

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 73, #46, August 14, 2011

Non-Profit Organization
U.S. Postage PAID
Columbus, Ohio
Permit 131

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS

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PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

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WORSHIP SERVICES

August 21, 2001, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“This is The Dream: Invincible Summer”

August 28, 2001, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Making the Best of It”

September 4, 2001, 10:00 A.M.

Service at Church by Worship Committee; Service at All-Church Retreat – led by Rev. Eric Meter

Remember to gather your vial of water for the Water Ceremony on September 11 (two services at 9:15 and 11am.) Please let me know by email ONE place you have brought water from, and if you know the geography, what direction the source is from Columbus: North, South, East, West only. You may decide which cardinal direction it's closest to, or you can leave it up to me!. Mark

► "Getting to Know UU" meets Sunday mornings in Slowter Lounge, following each service. Anyone interested in learning more about Unitarian Universalism and about the First UU Church of Columbus is welcome.

Wednesday, August 17, 2011

- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 5:30p Gay/Straight Alliance
- 6:30p Life Stories
- 7:00p Membership Committee
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, August 18, 2011

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:00p Communications Committee

Friday, August 19, 2011

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
- 4:00p Mid-Ohio Workers Assoc. Back to School Distr.

Saturday, August 20, 2011

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:00a Path to Membership
- 11:00a Sound Team
- 11:00a *Move to Amend* Central Ohio
- 7:30p All Soles Contra Dance

Sunday, August 21, 2011

- 8:30a Strategic Planning
- 10:00a Worship Service; All Ages Sunday School
- 11:30a Getting to Know UU
- 11:30a Teacher Orientation
- 11:45a Artists Reception
- 12:00p Wellspring Planning

Monday, August 22, 2011

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p *Neighboring Faiths* Teachers
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Tuesday, August 23, 2011

- 9:30a Archives Organizing
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group ([contact se.schofield@hotmail.com](mailto:se.schofield@hotmail.com))
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Being an Atheist or Agnostic
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality

Wednesday, August 24, 2011

- 6:30p Life Stories
- 7:00p Board of Trustees
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, August 25, 2011

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 6:00p Chalice Choir Rehearsal & Potluck
- 7:00p Expressive Collage

Saturday, August 27, 2011

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:30a Coming of Age Orientation
- 11:00a Improvisational Dance II
- 12:00p Teacher Orientation

Sunday, August 28, 2011

- 8:30a Leadership Development Committee
- 10:00a Worship Service; All Ages Sunday School
- 11:30a Getting to Know UU; UU Visual Artists
- 12:00p Teacher Orientation; Pastoral Team Meeting
- 2:00p PFLAG
- 6:00p Bridge group (499-2434)

Monday, August 29, 2011

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Tuesday, August 30, 2011

- 9:30a Archives; Newsletter folding
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group (see August 23)
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:30p Small Group Ministry Team

Wednesday, August 31, 2011

- 8:00a UU Food Co-op
(mary.boyd-brown@cvm.osu.edu)
- 6:30p Life Stories
- 7:15p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

FOCUUS (ages 18-35) meets Mondays at OSU, 7:30p

The Discoverer - Next issue - Sunday, August 28

Deadline: 12:00p - Hard copy in yellow folder

6:00p - e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com

LINKS

I have to admit that I was startled, after my recent talk on video games, to hear from so many of you who are or have gamers in your family. I was heartened to hear a report from a librarian who has watched youngsters playing computer games at the library. "Children like playing together, and the way they play computer games is no different. They play together, supporting one another." she said.

I had read about soldiers in Iraq and Afghanistan letting out steam playing games with their squad mates. I had not imagined that police officers do the same thing in squad rooms here in Columbus.

And one person took issue with a comment I made about being doubtful that the skills used in video games translated readily to the world beyond the screen. A young woman let me know that she learned a great deal about conflict resolution and leadership when she led a group of players, or a guild, in a MMORPG (or Massively Multiplayer Online Role Playing Game) she used to play. I am happy to stand corrected.

Of course a playful spirit is very much a part of many of our congregation's activities. While not a game,

exactly, there is an unmistakable element of playful fantasy in our youth's new social justice group. They are the Columbus Chapter of *Dumbledore's Army* (of Harry Potter fame), and call themselves the *Enlightened Hippogriffs*. Muggle that I am, I love it, and can't wait to hear what they come up with. Expect nothing less than greatness.

in peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR Questions? Yes, questions. Today (8/13/11), the 2011-2012 Board had its first retreat, and rather than focus on goals and solving problems, we worked on asking the right questions. The homework prior to the retreat was to read *The Art of Powerful Questions*. It's a great read, just a few pages, and you can find it at bit.ly/jmLPCM. A few weeks ago I attended UULTI, a UU leadership weekend conference. They covered this document and I credit them for giving me the tools and the idea to bring it to our retreat. Before we set goals, it might be important to make sure we are asking the right questions. Maybe if we ask the questions differently, it will produce different results. Some questions challenge us more than others. We are still formulating the questions; we hope you explore these questions with us. Before we try to answer them, please weigh in on the questions with us.

One of the first questions I asked the Board was: What is our job as Board members? We agreed that we had a role in guiding and supporting the mission of this church. We accepted this as a given assumption in the questions that followed. Here is the mission statement:

We are here:

- **To learn and practice true hospitality**
- **To revere the reasoning mind and the generous heart**
- **To claim our diversity as a source of our strength, and**
- **To relinquish the safety of our unexamined privilege for the freedom to engage in transforming justice**

Based on that, here are a few of the questions:

How do church members want the Board, and the church itself, to fulfill our mission?
How do we inspire and encourage mission fulfillment?
Should we create an inspiration statement?
How do we inspire and encourage welcoming?
What does true hospitality look like for you personally?
As a congregation? As a part of the UUA?
How can we be direct about needed financial support?
How can we inspire financial stability and engage people in giving?

What are possibilities for increasing revenue besides pledges?

How could additional staff help in fulfilling our mission and promote connection?

How do we appreciate what we do well already?

How do we mobilize justice?

So, to you I ask: are these the right questions? The questions become the basis for goals and future planning. Please let us know.

Oh, and I failed to sign my last column. I am your Board Chair, Tim Hooks. You can reach me by email – hookstj@gmail.com – I look forward to your input, thanks for reading and thinking! --Tim Hooks

BOARD MEETING HIGHLIGHTS, July 27 , 2011

The Board's Consent Agenda included approving the appointment of **Eric Conrad** to the Leadership Development Committee to replace Margaret Haldeman ... The Board discussed the need for a policy regarding the use of the church's email lists as well as other electronic communications. Brian Hagemann and Tim Hooks expect to further discuss this issue and present ideas and/or proposed policies to the Board in the coming months.

The discussion regarding a proposal to reduce the size of the Board was continued. A motion was passed that the Board create a task force to explore the size, function, and focus of the Board and the Leadership Development Committee.

Anita Bucknam provided a report on the Strategic Planning Committee. The committee is currently working on a church wide survey which it hopes to present to the congregation in October.

The plumbing repairs that were begun last August are complete, and our new HVAC contract began July 1. Also, the leaks in the Worship Center that began during the storm July 11 have been repaired.

Report from SYC Director, Stephanie Rottmeyer: They are creating a new committee chair position on the SYC committee called Community Relations Chair-- they see it as a person to help with visibility of SYC in the community. There are more openings than usual at the school for this coming year, perhaps this will help fill those spots. - Gina Phillips, Board Secretary

SUNDAY BREAKFAST Join us for cooking or eating Sunday Breakfast, or for both. Eggs, bacon, tater tots, apples, oatmeal, coffee, and orange juice will be served starting at 8:45am **beginning September 11**. A requested donation of \$2 for adults, \$1 for children, under 12. FREE for first time visitors.

If feeding people is your thing, please contact Debra (debra.boyd@gmail.com) so she can help you find a spot on the cooking team which arrives at 8:00am to prepare the breakfast. Most team members cook one Sunday a

month. We're also looking for someone who can shop every other week or so for the necessary groceries. You will be reimbursed for food, but not time or mileage.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY *Wednesdays at 7:30pm.* Contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176; jeanniray@gmail.com
August 17 *Who is your favorite woman?* We choose our favorite and discuss their lives. **August 24** *Let's talk.*
August 31 TBA

LIFE STORIES Would you like to have **your life history recorded on film** as a keepsake to pass down to family or friends? **First UU Life Stories**, which started as a way for seniors to record their life story for posterity, is now open to adults age 50 and up. UU Youth Ellie Hall will film you, while her mother, Gail Hall, will walk you through some of the more special moments of your life. A copy of this recording will be archived at First UU and a copy will be made for you to keep. The interview (about 30 minutes) can be done on an individual basis, or with a group of friends or family members. For more information or to make an appointment for the recording, contact Gail at mintjuleps@gailsporch.com or 326-0344.

ANNUAL CHURCH PICNIC The Social Committee is sponsoring the annual church picnic on **Sunday, August 28** from 12pm-3pm at Upper Arlington Thompson Park at the corner of McCoy and Mountview. The committee will supply plates, utensils, cups and drinks. Please bring a dish to share. There is a playground there, so bring outside games if you wish. No grilling. Come for **Fun and Fellowship**. Location: North Shelter House. Questions? Contact Jeanni Ray at 985-6176 or jeanniray@gmail.com.

ART IN THE FIRST UU GALLERY *"Who Are We?"* Join us for this exhibit's artists' reception on August 21, 11:45-1:00 pm. - Deb Baillieul 447-1223

THE BUUKSTORE SCHEDULE August 21, August 28: BUUKstore open; September 4: BUUKstore closed. BUUKstore returns to every Sunday schedule on September 11.

We have Buehrens and Armstrong! We have copies of *A House For Hope, A Chosen Faith, Understanding the Bible*, and *Universalists and Unitarians in America*, all by Rev. John Buehrens. We also have copies of Karen Armstrong's *Twelve Steps for a Compassionate Life* that was spoken about during the July 24th services, as well as some of her other popular titles. (Anyone interested in becoming a Buukstore volunteer gets 10% off any purchases at the table.)

All Soles Contra Dance -Saturday, August 20
Teaching Session at 7:30pm; Dancing 8:00-10:30pm
All are welcome! Folk music and dancing at its finest! No partner needed; all dances are prompted. Old time music by "Three Men Sitting" from Charleston WV, with caller Kate Power. Dance costs \$7 (\$4 for ages 12-24); free childcare starts at 7:30. An after-party at the home of Kate Power and Andy Shewmon.

PHOTO DIRECTORIES ARE HERE! If you had your photo taken last fall, please pick up your copy (one per household) and cross your name off the list.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS will be available in September! Cost is \$30 with numerous coupons for restaurants, cultural centers, fast food stores, golf stores and other specialty stores. – Karin Erickson, 834-3988

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

BACKPACKS AND SOCKS! Over 5,000 migrants have died along the Mexico-US border since 1998! "No More Deaths" (No Más Muertes), is a ministry, now sponsored by the UU Church of Tucson, AZ, with the goal to provide water, food, and medical assistance to migrants walking through the Arizona desert. It makes no judgment regarding why they are there – just seeks to save lives and reduce suffering.

Many of our families are getting ready for "Back to School" and beginning purchases of supplies. Please bring your used packs to the church office to be shipped to Tucson, Arizona. Backpacks are used by volunteers to carry these supplies. There is a great need also for heavy socks to bring relief to many who arrive barefoot or with serious blistering.

The Phoenix General Assembly next year will focus on the injustice and cruelty of our nation's immigration policies. The Ohio-Meadville District has launched a program to help youth and young adults wishing to attend, but lacking necessary resources to be there. The **Phoenix Witness Project** seeks pledges from members of congregations to support OMD's commitment to full participation in this "Justice Assembly." Please pick up a form from the church office and make your pledge (that will be requested in two installments).

Steve Palm-Houser is coordinating First UU's Immigration projects and programs.
steve.palmhouser@gmail.com or (614) 397-3051.



Kudos to the 37 First UU family units who have invested \$6,340 in BREAD's (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) work to make systemic change for justice in our central Ohio community. Thanks to First UU's most recent investors: Kathleen Boston, Rich Humenick and Deb Steward, Karen Lewis, Bob Rice, and Linda Thompson for their financial support of BREAD's 2011 efforts to curb truancy, get more vacant and abandoned buildings demolished or rehabbed, expand access to health care for the un- and underinsured, and get both juvenile and circuit court procedures changed to reduce the re-offense rate. Our congregation is now slightly more than two-thirds of the way toward its \$9,000 goal for the 2011 BREAD operations.

BREAD's Investment Drive will end soon, so please make out your generous, tax-deductible check to BREAD (*not* First UU) and send/take it to the church in an envelope marked BREAD. If you work for an organization that will match charitable donations, please make arrangements with it and notify Alice Rathburn (alice37@insight.rr.com, 895-2109 or 563-0536) of the plan. BREAD is a 501(c)(3) tax-deductible corporation, tax ID number 31-1467082. For additional information, go to www.breadcolumbus.org or contact Alice or another First UU BREAD Team member

We wish a belated happy birthday to **Paul Brody** who celebrated his 86th birthday on August 2.

Congratulations to **Jake and Jessie Calaway**. They welcomed their second son this past June 7. Also, congratulations to **Jodi Zimmerman and Patrick Schoof** on the birth of a son on August 6.

Best wishes to **Jessica Winters and Derek Justice** who were married at the church on August 13.

Congratulations to **Steve Abbott** who was one of three Columbus State Community College faculty named Distinguished Full Professor, recognizing outstanding service to the college and the community.

Best wishes to **Margaret and Charlie Haldeman and their daughter Kate** who are moving very soon to Connecticut where Charlie has taken a new job

Gini Szabo is in rehab recovering from surgery. No visitors, but cards would be appreciated.

Our condolences to **Barbara Fredin Fiorini** (and **Vivian "Fluff" Fiscus**. Barb's mother died age 91 on August 7; Fluff's mother died August 8.

Chaplain Dick Dawson reports he is recovering well following his colon surgery (non-cancerous) and writes, "I am back to wanting to be involved with things."

The late **Brent Hambrick**, son of Wanda (and Joe Hambrick, deceased) was inducted into the Disc Golf Hall of Fame at the National Championship Tournament in California. A video was completed separately on his promotion of Canadian/American Tournaments here locally. (Can be seen on YouTube.com. Search DGM 15th Annual Brent Hambrick Memorial Open.)

WORDS ON MUSIC



by Tony McDonald, Music Director

With the fall comes the return to two services (starting September 11) and the start-up of our full choral program. After an official "summer off," though we did enjoy some fine choral singing this summer, all four groups - Peace Pals, Rising Voices, Spirit of Life and Chalice Choir - begin regular rehearsals in preparation for the new year and, in some cases, the Water Ceremony on September 11. If you have been a longtime member, only joined recently, or are thinking about getting involved for the first time, please join us as we begin another outstanding musical year. Big things are in store. Here's how it starts:

- The first rehearsal of **Chalice Choir**, which sings at the 11:00 service, is **Thursday, August 25 at 7:30pm**. It will be preceded by a welcome-back potluck in Fellowship Hall.
- The first rehearsal of **Spirit of Life Choir**, which sings at the 9:15 service, **Rising Voices** teen choir, and **Peace Pals** children's choir, is on **Tuesday, August 30, starting at 6:30pm**.

For more information about the choirs and the Music Program, please see our website at: www.firstuucolumbus.org, or email me at musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org. It's going to be a great season.

The last date to sing with the Summer Choir is August 21. It is open to everyone, whether or not you have been in choir before. We will rehearse on Sunday morning at 9:00a. before we sing. No sign-up. Just show up and sing!



COMMUNITY IN CHALLENGING TIMES

Housing Sharing – Another great way to build community! Have you ever had roommates or housemates? Would you consider sharing your home with someone? Are you looking for shared housing either as a preference or due to economic hard times? CICT is developing a program to link individuals needing housing/rooms for a short or long term with individuals willing/seeking to rent out space because they have available space, would like a “housemate” or would appreciate additional income from a renter. We have several of each cases already identified. Click on the CICT page on the First UU web site: www.firstuucolumbus.org. For more information, contact Deb McGuire, 614-571-4663 or homescolumbus@gmail.com



OUR LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Among the most important assets of our Church are the outstanding people we have in leadership positions. The strong direction and influence of our church leaders provides a solid foundation and sets an example for those who work in supporting roles. The responsibility of searching for, and nominating, these high-quality candidates for the Board of Trustees, the Committee on Shared Ministry, the Moderator, and, if needed, the Search Committee for a settled minister, as well as subsequent Leadership Development Committee candidates is the formidable task of our Leadership Development Committee.

In addition, the Committee supports members and friends in the congregation to develop future leaders. This is done by offering workshops on a variety of leadership themes. The committee also offers partial scholarships to encourage participation in events such as General Assembly, programs at the UU Leadership Training Institute (UULTI) and other workshops or functions that foster leaders.

The LDC is drawn from diverse members of our church who have gained working knowledge and experience from their participation here. This assures effective leaders who can create the vital Board and key committees that form the core of our church structure.

This is the only committee required in the church by-laws to have its members elected by a contested election. The committee consists of eight members who serve two-year terms. The committee meets eight to nine times each year between September and May. For more information on this committee, please contact the current chair, Fujio Hayashi at hayashi@alum.mit.edu.

-- Patty Monroe, Communications Committee



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Changing the Name of the Church A special Congregational meeting was held on January 31, 1982, for the purpose of changing the church name. The Unitarians and the Universalists had merged in the early 1960s, but the church name had remained the First Unitarian Church of Columbus.

Nancy Lee moved, and Pat (George) Graham seconded, that the name be changed to Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus. Bob Wilhelm moved, and Judy Bell seconded, to amend the above motion to change the name to First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus. The amended motion passed by voice vote.

At the Annual Meeting on April 25, 1982, the congregation voted for a constitutional change: Article I, 1) This church shall be known as the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus.

At the May 17, 1982 Board meeting, the Board voted to construct a sign with the new name. After discussion they voted to add two items: the church address and SYC.

Comment: If one works in the Archives - or on the history of the church - one soon learns that change often does not come quickly and that often the wheel is re-invented every decade or so! Fortunately, we do progress in those moves.

-- Linda Thompson, Historian/Archivist

Re Entry!

Each year at this time, the return from a month's vacation, and often a trip to GA, is chaotic. There is the confusion of taking up the threads I've cut that connect me with you on a day-to-day basis. You may spot a vacant expression as I frantically search my memory, trying to reconnect those loose threads. There is a mad scramble that comes with our chronic understaffing as we all take care of the many administrative tasks that must be done in the next few weeks to prepare for the new year. By the end of our first day back, Eric and I were babbling it was so stressful.

Yet there is pure joy also - the reminders of why we do this work. And the reminders of why we do this work here. Reconnecting with my colleagues, learning about their summers and sharing mine. (Ask me about my family in Seattle and what a great privilege it was to be a theme speaker to the 115 youth of this district who attended Summer Institute.) Reconnecting with my supervisor, Rev. Mark, and taking up the conversations that tie together the ministries of worship, ritual, learning and experiencing. Seeing how much the children and youth have grown physically, emotionally and mentally over the summer. The sheer delight our Board is year after year, and discovering the unique sense of humor of each new Board chair.

This year there were surprises and even more delights. The Board retreat yesterday was productive and actually fun. I spent time at General Assembly with those I joined with in civil disobedience last summer, and learned more about what is in store for us at the Justice GA next June, and, in July, I watched what we played a small role in, begin to blossom into a full scale civil rights movement. Then I returned to find that our Senior High Youth Group has decided to attend General Assembly for the Justice GA; the adult Faith Development class on our Tucson congregation's immigration work has resulted in a collection of back packs and socks for that congregation's ministry, and we have an Immigration Roundtable for the White House (as in THE White House) scheduled for September 10. I also found that the Interfaith Youth Group, started by Lauri and Sami Nandyal, is planning a huge event at Tifereth Israel for 9/11. We were awarded the Ohio Meadville District's Chalice Lighter Grant in July to help fund a chaplain for OSU, and today our First UU anonymous donor handed me the first check for that part of the funding. I could go on and on, but as challenging as each new year is, this one will be very precious.

If you are new to the congregation, my title is Director of Religious Education (DRE), and I'm responsible for Sunday School, youth programming, family ministry, and adult (including young adult) faith development. Please feel free to call me during my office hours, 1 to 6 pm Monday through Thursday at ext 28, or email me any time: dre@firstuucolumbus.org. I will also begin regular tweets about all of these areas, including regular program information, in September. Follow [jolindajoyce](#).

Lifespan Faith Development

Teacher Orientation Meetings – Delicious Panera Sandwich and Soup Lunch will be served. Everyone who works with our children and youth is expected to attend. You'll learn about the upcoming year, receive tips for working with our young people and meet with your team to plan the coming year.

- August 21, 11:30-2:30 – Teachers and Youth Leaders of Jr and Sr High Youth
- August 27, noon-2:00 – OWL Teachers
- August 28, noon-3:00 – Pre-K and K Teachers
- September 11, 12:45-2:45 – Elementary Guides and Workshop Leaders

Let us know which orientation you will attend. RSVP to Deb@FirstUUColumbus.org, or 267-4946, Ext 28.

** Special thanks to Panera Bread for their generous donations to our Sunday School program. **

2011-12 Brochures about Sunday School, sexuality education, activities and youth CONs are at the Sunday School Table. Registration is open. Follow the link on First UU's home page - www.firstuucolumbus.org. It's on the right side under the slide show. Pamphlets for Sunday School and special activities are available at the Sunday School Table on Sundays. Complete calendars are available at the table or on the **Parents' Blog**: www.firstuuparents.blogspot.com

Harry Potter Fans of All Ages Join the **Enlightened Hippogriffs**, the Columbus area chapter of the Harry Potter Alliance, here at First UU. Join the army of fans, activists, nerdfighters, teenagers, wizards and muggles, dedicated to fighting for social justice with the greatest weapon -- love. Work with partner NGOs in alerting the world to the dangers of global warming, poverty, and genocide. Work with our partners for equal rights. Join people around the world to make this a better more magical place. We'll meet the second Sunday after the second service. Contact Lynne Bieber, 794-8700, lynnebieber@gmail.com).

Activities We have a brochure full of activities for families, children and youth. Pick it up on Sunday. Activities include: Group for Families with Infants and Toddlers; Multicultural Families Group; Campfire Girls & Boys; Two choirs; I AM Youth (Interfaith Action Movement of Youth); Youth Groups; District Conferences (CONs); Senior High Justice Trip; Goddesses in Training; Harry Potter Alliance; First UU Camping Group.

Register Your Children for Sunday School <http://bit.ly/l6UYRv>. Pamphlets for 2011-12 Sunday School, activities, sexuality education and youth CONs are at the Sunday School Table. Sunday School begins 9/18.

Playing with Preschoolers and Kindergarteners This fall, we have opportunities in the 11am Sunday School for preschool teachers and in the 9:15 Sunday School for Kindergarten teachers. Work with a team to present the UUA curriculum *Wonderful Welcome*, adapted for preschool by one of our teachers. It helps our **Preschoolers** feel that First UU and Unitarian Universalism are their communities, the extension of their homes, and helps them learn how to be welcoming to others. The **Kindergarten** curriculum is a favorite of families and teachers alike. *Experiences with the Web of Life* provides weekly outdoor nature experience and reflection about death through *Charlotte's Web*. NO EXPERIENCE IS NEEDED. Providing friendship and an example for young children are the only criteria.

Use concrete metaphors to introduce **Elementary** kids to basic UU concepts, as an **Elementary Guide** in either 9:15 or 11 am Sunday School. The individual lesson is prepared by the workshop leader.

Please email or call the DRE, Jolinda Stephens, to volunteer - dre@firstuucolumbus.org. Application forms and job descriptions for all these positions are at the Sunday School Table.

Adult Enrichment

White House Immigration Roundtable set for September 10, 1 to 3 pm On May 10, President Obama issued a call for a national conversation on immigration reform that builds a bipartisan consensus to fix our broken immigration system, so that it works for America's 21st century economic and security needs. Come to talk about how immigration policy affects the central Ohio community, identify ideas that the Obama Administration should be considering, and discuss ways that we can engage our community in this important issue. Watch for information about what administration official will attend. We will record recommendations and send them to the White House in accordance with the White House plan. More information at <http://www.whitehouse.gov/issues/immigration/roundtables>

Mark Your Calendar for Immigration As a Moral Issue Six Thursday evenings at 6 pm, starting October 13 Pick up takeout, brown bag it, or stave off hunger with the nibbles, and explore both the factual and moral sides of immigration.

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita

Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita

Dick Dawson, Chaplain

Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education

Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary/RE Assistant

Tony McDonald, Music Director

Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director

Cheridy Keller, Choir Director

Nathan Hamm, Pianist

Marian Garcia, Office Administrator

Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director

Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper

Don Hippensteel, Events Coordinator

Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant

Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant

Tim Hooks, Chair, Board of Trustees

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator

Jessica Winters, Lead Toddler Room Teacher

Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

► *A number of First UU members attended the General Assembly in Charlotte, NC in June as your delegates. We learned a great deal of personal use and of possible value to our church. This is the first of a series of articles by those delegates. Each, as appropriate, will also report specific opportunities to committees and individuals*

Report from Fujio Hayashi: I attended a workshop on *Breakthrough Congregations: Medium and Large*. We heard the leaders of two of the “Breakthrough Congregations” provide insight into how they have grown their congregations by overcoming obstacles that had previously inhibited such growth.

THE PEORIA, ILLINOIS church had about 140 members in 1990 and grew to 250 members in 2000. The pivotal decision was to sell the old church which was surrounded by hospitals and find a new building. The decision was contentious. The congregational meeting that day took five hours, but finally agreed. They decided that they needed to grow. They currently have 351 members, 213 friends and over 100 children.

One of the key success factors was hiring **paid positions for Membership Coordinator and Program Coordinator**. These are 1/4 time (part time) positions.

The Membership Coordinator stays connected to current member as well as new members. (The church loses about 10% of members every year and has a goal of reducing the turnover by 50%.)

Another key is that the board is composed of young people as well as old.

The church holds an in-depth information session once a month:

- Provides light lunch and childcare
- Sends reminders to the visitors by email

The Program Coordinator works on programming:

- Broad spectrum adult RE programming (particularly Monday night series)
- Outside rentals (outsiders see the church and start coming to church)
- Community Events
- Fund raisers that bring non-church members (dinner theatres, rummage sale)
- Concert series

The church revised its covenant, mission and vision. The mission is so short that everyone can say it. It is: to embrace freedom, loving inclusively; grow spiritually, healing our world.

THE FAIRFAX, VA church was founded in 1955 and now has 767 members and 400 children. On average, 600 people attend each weekend. The church has been growing for a while. It had 535 members in 2004 and 661 members in 2009.

Services open with welcoming words: *“whatever your faith, if any, you are welcome.”* (I believe that it is more welcoming to atheists and agnostics.)

Some of the key success factors: Connections with Small Group Ministry; Summer Intern Program for Youth that serves the community.

The church added a third service on Saturday afternoon. This was a controversial decision. The logistic issue was Religious Education, but there are now 66 children on Saturday afternoon. The service is identical to Sunday services.

Visitors are recognized by the Pulpit where the members are asked to greet the visitors afterwards.

The church makes decisions based on data. They have 350 visitors every year.

Why did they come?

- 40% word of mouth
- 40% internet
- 10% signage

Seekers already know about the church. They come to see if they can make friends at the church.

After death, people have obituaries that show their accomplishments. Members asked, “Why not have information before they die?” Now they have an article called “meet a legacy” in a newsletter with this kind of information.

Well, summer is almost over. The summer work and the summer vacation both. But the summer in all its forms is still inside me, like a fine meal offered by a tender and loving friend, nourishing me in more ways than one.

The sheer exhilaration of the opera “The Flowering Tree” by John Adams
The splendid Cleopatra exhibit in Cincinnati.
Houseguests and visitors from California, Texas, Michigan, Saudi Arabia, Rome
A wonderful conversation with my mother, when her dementia was not dominant.
Cooking dinner for the minister in Ann Arbor and her spouse.
Visiting the Detroit Institute of Arts with my best friend Richard.
Spending rich, quality time with my son, Tony.
The Picasso exhibit at the DeYoung museum in San Francisco.
Visiting my former partner in life and his present partner in Oakland.
Electronic drawing on my iPhone with my old drawing group in San Francisco.

Just a few of many highlights. Now to begin walking off all the sumptuous meals with loved ones!

See you soon.



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame from James Agee 1935:

Summer of 1915

It has become that time of evening when people sit on their porches, talking gently, rocking gently. On the rough wet grass of the back yard, my father and mother have spread quilts. Sleep, soft smiling, draws me unto her, and those receive me as one familiar and well-beloved in that home, but they will not, not now, not ever, but they will not ever tell me who I am.



**First UU Labor Day Retreat
September 3-5**

**Camp Oty’Okwa in the Hocking Hills
Workshops, Swimming, Worship, Fellowship,
Community, Nature, Hiking, Relaxation**

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⇒ Sign up by Sunday August 21 ⇐