



The
DISCOVERER
April 22, 2012

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

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
OF COLUMBUS

93 West Weisheimer Rd. Columbus OH 43214

phone: 614-267-4946; fax: 614-267-4924

email: Office@FirstUUColumbus.org

web <http://www.FirstUUColumbus.org>

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

WORSHIP SERVICES

April Theme: Restoration

April 29, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

First UU Youth

“Like a Phoenix from the Fire”

A celebration, designed and led by First UU Youth

May Theme: Family

May 6, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Portraits from Life”

May 13, 2012, 9:15 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

“Voices from the Wellspring”

► Hearing assisted devices, large print hymnals, and a few copies (in large print) of the Sunday readings and sermon are available at the rear of the Worship Center. Copies of CDs of our worship services will become available again for sale at the bookstore. Audio and text of recent services can also be found on the church website.

► **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, April 25, 2012

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 6:30p The Artist's Way
- 7:00p Lively Writing
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, April 26, 2012

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:00p Expressive Collage; Intro to Paganism
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal

Friday, April 27, 2012

- 4:00p Self Defense for Girls

Saturday, April 28, 2012

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class
- 12:00pm Move to Amend Central Ohio

Sunday, April 29, 2012

- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15 & 11:00a Worship Service
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 1:00p Wellspring; Covenant Group Fireside Chat
- 6:00p Bridge Group (call 499-2434)

Monday, April 30, 2012

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p Grandchildren/Grandparents
- 7:00p Movie: Forks Over Knives

Tuesday, May 1, 2012

- 9:30a Archives Organizing
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Caring Committee
- 7:00p Zen Meditation;
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 2, 2012

- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 6:30p The Artist's Way
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, May 3, 2012

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:00p Getting the Most from Your Digital Camera
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal; Healing Journey

Friday, May 4, 2012

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
- 4:00p Self Defense for Girls
- 6:30p First Friday Potluck
- 7:30p Film – "Indigents"
- 7:30p Multicultural Families

Saturday, May 5, 2012

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:00a Building Workday
- 1:00p Extra Choir Rehearsal

Sunday, May 6, 2012

- 8:30p Leadership Development Committee
- 8:45a Breakfast
- 9:15a & 11:00a Worship Service
- 10:30a & 12:15p Getting to Know UU
- 12:30p Pastoral Team Meeting; Strategic Planning
- 1:00p Committee on Shared Ministry
- 1:00p Youth Group
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Concert

Monday, May 7, 2012

- 6:00p BREAD Nehemiah Action (Celeste Center)
- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship

Tuesday, May 8, 2012

- 9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
- 1:00p Cancer Support Group
- 6:30p Peace Pals Choir Rehearsal
- 7:00p Feminism 3.0; Social Committee
- 7:00p This Month in Science; Rising Voices Choir
- 7:00p Animal Ministry; Wellspring
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 9, 2012

- 8:00a UU Food Co-op
- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 7:00p Lively Writing; Memoir Writing
- 7:00p Small Group Ministry Steering Team
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

COVENANT GROUPS – Rev. Meter, 267-4946, ext.23
FOCUUS (ages 18-35) meets Tuesdays at OSU, 7:30p
ESOL meets MWF at 9:30a (F: Conversation Class)

The Discoverer – Next Issue – Sunday, May 6
Deadline: 1:00p –Hard copy in office, yellow folder
6:00p – e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com

ALL CHURCH WORK DAY Saturday, May 5. We will provide a **free breakfast** at 8:30am with work beginning at 9:00am and continuing until about noon. Sign up will be held on Sunday, April 29. Help keep our church and grounds beautiful. Contact Dave Richter, drichter@sciotangy.com, or Brian Hagemann, brianh@firstuucolumbus.org. 

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

It shouldn't surprise anyone by now that one of the highlights of my year at First Unitarian Universalist is the spring Coming of Age retreat.

The youth engage in a wilderness experience during the retreat, and I always worry about getting the youth back home safe. When they do, the relief adds to the thrill of watching our youth surprise themselves at what they can accomplish, and also come together as a group. This year we have twelve young women in the class, and they are a power to be reckoned with.

What became clear on the Saturday of our retreat was that the same can be said for their mentors. Hats off to Wendy Boortz, Laurie Brown, Susan Carr, Lisa Daris, Julie Duhigg, Su Farnlacher, Tiffany Grinstead, Barbie Luna, Marylou MacDonald, Nancy Nehring, Julie Pinsonneault, Betsy Smalley and Laurie Weltlin. Over the last few years we've waited to select the mentors until after we've gotten to know the youth, and this year the matches are proving the wisdom of doing so like never before.

The Coming of Age Sisterhood themselves are Ava Ciminillo-Delamotte, Miranda James, Amelia Koontz, Miranda Lange, Rain Maxwell, Bianca McLemore, Susie Mesler-Evans, Moriah Miller-Gnann, Elli Neeld, Emma Root, Caroline Smyth and Damaris Walker.

When politics and the news get me down, I just remember how great our youth are and I find my hope restored. Kudos and congratulations to them all.

Eric

CHURCH NEWS

ANNUAL PLEDGE DRIVE Over sixty -five percent of members have made their gift to the Annual Pledge Drive. If you have not already made your pledge, please do so now. We are hoping to wrap up our efforts by April 30 so we can get on to what's really important: implementing the plans and programs your financial support makes possible. You can download a pledge form from the website or make your secure pledge online at www.firstuucolumbus.org/give. Gratefully, Stewardship Committee

SPECIAL EVENT Art of Developing Meaningful Conversations The Leadership Development Committee invites the congregation to a special event on Saturday, **May 19, 5-9 pm**. This will be offered to introduce us to the Art of Developing Meaningful Conversations (ADMC); to help members of the

congregation connect to their purpose, engage with community, and thrive; and to transform the way we work together by honoring our diverse gifts. **Come and enjoy food, wine, and meaningful conversation. Child care will be provided.** Whether you've been deeply involved with the church for years or haven't yet found your niche, this evening promises a place for you. For more information, see <http://www.firstuucolumbus.org/our-community/admc-conversations>. Contact Amy Watson (614-519-0737 or amykaywat@gmail.com) with questions. Please register/Rsvp by emailing Allie Bonsteel at bonsteam@gmail.com.

CALLING ALL MEMBER ARTISTS The annual **All Members Art Show** is coming up April 29-June 30. The title is *What's New in the UU Art World*. Take-in is Sunday, April 29-10:30-12:30. Artist Reception is Sunday, June 3, 12:00pm – 1:30pm. Plan to enter-all media, your more recent works. This show is for adults (High School Seniors and up). You may enter two pieces, framed and ready to hang (with a wire hanger). Please email titles, media, dimensions and prices to Deb Baillieul: debbsyc@yahoo.com. Pieces will be photographed for the church website unless you decline.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY Wednesdays, 7:30pm
We explore Memory and Remembrance:
May 2 - Birthday's, Poetry and Sharing, All
May 9 - We Remember Mama - All
May 16 - Memories, Part 1 - All
May 23 - Memories to Share - All
May 30 - Remembrance of those gone - All
Also, Ladies and Gents: Mother's Day is May 13.
Let's Wear our Hats. -- Jeanni Ray, 985-6176 or jeanniray@gmail.com

GARDEN CLUB will conduct its "first of the year" plant swap on Sunday, May 6 in Fellowship Hall. This free swap is a wonderful opportunity to share extra plants (both indoor and outdoor varieties) and seedlings. Tables will be set up in Fellowship Hall during and between both services. Feel free to drop off unused garden tools, pots, tomato cages, supplies etc. We'll have information cards available to fill in for identifying: plant names, growing conditions, designation of annual/perennial etc. Contact Christine Hardin, facilitator. Phone 707-8997 or chardin123@att.net

FORKS OVER KNIVES This film examines the profound claim that most, if not all, of the degenerative diseases that afflict us (diabetes, heart disease, cancer, and stroke) can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting animal-based and processed foods. **Monday, April 30 at 7:00pm**. Please join us. – Elaine Fujimura

WELCOME to new members Tom Fetherston, Julie Fitzer and Karen Keenan.

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY



BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) is First UU's local interfaith social justice organization.

Why go to BREAD's 2012 Nehemiah Action Meeting? (*see below*) BREAD's 54 multi-faith congregations don't have a lot of money or corporate power. We do have people! But unless those people will turn out **once a year** to show that they want local power brokers to act on BREAD's research findings, our city and county officials will continue to look for solutions in all the wrong places (casinos, hospital additions, ball parks, large corporations, etc.). Bring your family, including children, friends, and colleagues to demonstrate that we want to:

- increase jobs for the little gal/guy,
- get chronic emergency room users into primary health care, and
- implement restorative, rather than punitive, justice in Juvenile Court.

BREAD's advertised commitment: 3,000; First UU's share: 300! First UU-identified green tickets available free from your team leader or at the BREAD table after services. And let everyone know who we are and where we stand by wearing your *Standing On The Side Of Love* T-shirt (available at the GSA table Sunday).

For more information, contact Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, or BREAD, 220-9363, www.breadcolumbus.org.

BREAD Nehemiah Action Meeting
Monday, May 7, 2012; Registration: 6:15 p.m.
Celeste Center, Ohio State Fairgrounds
and Expo Center

17th Ave. just West of I-71

Plenty of Free Parking

Free childcare for children out of diapers to age 8
Carpool from your neighborhood or First UU, 5:45-6:20
(encouraged to reduce BREAD's cost for parking)

GSA News Start planning for Pride 2012! The parade is June 16. The GSA potluck and sign making event are Friday night, June 15. Mark your calendars!! *Standing on the Side of Love* T-shirts are again on sale at the GSA table after each service until June 10. Be ready for the next "yellow shirt event" at First UU.

MOVE TO AMEND – Central Ohio, a sub-group of JAM, has its monthly meeting on Saturday, April 28 at 12:00 – 2:00 (Room 6; Brown Bag). We're part of a national movement to "end corporate rule and restore

democracy." rapidly making progress to get an amendment to our constitution that will, in effect, reverse Citizens United – and a whole lot more! For info, go to our web site: movetoamend.org/oh-columbus, or Facebook: Move To Amend – Central Ohio

Dear First UU Congregation:

We wanted to begin our communication with you by saying "thank you" for voting to work on the alleviation of poverty and the support of women's health issues, including reproductive choice, through our Justice Action Ministry (JAM). These are important issues which touch the lives of many, including most of us.

As we get organized and recruit members to our task forces, we will be creating a plan for excellent communication, a clearly defined structure, point persons for you to contact, educational workshops to increase knowledge about issues, opportunities to get involved in currently operating justice projects, regular listings of community events that you can participate in as you wish, a Fall Justice Fair to promote involvement, witness events that allow us to stand with other congregations and groups for related poverty and women's health causes, and advocacy training to help you be more effective as you raise up your voices and targeted actions.

We want your involvement, but we realize that different people can participate at varying levels at different times in their lives. We will try to design opportunities that can be done quickly, from home, in groups, individually or are one time commitments. We understand that some of you are looking for ways to effect big change, and some want to make one person at a time feel better. Flexibility and variety will be important components. We also want to appeal to all ages, and provide interesting opportunities to all. We are especially interested in engaging our youth, because young people learn through experience, and a good experience can be life changing.

Please stay tuned for more information. We will be communicating through *The Discoverer*, the church website, email, Facebook, and maybe someday, Twitter. Look for upcoming sign-up sheets in Fellowship Hall in May, or contact either of the co-chairs of the *JAM Joint Task Force on Poverty Alleviation and Women's Health Issues*.

Jane Larson, Women's Health Issues
janelarson47@gmail.com
Ginnie Vogts, Poverty Alleviation
vmvogts@yahoo.com

We welcome your interest.

CARING CORNER

Happy Birthday to **Rev. Carol Brody**, our Minister Emerita, who celebrated her birthday on April 20.

Congratulations to **Lindsay Adams**, daughter of Cliff and Holly Adams, received a Superior rating on her solo performance at the OMEA Solo & Ensemble contest.

Best wishes to **Anne Gilliland** and **her husband Eric Conrad**. Anne accepted a job offer from the University of North Carolina as the Scholarly Communications Officer for the Libraries, starting in June. Eric will join her at the end of summer. We will miss them.

We send wishes for a speedy recovery to **Rick Kritzer** who had a shoulder implant recently.

Our sympathy to **Deborah Miller-Ghann**, husband **Gary Miller** and granddaughters, **Tara** and **Moriah** on the death of Deborah's mother. A memorial service will be held at the church on April 27, at noon.

Our condolences to **Bev Erwin** and **Mary Jane Elam**. Bev's mother died several weeks ago.

HEALING JOURNEY Are you experiencing grief due to the loss of a family member or other loved one, a job

loss, or the pain of another unwelcome life transition? If so, the Healing Journey may be for you. Together we share our stories, and learn how much we have in common with others who also know the experience of loss. The group will meet 7:30 to 9 pm on Thursdays, May 10 through June 14. Further information and to register, please call Rev. Eric at 267-4946 x23.

HEARTFELT THANKS On Saturday, April 14 the Caring Committee and the American Red Cross conducted a Blood Drive at the church We want to acknowledge the volunteers, snack providers, and donors who were involved. Sincere "thank you's" to these volunteers and snack providers: Sharon Hamersley, Sarah Wurdlow, Julia Fitzer, Susan Marcum, Steven Davis and Karen Thimmes.

For the 11 donors who shared the "Gift of Life": your contributions provided blood that benefited 33 persons. While we did not reach our goal of 15 donors (*due to low hemoglobin etc.*), we recognize your efforts in coming to the event and your willingness to contribute.
-- Christine Hardin, Chair, Caring Committee



WORDS ON MUSIC

Tony McDonald, First UU Music Director

This spring there will be two separate choir concerts. **Chalice Choir** will give their performance **Sunday, May 6, 4:00pm** and **Spirit of Life, Rising Voices** and **Peace Pals** will present theirs on **Sunday, May 20, 3:00pm**.

The Chalice program will consist of music by all English composers and feature the large cantata *Dona Nobis Pacem* by Ralph Vaughan Williams. I asked Chalice Choir director Brandon Moss about the program:

TM: Why the all English theme?

BM: I wanted music that complements the Vaughan Williams and 20th century English choral music is a favorite of mine.

TM: How did you decide to do the *Dona Nobis Pacem*?

BM: It is a compelling piece, a mix of texts from the Bible and American poet Walt Whitman. Vaughan Williams wrote it while anticipating World War II, which was brewing at the time (1935). I even wrote a paper about this piece. What's amazing is that Vaughan Williams wrote so much excellent church music considering that he was an atheist, or at least an agnostic. Another reason to do it: our choir craves challenging, thick-textured pieces like this and even performed this one before, many years ago. The concert will also include music by Charles V. Stanford (Vaughan Williams' teacher), Gustav Holst (Vaughan Williams' good friend), and contemporary Britishers John Rutter and John Tavener.

In other news, a special feature this month has been the closing that Chalice has been singing at the end of the service. The words are from a famous blessing, but the music is original, written by choir librarian Linda Halleran. Linda, who retired eight years ago, has started a new career in music. Just before retirement she began taking lessons in jazz piano and music theory. After seeing Hal Walker's service last summer, she was inspired to try her hand at composition. This closing, entitled "Deep Peace," was first written for the wedding announcement of friend Donna Greene and performed in a simpler version at the occasion. The version Chalice sings is her first adventure in the choral music field. It's a beautiful work and we look forward to more from Linda.

One more note: due to scheduling conflicts and low response, the **Youth Talent Show**, scheduled for April 28, will have to be postponed this year.



FROM THE ARCHIVES

Linda Thompson, First UU Historian

The 40th Anniversary Celebration: Part IV *First UU history as presented by Historian Margaret Bausch at the 40th Anniversary Celebration.*

Describing the Chapel: These (The Table of the Law and The Cross) were all pointing toward the center which was left for what was to be a Flaming Chalice - light, warmth, purging flame, living green leaves - the alive and ongoing spirit of God. This was never accomplished, since modern fire laws and modern science couldn't come up with a compromise. The symbols across the front of the chapel railing were by Paul Bogatay and the Table of the Law and Cross by Paul Peak.

After three very successful years, Dr. Hayward resigned to take a position as Director of a new Religion and Art Department of the Meadville Theological School in Chicago.

Rev. Sidney Peterman then came to us from California. During his ministry the church's growth necessitated thoughts of enlarging the present place, or looking for a new location. The congregation was so large, two services were needed each Sunday which was inconvenient. We appointed a land committee, and finally a lot at 93 W. Weisheimer was purchased. In January 1956, Rev. Peterman resigned to go back to California.

In March of 1956, Rev. John Evans came to the church. Other sites were investigated and another small amount of land was purchased adjacent to the Weisheimer lot. In May of 1959 a building committee was appointed with William Gillie as chairman. Preliminary plans for the church and religious education center were approved with kitchen, church office, minister's study, choir room, two lounges, interior and exterior courts and parking for eighty cars. Architects Brubaker and Brandt were chosen and on Sunday, May 16, 1960, ground was broken for the present chapel. Dedication was set for 8 o'clock Sunday evening, Oct. 15, 1961, with the principal speaker, Rev. Mr. Dana McLean Greeley. ...to be continued



CARE & SHARE TIME BANK (CSTB) Trying to make up your mind about helping with the church work day on Saturday, May 5? (Potluck breakfast at 8:30am - work starts at 9:00am.) If you're a member of the CSTB, or are considering joining, here's a chance to "do good" and be doubly rewarded: Satisfaction for helping to "dress up" our spiritual community home and credit hours for the time you spend working. You can use the credit hours to obtain any of the services the 90 members of CSTB are offering! If you haven't joined yet, register anyway, and then come to

Potluck on Sunday, May 20, register. Earn two credits for the potluck and pick up your workday credits retroactively. Sounds like a win-win-win situation to me! (First UU, CSTB and you) Contact Michael Greenman (614-898-5825) or Alice Faryna (614-442-9310) with questions.

FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AGES

Jolinda Stephens, Religious Education Director

Breaking the Silence with Children

This month the Enlightened Hippogriffs have been receiving owls about racism all month, the brainchild of Lynne Bieber. I've had the opportunity to write two of the owls. (An owl is the mail delivery system in the wizarding world of Harry Potter.) We've looked at prejudice and stereotyping mostly. We haven't shied away from Trayvon Martin, either. The last owl, written by Lynne, was about the racialized reaction to the movie version of the *Hunger Games*. You can find it here: <http://hpacolumbus.blogspot.com/2012/04/racial-games-spoiler-alert-this-owl.html>



We carried the exploration into elementary Sunday School. The topic today was dissolving stereotypes. And it was hard work. Sure we had a little bit of wizard magic to light the chalice and then we had a rousing game of find the golden eggs from Harry Potter book 4. But then we settled in to discover what we knew about stereotypes. It was pretty easy going when we called out gender stereotypes.

But when racial stereotypes came up, no one wanted to talk. Kids rolled around on the floor. They fidgeted with the golden eggs. Finally, one child, looking away from me, blurted out a racial stereotype but then pretended as if he hadn't said it. Once he had broken the ice, though, our kids were braver than most adults are when faced with discussing racial stereotypes. I'm not sure I was always successful in getting concepts across. How does one explain the difference between

classifying some animals as mammals and classifying some humans as African American? While the concept that there is no scientific basis for racial classifications is fundamentally important, nothing is more important than breaking through the silence and making race and the race messages that we all receive every day something to examine and think about and talk about.

The silence I saw this morning is typical and development theorists tell us it is a sure way to guarantee that children grow up with unhealthy racial attitudes and identity development. We'll keep talking.

- Jolinda

Religious Education Upcoming Events and Classes

New PeaceCamp Registration Open August 6-10 and August 13-17

Peace is always built on justice. So, to the excellent foundation in personal peace-making that we've always offered, we add justice-making, including exploring some of the many cultures in Columbus; looking at the ways that kids of different cultures interact (or don't); and exploring ways to create and be a part of Beloved Community. We're inviting kids from nearby communities to join us. While the goals are serious, PeaceKids can expect lots of games, art, dance, skits and hanging out. **Noel Williams, our new PeaceCamp Coordinator**, has more than 10 years of professional experience in Columbus, educating youth and adults about oppression. She has served on our BREAD team for a year.

Register Now: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6L59H9P> or complete the form at the Sunday School table. The recommended donation is \$25 to \$50 per PeaceKid per week.

Annual Holi Celebration April 29 The celebration of Spring in India has a strong dose of color and we have adapted this fun celebration for Sunday School. Your children, preschool through 5th grade, won't want to miss:

- Face painting • The smearing room with palettes of finger paints • Dancing with thousands of flower petals
- Stories of Holi from India • Colored water (bring your own squirt gun and we have guns also)

As we go to press, we are working to get some dancers that our middle school Neighboring Faiths class met in their visit to a Hindu temple to come teach us some dances and more about Holi. To find out more, enter "holi" in youtube and watch the fun. Can you coordinate the free flowers from the florists? Or do you have a brazier to loan for the traditional fire? Email jolindas@firstuucolumbus.org.

The Next Youth CON is May 4-6 If you're in grades 7 through 12, join the FaceBook group OMD YAC to keep up with which cons are for you and when registration opens. Heard a rumor that registration for this con opens April 23. Be sure to email deb@firstuucolumbus.org to let the RE Office know that you need a sponsor and a ride.

Mothers' Day Bake Sale and Memorial Weekend Car Wash Here are two opportunities to get things you need: cookies for mom and a clean car - and contribute to the High School Justice Trip Fund. If you can donate baked goods, email Katie at katie@solcore.net. The group will sell baked goods after both services on **May 13**.

And on **May 27** there will be a team of youth prepared to wash your car while you are in the worship service. Put it on your calendar. Kids, this is a great pre-finals stress buster. Email Amelia to be a part of the fun - thirsty_fan@yahoo.com.

-- Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education,
www.firstuucolumbus.org; JolindaS@firstuucolumbus.org, 614-267-4946, ext 28

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Dick Dawson, Chaplain
Ben Iten, Campus Chaplain
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Brandon Moss, Chalice Choir Director
Cheridy Keller, Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Pianist

Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary/RE Assistant
Jenifer Bojanowski, Lead Toddler Room Teacher
Don Hippensteel, Church Sexton
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Tim Hooks, Chair, Board of Trustees
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

First UU Church of Columbus is not responsible for the use, by others, of personal information published in the *Discoverer*

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

Annual Meeting, June 10, 2012

MODERATOR (one year term; one to be elected))

Michael Greenman A UU since 1974 and member of First UU since 1999, I have held a number of responsible positions in the four churches I have joined: Membership, Social Justice, Denominational Connections Chair, and Board Member (Vice-Chair and Chair). I had a three-year term as a member of the Board of the *UU's for a Just Economic Community* and am an active member in a number of other committees. I've initiated many community-building programs in each capacity. I retired at the end of 2010 after an international career in business and third world development organizations, living in 10 countries and learning several languages. I will continue to devote the same level of competence and dedication to the responsibilities of Moderator as in my 2011-12 term.

FOR BOARD OF TRUSTEES (3 year term, 4 to be elected)

David C. Douglass I currently am the chair of the Finance Committee and have been the last two years. I have served on the Finance Committee since 2008. I have also served coffee for the Coffee Committee and in the past, I have been a Sunday school teacher, too. My background is in finance and business. My profession is Financial Advisor and Retirement Planner. My wife, Elizabeth and I have three children ages 8, 6, and 4. In serving on the Board, I look forward to contributing to the First UU family focus and utilizing my Finance Committee and professional experience as we steer through our fiscal concerns. First UU is our family's spiritual home and I look forward to giving my time and energy.

John McCrystal In 1985 I joined our church and I joined my partner Suzan in marriage. Both of my children, Lauren and Connor, have had the benefit of growing up in our community including SYC (our preschool) and all our wonderful programming for children and youth. I have welcomed the opportunity to work on committees including: Ministerial Search Committees for Eric and Wendy, Nominating, RE (e.g., teacher, youth leader, Coming of Age mentor, Youth Revitalization and Youth Adult Steering Committees), IT, Social Justice and Committee on Ministry. I have also been very involved in Youth Programming at the Ohio Meadville District level, specifically Summer Institute.

Dennis Rankin I currently serve as chair of the Strategic Planning Committee and have volunteered to cook breakfast for Sunday services, participated on Work Days, and helped with the auction. My partner Wolfgang Salazar and I have been members of the church since 2009. I work as a manager of Regulatory Affairs for a pharmaceutical company and have a degree in microbiology. I also serve the community as chair of the Hazard Analysis Committee for CEPAC, Columbus Health Department, and vice-chair for the Bulk Pharmaceutical Task Force, Washington, D.C. I have previously served as a board member for BRAVO (Buckeye Regional Anti-violence Organization), a non-profit organization, for the GLTB community for 11 years. I enjoy travelling, friends, and cooking. I look forward to continuing service to this church and congregation as a Board member.

Jo Anne St. Clair I have been a member of First UU for 20+ years and have served as Board Chair and Vice-Chair, Treasurer, Fall Harvest Chair, Co-Chair of the Annual Giving Campaign and served on the First UU Auction Committee for 12 years, serving nine years as Chair and/or Co-Chair. I look forward to serving in this critical position. I am a Licensed Independent Social Worker and am employed by the City of Columbus Department of Development as the Neighborhood Liaison for the Southside and the Manager of the South Side Neighborhood Pride Center.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE (2 year term; 4 to be elected)

Debra Boyd While I have only been a member for eight years, I strongly identify as a Unitarian Universalist and have been blessed to contribute at a number of levels. I have served on our congregation's board and served two different times as Treasurer. I have been involved in a number of projects including the drafting of our mission, the introduction of Wellspring to the congregation, and Rev Eric Meter's installation. I have served our Ohio Meadville District as the Compensation Consultant, Secretary to the Board and Vice President of the Board. I am currently serving on the General Assembly Planning Committee. Being a covenantal community where we are committed to beginning again in love is a central core to both my understanding of Unitarian Universalism and the way I try to walk within the world. Leadership Development is critical if we are going to engage in the Shared Ministry that is required for us to fulfill our mission. I hope to connect the people and opportunities that will spark the greatest deepening and growth of our faith.

Thom Pegan The First UU Church of Detroit is located on the edge of the Wayne State University campus. The intriguing sermon titles on its lawn sign compelled freshman-me to drop in one Sunday in 1963, and I immediately felt at home. Many miles and years later, I joined First UU of Columbus (around 1990), quickly became immersed with committees including Worship, Communications, Church Council, Covenant, and Interweave, and was a Trustee for a brief stint. I crashed and burned, spent 40 days in the desert, and now I am back. When I re-enlisted earlier this year, I vowed that I would not just “join again,” but also would be more purposeful in the giving of my talents, treasure and time in helping this church accomplish its missions and visions. Being a member of the Leadership Development Committee feels like a perfect fit and calling. It's an honor to be nominated and, if selected, I pledge to help identify, recruit, and support our future leaders in a loving and goal-directed fashion.

Tony L. Rice (LDC) I have been a member of First UU for several years. From the start I felt at home both spiritually and socially. I'm in the choir, have served on the Gay Straight Alliance, and have been a co-facilitator and am a current facilitator for a covenant group. Also I am a member of the Covenant Group Steering Committee. Volunteer work includes having served on a variety of community and organizational boards and committees both in Columbus and Springfield. Additionally I've directed and performed with civic theatres and assorted other groups including Columbus Gay Men's Chorus. Professionally, I am in Information Technology as part of the team managing a Data Center for a major banking concern. I have also been a Leadership Development Training Facilitator. Aside from being certified in many courses, I have developed courses for our corporation such as “ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) in the workplace”. I look forward to this opportunity to support our church family.

Jeannie Sperling I was a member of a Unitarian Church in New York as a child. My spiritual path took many twists and turns until I joined First UU five years ago. I served on Membership Committee and have been part of Neighborhood Network since then. I served on the Covenant Group Steering Team representing our group at Program Council and assumed the position of chair for one year. I also chaired a committee to plan the farewell celebration for our past Associate Minister, Wendy Fish. I have enjoyed helping with our Annual Auction in food preparation, serving, decorations and check-in. Professionally I was a primary classroom teacher for 28 years. For my last eight years before retirement, I was a coordinator for staff development, parent education and our program for children with special needs at Wickliffe Progressive. My husband Sam Kiner and I are proud and devoted grandparents to three boys. I would be honored to be given the opportunity to bring my energy, experience and expertise to the LDC.

Amy Kay Watson I have been a member of First UU since January 2011. I am a professional leadership trainer and change facilitator with a BA in Organizational Communication (University of North Carolina, Greensboro) and a M.Div. from Princeton Theological Seminary. I attended two of the *Harvest the Power* workshops at First UU and participated in Community and Questing in early 2011 as well as a covenant group since last fall. I joined BREAD this spring to support JAM and the systemic health of our community. I've been working under the LDC since the fall to develop the start of a leadership training series called the *Art of Developing Meaningful Conversation* and will host the May 19 workshop at church. Additionally I am a trained facilitator for Healthy Congregations, a systems approach to dealing with anxiety and anxious times in organizations. My intention is to support the development of adaptive leadership so we can respond effectively together, rather than react automatically in isolation, to changing needs.

Susan Williams First UU has been part of my life for 35 years. Early on I was involved in Religious Education, teaching and working on curriculum. For seven years I was on staff as a religious educator recruiting and training volunteers while observing leadership in action. More recent service includes *Stewardship* and *Membership* as Path to Membership Coordinator. I have attended Large Church Conferences, General Assemblies, Leadership School and read church “how-to” books for enjoyment. I wish to support First UU's transition from recruiting leaders with talents and skills to helping all lay members develop skills to support our mission.

SUMMER SERVICES First UU has a commitment to lay-led summer services, and the Worship Committee would like to invite you to consider being a part. **The Worship Committee is now soliciting proposals from anyone who would like to lead a service this summer**, including delivering the sermon. Proposals are due May 1. To obtain a proposal form, or for any questions, call Judith McDowell, 261-0043.

MARKINGS

Rev. Mark Belletini

Funny how the spring was so warm earlier, then cold later. I've been wearing jackets now, but T-shirts in March. Weather is one of many things we simply can't control, which reminds us that we are neither omnipotent nor omniscient. The forecasters have been wrong so many times this year, often changing the weather forecast as the weather itself is changing.

Frankly, I find this strangely comforting. There are so many other things it's important to be on top of: bills, health and medical issues, family conversations, cultivating friendships, deadlines, etc. that it's just nice to say now and then, "It will be what it will be, and I'll have to dress for it."

Our stewardship leaders, especially the remarkable Patricia Boughton and Melanie Boyd, have been doing a very fine job, I think, this year. As someone who "intuits" his own personal budget as opposed to writing everything down in a ledger, I appreciate the focused work it takes to create a detailed honest and realistic budget based on the generous specific promises of all members (and most friends) of the congregation. It takes a lot of sheer faith in each other to make this all work out so that everything hums along without causing too many panic attacks to our excellent Finance Committee throughout the year. Like many active members, I pledge a percentage to the church that would have shocked me earlier in my life, and I give significant sums on top of that as well...I don't always ask for reimbursements for my expenses. But that is because I love this congregation and its work. But what I give extra is not part of my promises, which alone enable the budget to be planned without wild guessing and ridiculous risks and painful cuts. I was at the budget meeting with the Finance Committee this last week, and I sat there so proud of the work they do under the leadership of David Douglass, with his skillful technological expertise, thrilled at the kindness of their insightfulness, and their vivid sense of the whole congregational institution.

Since I am a last minute guy myself...I just turned my pledge two weeks ago...I'm happy that almost 75% of the congregation has pledged BEFORE the end of the ask, enabling this budget work to be done in such attentive care. Thank you.

I hope to see many of you (at least 300 of you!) at the BREAD Nehemiah Action meeting on **Monday May 7** at the Celeste Center, at the Fairgrounds. Carpooling would be cool. It will, I promise, be less clogged to park there than at the places we have been using for the last decade. You need tickets (free of course) to go. These are simply counting tools. The more people who show up, the greater our impact, and we need to know how many from each congregation are there.

Blessings,



The Inner Flame *Since May begins our theme of Family I offer these insightful words by the late Erma Bombeck, written in 1987*

The family. We were a strange little band of characters trudging through life sharing diseases and toothpaste, coveting one another's desserts, hiding shampoo, borrowing money, locking each other out of our rooms, inflicting pain and kissing to heal it in the same instant, loving, laughing defending, and trying to figure out the common thread that bound us all together.

(Of course, I have to wonder what she would have written had she lived in a favela in San Paolo where everyone lived in a single room, created from pressed tin cans?)