electing members of our nominating committee for 2010-11 board and president-elect, we will vote on bylaws revisions recommended by the Bylaws Task Force (David Brewer, Elaine Bulatkin, and Charles Merrifield) and the board. We also will set in motion our first annual volunteer recognition event, to be celebrated at our annual meeting next summer, at January's meeting. Watch for the proposed bylaws revisions and other materials, to be mailed to all church members in early January. (If you have not received your materials by Monday, January 11, please contact the office.)

I'm pleased to note that our membership committee has grown, with Charlie Jenney and Karen Kimmel joining its ranks. By the time you receive this letter you might already have attended our church New Year's Eve party, spearheaded by Karen with much help from Judy Naillon and other committee members. Karen and Maxine Wells are also planning a terrific Valentine's Day fundraising dinner, to take place at the church February 14 at 6:00 p.m. We hope to raise at least \$300, plus offer lots of fun, music, and great food. Italian-themed, the dinner will include a special kids' menu and very reasonable prices for the whole family. So, parents: enjoy a romantic night out without shelling out major babysitting bucks!

Plans are heating up for the James Joseph Reeb Memorial Award event February 28, and, further into the spring, the annual Partner Church fundraising dinner will be held March 21. I'm happy to report that the holiday book sale brought in a whopping \$400—great work again this year, Del Smith! At the risk of inciting allegations of nepotism, I'm also pleased to report that Corey Swertfager's Adult RE classes continue strong, with new people showing up for the current "Questions of Value" series. Debra Clements, chair of Personnel, has set into motion plans to hire both primary and supporting child care providers for us to call on for church functions.

We seek chairs and new members of the building and worship committees. The great advantage with the former? No meetings! Acting chair Trina Wheeler defines her duties as being like those of a homeowner. The key is keeping track of what needs repair or maintenance. If the chair can fix things, then the person in that position is free to do so; if the chair can't or doesn't want to, the task means finding somebody who can. In addition, of course, the ideal building committee chair will plan and budget for our building's long-term needs. The great advantage for the worship committee is the creative nature of its work. I'd love to see youth get involved here, as well as any others who'd like to give it a try.

I'd also like to see a volunteer step up and relieve Anne Bailey as chair of the membership committee, a torch she's anxious to pass after holding it for a long time. I'm sure she can be persuaded to remain on the committee, so shy persons, never fear—she and the other committee members will be there to support you. This committee is the party hearty gang, so come on down.

For any of the above needs, service can be finite. Perhaps we can all consider serving in some capacity, on these or other groups that call out to us, for one year only. The more church members who know the workings of the engines that keep alive our church, the better served it—and all of us—will be in the decades ahead.

Enough with the housekeeping. Please enjoy a gentle and peaceful holiday season; I wish for us all a promising and fulfilling 2010.

Shine on!

Annie

Chalice Bookstore

(Continued from page 3)

vision, language and practice of Unitarian Universalist social justice today. Putting justice and anti-oppression work at the center of our mission in the world, these voices ground social justice in a historical context, and address questions like: How does our faith hold brokenness, injustice and suffering? How do we develop a prophetic voice?"

Used bookstore is still open and many mysteries in excellent condition have been donated by Joe Brewer. Check the current donations shelf out and browse the other bookcases too. Such bargains! Self-serve. Prices are displayed atop the current donations shelf.

Del Smith

Volunteer for M-2 in 2010

We stand at the end of one year and the beginning of the next. As it is a time for new determinations and resolutions I believe it is an excellent time to present the challenge of the M-2 prison visitation ministry.

Offender / Victim Ministries has been involved in this critical work with prison inmates continuously since 1972. That has been possible through many hundreds of volunteers through the years who have been willing to spend an hour and a half each month visiting with a man incarcerated at the Hutchinson Correctional Facility.

Many men have gotten a new perspective on life through the friend-

UU Bed and Breakfast Directory

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 31 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory: see www.UUreHome.com <<http://www.UUreHome.com>> for an application. If you have questions, contact us at info@uurehome.com or call 828-281-3253. Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at [www.UUreHome.com](http://www.uurehome.com) <<http://www.uurehome.com/>> are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published once a year in April. For a copy of the 2010 directory and a year's access to the website listings, please click on "become a member" to pay by credit card, or send a check for \$25 and **your e-mail address** to UU're Home, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

ship of volunteers from our church communities. Certainly not all have succeeded in making a new life through the interaction with our volunteers but many have and now enhance society rather than destroy it.

The M-2 (Match Two) program of Offender / Victim Ministries seeks new volunteers to be involved in prison visitation. Ministry in prison requires a training session given by both prison staff and the M-2 director. Opportunities for training will be available in January. Call OVM.

M-2 is a supervised in-prison friendship program. Your friendship, love and concern can be a crucial element in a successful life following incarceration. Most of the inmates in M-2 receive no other visits than those of their M-2 friend. More than 50 men are waiting to be matched. A volunteer commits to visit one evening per month. No special skills are needed to be a friend. Contact OVM (316-283-2038) or email (ovm.ks@sbcglobal.net) for further information or to submit your name and other required information so that clearances may be obtained for admission to training.

Gary Isaac
Director, Prison Ministries
Offender / Victim Ministries
307 N Poplar
Newton, KS 67114
316 283-2038
gary.ovm@sbcglobal.net

Every Month at First UU:

Full Moon Dances are open to both women and men. Join in the dance to connect with the earth's power, celebrate the elements, and discover your personal power. Information: Kathy Hull 267-3860.

New Moon Circle meets at the church. Intended to complement the Full Moon Dances, we offer this time to gather on the New Moon for study, meditation, and ritual exploration of earth-centered spiritual growth. Information: Kathy Hull, 267-3860.

Eclectic Readers group meet the 3rd Friday of the month at 11:30 a.m. at the church. Contact: Marsha Ebaugh, 683-4782

Book Discussion Group meets on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 p.m. at the home of Joe Brewer, 2531 N Roosevelt. You are welcome to attend whether or not you have read the book. Information: 686-8575

Ethical Eating group meets the 2nd Monday of every month at 6:30. Bring a vegan dish to share. Contact Dianne Waltner, dwaltner@sbcglobal.net, or 946-1115 for additional information.

Personnel Committee meets the 4th Sunday from 10:15 to 10:50 am in the church library.

Family Choir meets at 10 a.m. the 2nd Sunday to practice the song for that service. All ages welcome. Information: Denise Jackson-Simon, 644-2022

Monday Movie Night meets the Third Monday at 7 p.m. Critically acclaimed movies. Vivien Minshull-Ford, selects the films and leads the discussion after each showing. Series coordinator, Del Smith, 612-0826.

Dinners for Eight. Date varies. Contact Nancy Milner, 685-7682.

Every Week at First UU:

Southwind Sangha Zen Buddhist Meditation meets at the church. Introductory session, 7 pm, first Wednesday. Also meets 8-9 am on Sundays, 6pm on Mondays, 7-8 pm on Wednesdays and 6-6:45 pm on Thursdays. Half day retreat on third Saturdays, 8 am to 12 noon. Information: <http://www.southwindsangha.org/>, or Kathryn Riley, 84-8819 or Del Smith 612-0826.

Tai Chi classes. Tuesdays at 7 p.m. Cost: \$5.00 per class. Dress comfortably. Information: David Larsen, 612-4726 or davidlarsen@sbcglobal.net

Adult RE meets Sunday mornings at 9:30 a.m. in the library. Current topic: The Old Testament.. Corey Swertfager, 201-6921

Meditation and Book Discussion Tuesday, 6 p.m., Bob Feleppa, 304-9170

A Note of Thanks to First UU From December Guest Speaker Jason Dilts

Thank you for inviting me to be a part of your Sunday worship last week. I very much enjoyed meeting and visiting with the many good people of First UU Wichita. The conversations about self-acceptance, love, and true understanding of purpose in life were priceless. Your openness to such a dialogue is something I greatly respect and admire.
In Love, Jason Dilts

The Book Discussion Group invites you to bring a favorite poem (or two) for our meeting on January 13, 2010 at the home of Joe Brewer. This is our annual "easy read" over the holidays. For February 10, we will be discussing "Three Cups of Tea" by Greg Mortenson. One Man's Mission to Promote Peace . . . One School at a Time. It is the true story of one of the most extraordinary humanitarian missions of our time. You are welcome to join our group whether you have read the book or not, call 686-8575 for further information.

The Eclectic Readers Group will be discussing *The Life of Pi* by Yann Martel at 11:30 on January 15. Bring a lunch if you wish. There are many copies available throughout the Wichita Public Library system.

January 18 Movie Night Pick: Turkish-German Movie
The Edge of Heaven is termed a "splendid film" by Vivien Minshull-Ford and "extraordinary" by the New York Times Film Critic. The movie won best screenplay award in Cannes in 2007 and is praised by all major reviewers. The lives of the six principal characters cross and entwine, with a "sense of human connections becoming stronger and thicker, of a fragile moral order coalescing beneath the randomness and cruelty of modern life," according to A.O. Scott of the NY Times. English subtitles. Vivien will introduce the movie at 7 pm and lead the discussion afterward. Bring snacks to share.

The spiritual world is like the natural world---only diversity will save it. Just as the health of a forest or fragrant meadow can be measured by the number of different insects and plants and creatures that successfully make it their home, so only by an extraordinary abundance of disparate spiritual and philosophic paths will human beings navigate a pathway through the dark and swirling storms that mark our current era. "Not by one avenue alone," wrote Symmachus sixteen centuries ago, "can we arrive at so tremendous a secret."

Margot Adler
Drawing Down the Moon

January 2010

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 7am-12pm Buddhist First Light Retreat	2
3 8am Buddhist Med 9:30a Adult RE 12:15pm First Sunday Lunch	4 6pm Buddhist Discus- sion	5 6pm Meditation and Book Discussion 7pm Tai Chi 7pm Green Sanctuary Committee	6 6pm Membership Committee 7pm Buddhist Medita- tion	7 6pm Buddhist Medita- tion 7pm Financial Commit- ment Committee	8	9
10 8am Buddhist Med 9:30a Adult RE 10am 2nd Sunday Singers 12:15 Leaders Coun	11 6pm Buddhist Discus- sion 6:30pm Meatless Mon- day	12 6:00p Meditation and Book Discussion 7:00p Tai Chi	13 4:30pm Communica- tions Team 7p Buddhist Meditation 7pm New Moon Circle 7:30p Books@Brewers	14 6pm Buddhist Medita- tion 7pm Aesthetics Com- mittee	15 11:30am Eclectic Reader's Group	16 8am-12pm Buddhist Silent Retreat
17 8am Buddhist Med 9:30am Adult RE 9:30am RE Comm. 12:30pm Seeking Circle	18 6pm Buddhist Discus- sion Group 7pm Worship Commit- tee 7:00p Movie Night	19 6:00p Meditation and Book Discussion 7:00p Tai Chi	20 7pm Board Meeting 7pm Buddhist Medita- tion NEWSLETTER CAL- ENDAR DEADLINE	21 6pm Buddhist Medita- tion	22	23 10am Caring Committee
24 8am Buddhist Med 9:30am Adult RE 10:15am Personnel C 31 8am Buddhist Med 9:30am Adult RE	25 6pm Buddhist Discus- sion Group	26 6:00p Meditation and Book Discussion 7:00p Tai Chi	27 9:30am Newsletter Mailing 7pm Buddhist Medita- tion	28 6pm Buddhist Medita- tion 7pm Full Moon Dance and Imbolic Potluck	29	30

First Unitarian Universalist Church
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at
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Sunday Programs at First UU

Every Sunday: 9:30a Adult Religious Exploration
11:00a Children's Religious Exploration
11:00a Worship Service

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Vision Statement

It is our vision:

To be a growing, inclusive, vital congregation that encourages shared values amidst differing beliefs and nurtures creative exploration of intellectual and spiritual paths.

To be a visible community leader that promotes human equity and compassion, and celebrates life through the arts.

Mission Statement

Our mission, consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles, is to provide a joyful, safe, healing environment where diversity is embraced. We will inspire and uplift the whole person through enriching programs and services for all ages, and serve the larger community through social action and active promotion of the arts.