



The Discoverer

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus, May 20, 2012

MARKINGS

Rev. Mark Belletini

This will be my last newsletter column for a while. I am going to take my summer vacation (which, by the way, is NOT *all* summer, contrary to some misconceptions which folks, who are still weighted down by the memory of what used to be true 30 years ago, have expressed to me). But between events around my mother's death, and being sick for so long, and so thoroughly, this winter (pneumonia!), I really need a break.

My goddaughter Andrea and her family are coming up from Chile in July, which will be wonderful; and I hope to get to spend some time with my son Tony in Cleveland (he has been offered a job finally...hooray!). He is coming down today to tend me as I undergo a regular procedure all of us over 50 have to go through every five years.

I want to thank all of you who generously contributed to, bought, and planted the three lilacs in tender memory of my mother. It's one of my best childhood memories of her in our back yard at 15414 Spring-garden Ave in Detroit...the lilac tree in the corner with the Mourning Cloak butterfly always alight on the same part of the trunk every morning in Spring. We would go out, and the butterfly would lift up as we smelled the luscious perfume of the flowers. Already when I drive past the lilacs in the evening and notice them, I sometimes get a bit choked up. Grief comes in concentric waves, I think, the stone of loss falling into the smooth surface of the soul and sending out rings for a long, long time.

I will see many of you during the summer, for I will be in, on and off between trips, preparing for the new year. Don't forget water for the Water Ceremony. Take a phial of some sort and pack it in your bags right now, or put it on the counter.

And for those of you who didn't make it to the choir concerts this year...they were incredible, both of them. Some of our children will be on Broadway one day, and I am willing to wager. Our music program is one of the jewels of the church.*

See you around the busy rooms of our shared home.

best,



Where to Find It!

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*The Inner Flame

"While I listened, music was to my soul what the atmosphere is to the body; it was the breath of my inward life. I felt, more deeply than ever, that music is the highest symbol of the infinite and the holy."

Lydia Maria Child, Unitarian, 1845

CHURCH NEWS

MEANINGFUL CONVERSATION The event on May 19 was very well attended. Participants engaged in conversations about how the church can be even better, and the support we need to get there. We practiced individual leadership skills, including listening for understanding, speaking from the mind and heart, and having fun while doing important business. We'll be reporting on the results of these conversations in coming weeks after taking time to type and photograph them. In the meantime, save these dates on your calendar for future ADMC events (November 3, January 26, and March 30), and contact Amy Watson (amykaywat@gmail.com) if you are interested in these or other leadership development topics.

SUNDAY BREAKFAST The breakfast before the early service will be going on vacation starting May 27 until the congregation returns to two services in the fall. We give special thanks to Chris Hardin, Tim Hooks, Pat Collins, Cliff Adams, Holly Adams, Dennis Rankin, Wolfgang Salazar, Pat Hoffman, David Debelak, and Mary McMichael-Liston for all their work in shopping and cooking for us this year.

BOOKBITES Meets June 19 in Slowter Lounge from 7 to 9 pm. New topic: *Yiddish authors*. Call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025, with questions.

CAR WASH On May 27, a team of youth will wash your car while you are in the worship service. Help contribute to the High School Justice Trip Fund.

MEMBER EXHIBIT "What's New in UU Art?" Find out by viewing the newest all-member exhibition in the church's Gallery and Worship Center. Twenty-seven artists and 47 works comprise this event, filled with imaginative works and lots of color. Join the artists on Sunday, June 3, at 11:30 -1:30 for an art reception with food and conversation.

For purchase information, contact Deb Baillieul debbsyc@yahoo.com. 10% of all sales go to the church.

WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY Wednesdays, 7:30pm

We explore Memory and Remembrance:

May 23 - Memories to Share - All

May 30 - Remembrance of those gone - All

-- Jeanni Ray, 985-6176 or jeanniray@gmail.com

MANY THANKS to the 30 volunteers who turned out for the spring First UU work day on Saturday, May 5. The church is a nicer place because of your efforts.

Two summer evening work sessions are planned. The first is on Wednesday, July 18. The second is on Thursday, August 23. Both start around 6 pm, and last until dark. Please set aside those times now. Time Bank members will get credits.

If you can help maintain the gardens at other times, please let Dave Richter or Brian Hagemann know.

THANKS to volunteer Kay Fisher and staff members Brian Hagemann and Deb McGuire, for staffing the church office during my absence earlier this month. Knowing the office was in capable hands, I was able to relax and enjoy my vacation to Montreal all the more. *Merci beaucoup!* --Marian Garcia, Office Manager

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY

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.



BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity) is First UU's local interfaith social justice organization. Congratulations to First UU for its turnout of 248

(perhaps more) to BREAD's Nehemiah Action, the largest turnout of any BREAD congregation! This would not have happened without the hard work of our BREAD Team and Justice Ministry Network. (Members of each are listed in the BREAD section of the 2012 Annual Report.)

The total turnout of almost 3,000 did much to motivate the willingness of four City Council members, the Ohio Medicaid Director, and the Franklin County Juvenile Court's lead judge to work with BREAD on small business development, access to primary health care for Medicaid patients with chronic health conditions, and implementation of a Restorative Justice program in the Franklin County Juvenile Court.

For additional information: www.breadcolumbus.org or Alice Rathburn, 895-2109, alice37@insight.rr.com.

DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

SUMMER INSTITUTE Don't miss this year's S.I. The theme is **Reboot Your Theology: Exploring Our Connections** - with theme speaker Rev. Meg Riley. July 8-14, 2012 at Kenyon College in Gambier, OH. Brochures are now available in the Volunteer Room, or you can download it as a pdf at omdsi.org. Registration is NOW OPEN!

CARING CORNER

William David Calaway was welcomed in a naming ceremony earlier this month. Congratulations to brother Matthew, and parents, Jessie and Jake. Welcome also to **Kyla Sage**, daughter of Katherine Faulstich, granddaughter of Gretchen and niece of Carl, born on May 15 at St. Ann's Hospital.

Congratulations to: **Tom Wheeler** who will retire on June 15 from Columbus City Schools after 15 years as a school psychologist; **Debbie Shaw** who will appear in Thurber Carnival at Columbus Civic Theater in Clintonville. May 31 - July 1, with director **Bill Inglis**; **Joan Matyskella** who completed her BSN program at Capital University. After 25 years of nursing experience, she now has her bachelor's degree in nursing.

We send healing thoughts to **Tiffany Grinstead** and **Phyllis South**. Tiffany had an appendectomy on May 12. Phyllis had knee replacement surgery May 15. We send healing thoughts to **Jeremy Welch** who underwent a heart catheterization. He is now home and starting a rehabilitation program.

Our caring thoughts are with **Dick Dawson**. Dick is experiencing fatigue and pain again. He will be taking a break from his duties as chaplain until the middle of August. Please join your ministers and Board in wishing him well during this time.

We send our condolences to: the **Nandyal family**. Lauri's father died on May 15; and **Linda Thompson** who has had two significant losses recently -- Diane, a friend for 40 years, and Linda's Aunt Ruth.

A ceremony will be held at noon on Memorial Day with a new monument at West North Broadway and Milton Avenue in remembrance of the soldiers from the Clintonville area who died in WWII. The brother of **Gordon Miller** who was killed in the Battle of the Bulge in Belgium will be one of the honorees. Gordon and Jo-E. Miller will be attending.

* * * * *

CONGRATULATIONS to the following students:

Abby Cox will graduate from Columbus Alternative High School and plans to attend Reed College in Portland, Oregon.

Mark Chen-Keenan received his MBA from the Wharton School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania on May 13, 2012.

Lauren McCrystal will graduate from Oberlin College on Memorial Day. She majored in Environmental Studies and in Creative Writing.

Samantha Nandyal will graduate from Gahanna Lincoln High School and attend the University of Cincinnati. She is the recipient of a Cincinnati Excellence Scholarship.

Luke Steffen will graduate from Fort Hayes Arts and Academic High School and the Fort Hayes Career Center Preprofessional Theater Program. Luke is Valedictorian. He will attend Ohio Wesleyan University.

Carianne Stubbs will graduate from Reynoldsburg High School and will seek her bachelors degree in nursing at Capital University.

Tara Miller-Gnann and **Torin Tindongan** are also among our high school graduates. Torin is from the Athens, Ohio UU Church, and spent three semesters of high school in our city and lived with church members.

(Please contact Jane Reisman at jnreisman@aol.com or fill out a *Joys and Sorrows* form (on the First UU website) if you or someone in your family is graduating this spring.)

LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Three unrelated items this time around: The first is that you may remember last Fall when I wrote about the list my predecessor, Rev. Wendy Fish, began of congregation members and friends who had lived through a certain illness and were willing to speak with others facing that same condition. As all things do over time, the list we had was in need of refreshing. Many of you generously contacted me with your willingness, and what we have is current once again. That said, what we have is still a work in process. We're hoping to hear from others who have not yet volunteered to be part of this caring effort. We are specifically looking for folks who are willing to talk about their (or their loved one's) experiences with colon, kidney, lung, ovarian or pancreatic cancer; mental health issues including depression and suicide; experiences of violent crime; back and neck troubles; chronic fatigue syndrome; eye conditions; Lyme disease; and muscular dystrophy.

As I said before, your information will go no further than myself, Dick Dawson (with whom I manage our Pastoral Team), two other members of the team who are helping us maintain the list in a user-friendly manner, and the person you'd be talking to. I also want you to know that we will be calling some people directly over the next few weeks to enlarge the list that we have.

Thank you for considering this request. An up-to-date listing will be invaluable to others in our community who may come to find themselves in need of the experience you can help provide them.

Second, let me offer another "shout out" in gratitude to all those who spoke as part of our second annual Wellspring worship service earlier this month: Eve Catus, Rev. Kathleen Fowler, Karen McGuire, Linda Thompson, Alice Walker and Ohma Willette. You are all fabulous and exquisitely well spoken. Along with the other members of our two groups this year, thank you for being part of Wellspring.

As I mentioned during the service, in the Fall, we will start up at least one new Wellspring group. If you are interested, please contact me as soon as possible. I need to know how many facilitators we'll need by early June. Our Wellspring group(s) for next year will start with an orientation retreat on Saturday, September 15. Groups will then meet twice a month through May 2013.

Links continues on next page...

Lastly, though not of less importance than the others, I want to say thank you to those who put forward a fabulous leadership development event on Saturday night, May 19: Amy Watson, Allie Bonsteel, Russell Clark, Peggy McKee, Jorie Swartz and Chrissy Gilbert made up the Core Committee who hosted this inaugural event in a proposed series of *Art of Developing Meaningful Conversations (ADMC)*. The congregation's Leadership Development Committee sponsored the night, and organized a fine meal for all of us there. Pat Larson, Gretchen Curtis and

MaryLou MacDonald also helped the event run seamlessly. Forty-two of us participated in a guided conversation based on responding to a few elegantly simple, and quite profound, questions. In short, we shared with one another how the congregation does, or might, help us become the people we most long to be, and what the congregation might be and do if we were to give more of our best selves to it. If those questions appeal to you, please keep the dates November 3, January 26 and March 30 open on your calendar for further ADMC offerings.

In peace,



FAITH DEVELOPMENT FOR ALL AGES

Jolinda Stephens, Religious Education Director

We believe.... That's not a very popular phrase among Unitarian Universalists. Yet, it is inescapable that we all have a way of interpreting what we experience. We could call that our worldview or we could name it "Our Beliefs." The Free Online Dictionary defines worldview as: 1. *The overall perspective from which one sees and interprets the world.* 2. *A collection of beliefs about life and the universe held by an individual or a group.*

As a DRE I have to carry with me an understanding of the core beliefs of Unitarian Universalism in this age in order to write and select appropriate curricula for children, youth and adults. Two weeks ago I attended the ordination of the district's intern for Youth and Young Adult Ministry. The sermon was preached by one of our preeminent scholars. In it I heard reflected in much more elegant phrases the core beliefs on which I base my curricular decisions.

Because we are focusing on the story of the universe in Summer Sunday School, I'd like to share with you this part of the Rev. David Bumbaugh's faith statement that he suggests we all share as UUs.

"We believe that the universe in which we live and move and have our being is the expression of an inexorable process that began in eons past, ages beyond our comprehension, and has evolved from singularity to multiplicity, from simplicity to complexity, from disorder to order.

"We believe that the earth and all who live upon the earth are products of the same process that swirled the galaxies into being, that ignited the stars and orbited the planets through the night sky, that we are expressions of that universal process which has created and formed us out of recycled stardust.

"We believe that all living things are members of a single community, all expressions of a planetary process that produced life and sustains it in intricate ways beyond our knowing. We hold the life process itself to be sacred."

May all be well, Jolinda

Religious Education --- Upcoming Events and Classes

Summer Sunday School Begins May 27, 10 am The summer group for kids 3 years old through elementary school will focus on the wonder of evolution. **Out of the Stars: Celebrating Our Evolutionary Roots** will explore the birth of the universe, the birth of the sun and of the earth and how life began on earth. It brings together elements from our 1st and 5th sources - direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder and Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science. So we're bringing together mystery, wonder and the scientific method. And we're infusing it with yet to be named 7th Source: fun!

There will be beautifully illustrated stories of the universe, experiments, water play (remember, we all started in water), ritual, music, and crafts. Jen Bojanowski, whom many of you know from the Toddler Room or SYC, will lead the group.

To make this exciting program work, Jen needs assistants, for a week or a month, and the loan of microscopes. Please take a moment to look at your summer schedule and then volunteer here:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/BTJG9LV>

Memorial Weekend Car Wash On May 27, there will be a team of youth prepared to wash your car while you are in the worship service. Email Amelia to be a part of the fun - thirsty_fan@yahoo.com.

Multicultural Families Group Meets at First Friday at 7:30. This group of parents and children explore issues of multiculturalism and diversity through discussions; group activities that share ethnic traditions, such as cooking and crafts; and visits to special events. The ideas are adaptable to anyone who wants to join. You do not need to identify yourself as non-mainstream, or be part of more than one cultural group. -- Ka Wa Berman, ka_wa_berman@yahoo.com.

Multicultural Families Invite Everyone to the Asian Festival and Dragonboat Festival, Saturday May 25, in Franklin Park. The invitation is on FaceBook at Asian Festival & Dragonboat Festival.
<http://www.facebook.com/events/146473998815935/>. Post to let folks know what time is best for you.

Meet the PeaceCamp Director at First Friday, June 1. We have an exciting new format this year that builds on the excellent foundation of the previous years. We'll still have creativity, movement, projects, art, and games. This year we are inviting a diverse group of PeaceKids from the surrounding community and through the NAACP network. We'll have one project each week that threads through each day to help promote justice, the foundation of peace.

The first week of PeaceCamp, **August 6 through 10**, is for kids entering grades 1 through 4. The second week, **August 13 through 17**, is for kids entering grades 5 through 7. The hours are 9 to 12; and the fee is \$25 to \$50. Register at the Sunday School Table on Sunday or online: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/6L59H9P>.

Please join First Friday for potluck on June 1 at 6:30 and meet Noel Williams, the PeaceCamp Director. She is a leader in our BREAD Network. You probably saw her talk about the restorative justice action at the Nehemiah Action Meeting. She is also the President of the Columbus NAACP, leading great projects for children, youth and parents.

Thursday, June 7, 7 pm – Rev. Susan Ritchie and the Doctrine of Discovery As our city observes the 200th anniversary and our General Assembly prepares to take a stand on the doctrine crafted 500 years ago to give spiritual and legal support for explorers like Columbus, social historian, UU minister and UUA Trustee Rev. Susan Ritchie takes on the Doctrine of Christian Discovery. Why should we care? Those papal bulls that declared some humans inferior still form the basis of national and international law. Why should you attend? Rev. Ritchie's history-with-humor is unparalleled. Our partners in the immigrant justice communities have requested that we pass a resolution this year at General Assembly calling on the Obama administration to repudiate the doctrine in our foreign policy.

Happiness Is June's "Month in Science" Topic, June 12, 7pm If you're happy and you know it, what's your secret? Researchers have uncovered plenty of factors, from genes to personal characteristics to life choices, that seem to coincide with happiness and its longer-lasting cousin, well-being. Here are a few you might have some control over. Get culture; get a pet; be grateful and altruistic; have sex; and don't obsess about being happy. Come learn more.

Meet Best-Selling Author Imran Ahmad, Friday, June 15 at 7:30pm His presentation is titled: *Islam and the West: A Personal Journey*. His book, *The Perfect Gentleman: A Muslim Boy Meets the West*, was a surprise best-seller in its first edition, probably due to the fact that it dealt with serious issues with an uproariously funny wit. His memoir explores the struggles he felt growing up in London in a traditional Pakistani family. First UU was one of many Unitarian Universalist churches who hosted his first U.S. book tour and he returns to us once again. He has explored many faiths and now identifies as a UU.

Say Thank You and Farewell to Cindy Dillard Sunday, June 17, following the service Cindy has been a very important part of First UU for many years. She has served on the Religious Education staff, led the teaching team for 8th grade OWL, developed and led the PeaceCamp and coordinated the Summer Sunday School for several years. She also found time to organize the annual Passover Seder. She will be missed. This is your chance to honor her and send her to her next adventure with your best wishes. Please contact Donna Greenman to assist.

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

FIRST UU ANNUAL MEETING

JUNE 10, 12 Noon

Vote on:

Amended Constitution; Budget

Elect:

**Board of Trustees Members;
Leadership Development Committee Members
Moderator**

Childcare Available

CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION

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

Michael Greenman

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

David C. Douglass, John McCrystal, Dennis Rankin, Jo Anne St. Clair

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

Debra Boyd, Thom Pegan, Mia Hall, Paula Hook, Tony Rice, Jeannie Sperling, Amy Kay Watson, Susan Williams

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, Sexton
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Tim Hooks, Chair, Board of Trustees
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

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The
DISCOVERER
May 20, 2012

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

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PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

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WORSHIP SERVICES

► *May Theme: Family*

May 27, 2012, 10:00 A.M. ONLY

Rev. Mark Belletini

“Religions, Families and War”

One Service only until the Second Sunday in September, 2012

► *Gateway to the Summer Celebrations*

June 3, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Eric Meter

The Annual Coming of Age Celebration

Rev. Meter and the Coming of Age Class

June 10, 2012, 10:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

“The Natural Theology of Getting Married”

GLBT Pride; a tribute and good bye to the Nandyals; the Annual Congregational Meeting

► 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.

CALENDAR, May 23, 2012 – June 6, 2012

Wednesday, May 23, 2012

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 7:00p Lively Writing; Board of Trustees
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality; Yoga

Thursday, May 24, 2012

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 11:00a Senior Gathering
- 7:00p Expressive Collage
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Friday, May 25, 2012

- 4:00p Self Defense for Girls

Saturday, May 26, 2012

- 8:30a Zen Meditation

Sunday, May 27, 2012

- 10:00a Worship Service
- 1:00p Visual Artists; Wellspring
- 2:00p PFLAG
- 4:00p Community Drumming Circle
- 5:30p Soulful Sundown Service
- 6:00p Bridge Group (call 499-2434)

Monday, May 28, 2012

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p Funeral Consumers Alliance

Tuesday, May 29, 2012

- 9:30a Archives Organizing
- 7:00p Zen Meditation
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, May 30, 2012

- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 7:00p Forum: The Supreme Court & Obamacare
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality; Yoga
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, May 31, 2012

- 9:30a Improvisational Dance
- 7:30p Chalice Choir Rehearsal
- 7:30p Healing Journey

Friday, June 1, 2012

- 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
- 6:30p First Friday Potluck
- 7:30p Multicultural Families Meeting

Saturday, June 2, 2012

- 8:30a Zen Meditation
- 9:00a Coming of Age Rehearsal
- 9:30a Memorial Garden Workday
- 11:00a Easy Movement Class
- 12:00p Worship Committee Training
- 6:00p Coming of Age Dinner & Program

Sunday, June 3, 2012

- 10:00a Worship Service
- 12:00p Artists Reception
- 1:00p Committee on Shared Ministry; Youth group

Monday, June 4, 2012

- 7:00p UU Dance Fellowship
- 7:00p Program Council

Tuesday, June 5, 2012

- 9:30a Archives Organizing; Newsletter Folding
- 7:00p Zen Meditation; Caring Committee (off-site)
- 7:35p Worship Committee
- 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir Rehearsal

Wednesday, June 6, 2012

- 8:00a UU Food Co-op
- 1:00p Archives Organizing
- 5:00p Campfire Girls and Boys
- 7:30p Men's Spirituality
- 7:30p Women's Spirituality

***COVENANT GROUPS – Rev. Meter, 267-4946, ext.23
FOCUUS (ages 18-35) meets Sundays at OSU Hagerty
Hall, Room 42, 7:30p (Note change of date and
location. Call 614-329-2915)
ESOL meets MWF at 9:30a (F: Conversation Class)***

<p>The Discoverer – Next Issue – Sunday, June 3 Deadline: 1:00p –Hard copy in office, yellow folder 6:00p – e-mail articles to olwfire@yahoo.com</p>
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