

The  
**DISCOVERER**  
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### WORSHIP SERVICES

**May 18, 2008, 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

**Rev. Michael Dowd**

#### **“Thank God for Evolution”**

*Nationally known and loved speakers Rev. Michael Dowd and Connie Barlow (see page 3)  
9 AM: Spirit of Life Choir; 11 AM: First UU Choir*

**May 25, 2008, 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.**

**Rev. Mark Belletini**

#### **“Dreams”**

*The last Sunday with two services.*

**June 1, 2008, 10:00 A.M. (one service only)**

**COA Group**

#### **Coming of Age Celebration**

*An annual rite of passage for the ninth grade youth who have been working all year to articulate who they are and what matters most.*

***One service only until the second Sunday in September and the Water Ceremony.***

► **Getting to Know UU** meets Sunday mornings in Slowter Lounge after the Worship Services

**Sunday Worship Services at 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2008**

9:45a Parenting From Your Heart  
10:00a Statement Mailing  
1:00p Archives Organizing  
7:00p Memoir Group  
7:00p Board of Trustees  
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Hatha Yoga  
8:00p Women's Spirituality

**Thursday, May 15, 2008**

9:30a Improvisational Dance  
6:00p Communications Committee  
7:30p 11A.M. Choir; Writing for Life

**Friday, May 16, 2008**

12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission

**Saturday, May 17, 2008**

8:30a Zen Meditation  
9:00a Path to Membership

**Sunday, May 18, 2008**

1:00p Nominating Committee  
1:30p Bluegrass Jam

**Monday, May 19, 2008**

11:00a Gentle Yoga for Cancer Survivors  
7:00p UU Social Dance; BREAD team  
7:00p Building Committee  
7:00p Sunday School Committee  
7:00p Reproductive Educ./Freedom  
7:00p Executive Committee

**Tuesday, May 20, 2008**

10:00a Archives Organizing  
1:00p Cancer Support Groups  
5:00p Memoir Writing  
7:00p Zen Meditation  
7:00p Stewardship Committee  
7:30p Finance Committee

**Wednesday, May 21, 2008**

1:00p Archives Organizing  
7:00p UU Humanists; Artist's Way  
7:30p Men's Spirituality  
8:00p Women's Spirituality

**Thursday, May 22, 2008**

9:30a Improvisational Dance  
7:00p Soul Collage  
7:30p 11:00 A.M. Choir

**Friday, May 23, 2008**

7:00p Other Friday Film Series  
7:30p Settlers Game Night

**Saturday, May 24, 2008**

8:30a Zen Meditation  
3:30p Gordon Memorial Service

**Sunday, May 25, 2008**

12:30p YASC  
1:00p UU Artists  
6:00p Bridge Club

**Monday, May 26, 2008 (office closed)**

11:00a Gentle Yoga for Cancer Survivors  
7:00p UU Soc. Dance; Grief and Loss

**Tuesday, May 27, 2008**

9:00a Newsletter folding  
10:00a Archives Organizing  
1:00p Cancer Support Groups  
7:00p Atheist/Agnostic  
7:00p Zen Meditation  
7:00p Men's Spirituality  
7:00p Women's Sharing Circle (895-2109)

**Wednesday, May 28, 2008**

1:00p Archives Organizing  
5:00p Memoirs V  
7:00p Memoir Writing  
7:00p Board of Trustees  
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Yoga  
8:00p Women's Spirituality

*7:30p Thursdays, FOCUUS meets in the OSU Campus area. Call 447-8407.*

The next issue of *The Discoverer*: **Sunday, May 25. Deadline: 1:00pm** – hard copy in the yellow folder in the church office; or **6:00pm** – e-mail to [olwfire@yahoo.com](mailto:olwfire@yahoo.com). If possible, please include your article in the body of your e-mail rather than as an attachment.-- Olwen Firestone, Editor

## ***WENDY'S PERSPECTIVE***

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The concert and goodbye celebration is not only fresh in my mind but deeply embedded in my heart. It was a once-in-a-lifetime experience, an event I will remember always. I'm filled with gratitude from internalizing all your love. The beautiful hand blown glass vase you gave me now stands elegantly on my dining room buffet.

It was natural for me in that worshipful setting to reminisce over the nine meaning filled years we've spent together. I've seen so much evolve and develop here. It gives me great confidence in your capacity to affirm one another and express heartfelt connection. This is such a powerful model of what we believe in and want for our families, the communities that matter in our lives and our world.

As one of our choirs sang so rousingly, "I just want to say thanks" once again to everyone who worked to make this a memorable day in my life and in the life of the congregation.

Several of you have asked when my last day will be with you. Sunday June 8 is the day we will need to say our final goodbyes. Rest assured, you will remain in my heart.

Go gently,



Rev. Wendy Fish

## ***CHURCH NEWS***

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**BOARD OF TRUSTEES** Summary of April 30, 2008 Minutes

Chas opened our meeting by reading from a speech that Rev. Stefan Jonasson gave at the UUA National Large Congregations Conference. He spoke of our purpose as leaders and our ministry and mission.

A combined staff report was presented by Michael Brennan. He reported that a new wheelchair access ramp has been installed. More than 80 people signed up for the

workday scheduled for May 3. Caroline's report mentioned the continuation of various and wonderful projects with the Sunday School classes. The youth art show has begun and Peace Camp registration is in process. Wendy's report included many visits with members dealing with health crises. She spoke of the work she is doing with the Coming of Age retreat, BREAD, RESULTS, and Faith Mission. Mark preached two installations. One of them was for Joan Van Becelaere, our District Executive. He also taught two classes on Unitarian Universalism at Capital University

Our board training was presented by Glenn Solomon, the OMD Fair Compensation Consultant. He spoke of his role and how he can assist us in becoming a fair compensation church.

Debra Boyd reported that the mortgage refinancing is complete. The collection rate of pledges is excellent and 100% of new members are pledging. There is no endowment money available for the upcoming year because of the downward trend in the stock market. Requests need to be made now for the new budget. – Judy Houston, Secretary

**UPCOMING SERVICE** Connie Barlow and Rev. Michael Dowd, longtime friends of UUs (and Simply Living) will be with us on ***Sunday, May 18***. Michael will preach the sermon *Thank Goodness for Evolution* at 9 and 11, and Connie will be with our RE Youth Program (see yellow insert). The two travel America and Canada as "evolutionary evangelists" to share the Great Story (.org). Their mentor is the "Father of Ecological Spirituality" Passionist Priest Thomas Berry.

Michael and Connie have been with us in the past, but have been in great demand since they have appeared twice in cover stories of the UU World. We are excited to be on their agenda.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY** June 25-29, 2008 Fort Lauderdale, FL “Common Threads” GA is the annual gathering of UU congregations where delegates vote on policies concerning the operation of the Unitarian Universalist Association. There are also workshops, presentations, and worship services, as well as many opportunities for informal sharing with UUs from across the country. Anyone who has attended a GA will tell you that it is a transformative experience. For more information, go to [generalassembly@uua.org](mailto:generalassembly@uua.org). or talk to one of the many First UU Columbus members who has been to GA previously. You can be a voting delegate from our church! Immediately preceding GA, from noon June 24 to noon June 25, the UUA sponsors **UU University**. If you want to increase your knowledge and ability to serve your congregation, UU University is for you! For details, go to [uuniversity@uua.org](mailto:uuniversity@uua.org).

Contact Chas Williams, Board President, [cwilli6711@aol.com](mailto:cwilli6711@aol.com) for more information.

**HELP NEEDED** Josette Bodonyi and Rose Rossiter are looking for 2-4 volunteers to form a team to take turns watering the indoor plants in the Gallery and Worship Center. Each volunteer would take one day a month. Watering all the plants takes approximately one hour. It's a peaceful experience which can be shared with a friend. No experience needed! The plants are sturdy but they do need their water. Contact Rose at 614-436-9266, [rossiter@ohio.edu](mailto:rossiter@ohio.edu), or Josette at 614-390-6017, [josettebodonyi@hotmail.com](mailto:josettebodonyi@hotmail.com).

### **WELCOMING OUR VISITORS**

The Membership Committee thanks all those church members and friends who have thoughtfully and gracefully helped us throughout the week to reserve the Greeters' Stand surface space and the wall brochure racks for literature, brochures and DVDs

pertinent to our visitors, and for providing access space for newcomers around the Greeters' Stand on Sunday mornings. This is part of our whole-church welcoming initiative. If you have brochures, handouts, posters or other literature important to your group, committee or organization and are in need of vertical or horizontal display space, *please see someone on the Communications Committee; Olwen Firestone, chair; or the Arts & Space Committee; Sandy Aska, chair,* for assistance. “We are all in this together.”

### **“I CAN NO OTHER ANSWER MAKE, BUT THANKS AND THANKS”\***

This is for all of you who worked on Saturday's Choirs Concert and Farewell to the Reverend Wendy Fish. It was a beautiful event from start to finish! There were so many who helped with this event: The Farewell Planning Committee who met tirelessly attending to the enumerable details, Tony McDonald with the entire music department who planned and created an incredible musical event, the great audio crew, the church administrative staff, Gary Allread for the wonderful slide show, the children who created the “Wendy Banner,” the many volunteers who helped set up and clean-up on Saturday, the greeters and ushers, and finally our member and guest speakers. I cannot thank you enough. You all were wonderful to work with.  
--Jeannie Sperling

\*William Shakespeare, Twelfth Night

### **WOMEN'S SPIRITUALITY**

May 21: *A Surprise* with Liz James; May 28: *Something to Talk About* with Jeanni Ray and all. Mother's Day is May 11. Let's wear our hats!

**BOOKBITES:** Meets in Slowter Lounge, *May 20, from 7 to 9 pm*. The April topic is continued for May - *Unsung Women*. Questions? Call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

**UU HUMANISTS** Wednesday, May 21, 7:00pm *Living Green: How You Can Save a Hundred on Your Energy Bills,* will be presented by Margie White. We will follow filmmaker Jeff Barrie as he searches America's cities, towns and countryside for solutions to the great energy problems of our day in the film *Kilowatt Ours: A Plan to Re-energize America*. The film will teach all of us how to dramatically reduce our own energy bills and improve the environment at the same time. All welcome.

**BLUEGRASS** The jam session will meet on **Sunday, May 18 at 1:30.** – Carl Yaffey

**PEACE CAMP 2008:** Application forms are on the church website. Down-load and mail in or drop off (no electronic registration, sorry). Camp dates: 7/28-8/1 and 8/4-8/8!

**CAMPING** at Delaware State Park – *May 30, 31.* Join other UU families for a weekend of tent/pop-up camping, campfires, and s'mores. Camping spots are \$52 for two nights. (Each spot holds two tents so you can share for \$26.)

Camping at *Blue Rock* (east of Newark ) near *The Wilds* is scheduled for June 20 and 21. Contact Patricia Boughton at patkap@wowway.com or 614-860-1164.

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### ***SOCIAL JUSTICE***

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**NAICCO POWWOW.** Memorial Day weekend – May 24-26 at the Franklin County Fairgrounds. Native American singing, dancing, arts, crafts, food. Pick up info at the Social Justice Table.

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WOW! On Monday, May 5, at least 256 First UU members, friends, and their friends, neighbors, and colleagues attended BREAD's Nehemiah Action Meeting, thereby affirming and promoting "the inherent worth and dignity of every person; justice, equity and compassion in human relations; ...the right of conscience and the use of the democratic process...in society at large; (and) the goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all." (Unitarian Universalist Association Principles and Purposes)

About 2,200 BREAD supporters heard about KEY Truancy (pilot) Program successes and increases of primary healthcare coverage for underserved central Ohioans, both results of the respect commanded by large numbers of BREAD supporters attending previous action meetings. And we saw more than 2,100 people of many faiths support 1) County Commissioner Paula Brooks' promise to STOP the downward spiral of generational poverty by expanding the Early Literacy Initiative and Individual Development Account programs; 2) Judge Guy Reece's willingness to help STOP the downward spiral of drugs and poverty by championing the strengthening and expansion of the Franklin County Drug Court; and 3) State Senators Goodman (R) and Miller (D) agreement to STOP the downward spiral of payday lending by supporting and promoting H.B. 545 to limit interest rates for payday loans to 28%. BREAD Rises!!!

Please attend First UU's BREAD Team Meeting between services on Sunday, May 18 to give us feedback on the Action Meeting and/or to join our team. Call or e-mail Alice Rathburn for information, 895-2109, 563-0536, or alice37@insight.rr.com

## **CARING CORNER**

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**FOOD PANTRY** Our Athens County/ Appalachia ministry got a boost when some of our church members made a visit. Sam, Allegra and Susan Rosigno took a van full of food to the Feed My Sheep Food Pantry and helped to stock the shelves. The food collected at the birthday party for Tima Henderson-Bernard was also greatly appreciated. What a great idea for children to help those less fortunate in Southern Ohio. Empowering our youth. Rev. Ray Ogburn sends his sincerest thanks to our church.

The Food Pantry is in need of foods rich in protein. Children will be home for the summer soon and will not be receiving food at school. Please help if you are able with food donations or checks. Ten dollars buys a small bag of groceries; \$20 a large one. Please make checks to "Feed My Sheep" Food Pantry and bring to the Social Justice table. Thanks.

**HEIFER INTERNATIONAL** Our latest church heroes: the 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade class. Their chocolate-covered pretzels and strawberries raised \$250, enough to buy a water buffalo for a family. (see yellow insert).

Anyone wishing to get their school, class or organization involved with Heifer, please contact me at the Social Action Table.

-- Jacques Angelino

Our best wishes and thanks go to **Bill and Pat Bentz** who will be moving to San Diego after many years as active members of our congregation.

Our congratulations to **Dick Dawson**, who is formally recognized as a Commissioned Lay Leader (Chaplain) of First UU.

Thank you to **Rev. Mark Belletini**. It has been 10 years since his call to First Church.

Our thoughts are with **Carol Aldridge** who is recuperating from surgery; with **Charles Kraatz** who suffered a fall on April 24. and with **Jeanne Desy**, who has been accepted by the OSU Transplant Center, and is on the waiting list for a donor kidney.

We reach out in love to **Karen Thimmes**. Her mother has developed leukemia and has only a short time to live.

Our hearts go out to **Wes Young**, a Coming of Age student, whose close friend Joe Patella died in an auto accident recently.

**Green tip:** seen in Cleveland...new completely biodegradable takeout food containers, made of unbleached bamboo fibers. Now that's exciting!

**First UU green tip of the hat:** Thanks to Melinda Cross, a new dishwasher operator after First Friday in May, and to everyone who is helping us use fewer disposable dishes.

**2008 Annual 1<sup>st</sup> UU All-Church Labor Day Weekend Retreat at Camp Oty'Okwa**  
Saturday August 30 (11 AM) through Monday September 1 (11 AM)

COST (Includes 6 meals and all accommodations):

Adults (25 and up): \$85

Young Adults (19-24): \$55

Kids (5 - 18): \$55; Under 5: No charge

Registration:

Name(s) (please list ages of kids):

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# of adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of kids under 5 \_\_\_\_\_

# of young adults \_\_\_\_\_ # of kids 5 and up \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Total amount included: \_\_\_\_\_ Checks to First UU Church of Columbus

Do you eat meat?  Yes  No

Do you need a ride?  Yes  No

Can you give a ride?  Yes  No

Accommodations: Lodge \_\_\_\_\_ Cabin \_\_\_\_\_ Tent cabin \_\_\_\_\_ Youth cabin \_\_\_\_\_

Anything else we need to know?

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Will you run a workshop? (On what?)

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**Do you want to help? Call Julie Pinsonneault: 447-8407**

Would you be interested in the following activities for extra cost?

We're gauging interest only – this does not obligate you!! Archery Ropes Climbing Wall

**⇒ Sign up by Sunday August 16 ⇐**

Send completed forms and payment to: Beth Jewell, Registrar

238 Longfellow Ave., Worthington, OH 43085 Beth's phone: 847-6141

Please don't leave yourself out because of the cost! We have camperships available.

Call Julie or Beth for more info.

As I write this, there are sirens and tornado touchdowns not far from the church. Freaky. Added spice to an already full Sunday for me.

I have to say that our Spring Concert and expression of affection to Wendy yesterday (Saturday, May 10) was simply perfect. Perfect music, wonderful testimonies, and just a very good, solid healthy feeling moving from heart to heart. I've been beaming about the church a lot lately... The wonderful turnout at the BREAD meeting, the well-planned event for Wendy (thank you, organizers), the wonderful choirs amassed across the front of the meeting house... things are alive, alive oh around here, even though this is near the end of the year.

A few folks, after reading my last column, expressed concern that Jeremiah Wright's more recent speeches might endanger Obama's chances. Perhaps. At least for some people. I don't think I can know such things about the whole populace, however: Euro, African, Asian, Latino, mixed, and that famous category, Other. But when I read about the history of elections in this nation, and the religious associations people used to lambaste this candidate or that, I realize that this kind of nonsense has been going on for 250 years. If you want to find out more about it, read the detailed book by my friend and colleague Forrest Church, which makes this all pretty clear: *So Help Me God: The First Great Battle Over Separation of Church and State*. When you read it, you will certainly find confirmation of that old biblical dictum, "There's nothing new under the sun."

And, I also want to commend to you who are avid readers, the book I quoted last Sunday by Lesley Hazelton: *Mary, A Flesh and Blood Biography of the Virgin Mother*, as well as her new book, *Jezebel*. Feminist critique has faded from sight, many would say, these last ten years, but Hazelton proves that theory wrong to me.

And by the time you get this, my own book will be out. I already have the first copy. Larger shipments will go out this week I think. I hope to read some of the poems at Areopagetica on May 23.

It's gonna rain all week, the paper says. April flowers bring May showers? Oh well... I haven't lost a single umbrella yet this year, so now I have the opportunity!



Rev. Mark Belletini

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Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister  
Rev. Wendy Fish, Associate Minister  
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita  
Caroline Balderston Parry, Interim Dir. of Religious Education  
Lori Jones, RE Assistant  
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director  
Tony McDonald, Music Director  
Doug O'Neal/Elizabeth Woodhouse, Choir Directors  
Nathan Hamm, Pianist/Accompanist  
Chas Williams, Chair, Board of Trustees

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Michael Brennan, Church Administrator  
Marian Garcia, Administrative Assistant  
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper  
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary  
Don Hippensteel, Events Coordinator  
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant  
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant  
Bob Graffagnino, Co-Webmaster  
Kevin O'Neil, Co-Webmaster  
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

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## RElations

Caroline Balderston Parry  
Interim Director of Religious Education  
caroline@FirstuuColumbus.org  
614-267-4946 ext. 28

**Upcoming Sunday School Plans and Recent Sunday School Reports** Sunday, May 18, is the last day of regular Sunday School classes until September 14. **Sunday, May 25** will be an All Ages Sunday School Play Day at both 9 and 11 AM. **Sunday, June 1** will not only be the first day of only one service and of a more informal Summer Sunday School, but also our annual Coming of Age Ceremony. The day will also include a small bridging ceremony for our three graduating Seniors.

Once again, Cindy Dillard will lead our Summer Sunday School program for children up through Grade 5. She's planning a **summer-long focus on Dr. Seuss stories, the seven UU principles, and cooperative games**, with lots of outdoor time. Watch for details!

**Great Small Volunteer Opportunities All Summer:** Cindy needs adult volunteer helpers each week in Rooms 9/10. Also our new Sunday School Info Area needs a welcoming person each Sunday. We would like to keep it operating as a place to register for fall classes, sign in visitors, browse, borrow or return books, and check on current RE activities. If you could give one day to *both* be in the Info area before and after Sunday School itself, and help in the classroom after the children's story, it would be a terrific help. Sign up in the Info Area or contact the RE Office. NOTE: the new red brochures *Religious Education for children, Nursery-Grade* with registration forms, are now available there; the parallel brochure for *Youth Grade 7-12* will be out soon.

The **Grade 2 Fundraiser for Heifer raised over \$260**, enough to buy a Water Buffalo! Teacher Patricia Boughton wrote: *The children did a great job dipping the strawberries and pretzels and showed remarkable restraint in not sampling while we made them. Thanks to our parent helpers and everyone who brought ingredients in. The pictures we drew for the Heifer Collage are hanging on the wall near the coat closet as part of the youth art show. Please check them out!*

**Next Sunday, May 18 Connie Barlow is offering her River of Life program** for the 9 am older children and for our 4th/5th grade class at 11 am. Connie is a science writer who, with her husband Michael Dowd, travels the nation to share the gospel of evolution and marriage of science and religion. Both are now UU members and many of the programs they offer are done in UU churches, among others in North America. Michael Dowd will be preaching on this date here. You may have seen Connie and Michael featured in *UU World* –or see [www.thegreatstory.org](http://www.thegreatstory.org)

From **Becca Fredin**, daughter of longtime member Barb Fredin, who taught a Gr. 8 OWL class as a visitor from the Columbus AIDS Task Force recently: *Ten years ago I took AYS (About Your Sexuality) in Sunday school through the church. It was the best Sunday school class I ever had... (All my classes) were amazing, but to be honest AYS was the only one I attended without fail every Sunday of the year! The class was life changing – it made it okay for me to be curious about sex, it was a place where we were all able to ask any question we had, where we could get unbiased information about all aspects of sexuality and gender, and it ended up starting me on the career path that I am on today as a testing counselor with the Columbus AIDS Task Force. When I came back to do a presentation about AIDS at Our Whole Lives (the updated version of AYS), I was so*

*pleased to discover that the open atmosphere I remembered was still there. Teens were able to ask questions and get the information they needed, just as I was. I am willing to bet it will change many lives in the same positive way that it changed mine. The class was very similar to the one I remembered, perhaps just a bit more structured. It was wonderful to come back as a teacher and to be able to give the students such important information – many people don't realize that sex education is almost completely unavailable in Ohio schools today. I'm so happy I had the opportunity to give something back to the community that gave so much to me.*

From one of the **Neighboring Faiths (NFs)** teachers: *11 students, 5 adults, and 1 college age sibling visited the Karma Thegsum Choling Buddhist Meditation Center here in Columbus on the morning of 5/4. The students participated in two types of meditation, which included an 1/2 hour of quiet sitting meditation. Once again we received compliments on the respectfulness of our students while participating in an unfamiliar form of worship. These really are a great group of kids!* Kate Haldeman, one of the NF's class members, recently reported that her Middle School class...*was discussing postage stamps- though she was not sure why - and a classmate declared that there should be a postage stamp with a (Christian) cross on it. Kate voiced her concern that people who are Muslim or Jewish or other non-Christian religions would "not appreciate" a stamp with a cross. Her classmate agreed, explaining that he hadn't thought of that!!* If you think Kate got a lot out of her Neighboring Faiths class, you are right! However, after two years of NFs, Part I and Part II, that very hard-working team of teachers recommends that there be a break. So Neighboring Faiths will be offered again in 2009-2010. Meanwhile, I am working on plans with your new DRE, Jolinda Stephens, for our Grade 6/7/8 class to have an experimental year in 2008-09, looking at issues of race, oppression and privilege as they relate to young people. The teaching team will work with Jolinda using the UUA "Race to Justice: A Racial Justice and Diversity Program for Junior High" and other related materials, and develop a custom-designed curriculum. If you are interested in joining this important team, please contact the RE Office.

NOTE: any Grade 8 students who opt out of OWL, or any visiting Grade 8s, should attend this group, as Grade 8 OWL closes registration after the end of September.

There will be several other different curricula being used next year in Sunday School, including the 11 am Grade 4/5 "Jesus and his Kingdom of Equals" with its emphasis on the radical messages of equality and justice that Jesus brought to the world in his time. This well-known UU curriculum looks at Jesus as a man and important teacher, and can help young UUs understand more about the Biblical context, teachings and stories that many of their more Christian classmates espouse. And the **Grade 1s and 2s at both 9 and 11 am** will be using new materials from the UUA's "**Tapestry of Faith**" programs currently under development. For more information about this curriculum, see the UUA website or handouts available in the Sunday School Info Area.

**The sign-up charts for all of our Sunday School teachers, leaders, mentors, etc, with classes and committees outlined for 2008-09**, are up in the SS Info Area. Please discuss your interest with the IDRE or with others already involved –and sign up soon! What an exciting time of year!

Blessings,



# ANNUAL MEETING

**June 8, 2008, 12:15 pm at the church**

*In a congregational-polity church like ours, the people have to ratify and suggest and govern and shape the future. Please plan on coming if you can possibly make it. – Rev. Mark Belletini*

Annual Meeting Business:

- 1) Vote to give Rev. Wendy Fish the designation of Minister Emerita
- 2) Honor Wendy's time at First UU
- 3) Vote to approve the operating budget for the 2008-2009 fiscal year
- 4) Elect Trustees, the Nominating Committee, the Committee on Church Ministry, and Moderator.

Child Care available  
Rides for seniors can be arranged

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT....**

**BOARD of TRUSTEES** 5 to be elected (one to finish Dan Hronek's term)

**Nominees: Patricia Boughton; Rich Humenick; Sarah Graffagnino; Kevin O'Neil and Kay Gaskill** (one year term). Bios of Pat, Rich, and Kay were printed in the April 27 issue.

**Sarah Graffagnino:** My husband, Graff and I have been members of First UU for about 15 years. For most of that time I've sung in the choir. I've had enriching experiences teaching Sunday school, including two years of the owl program and a couple years teaching the grade school level classes in which my grandson participated.

**Kevin O'Neil:** I serve our congregation in several mostly behind-the-scene ways. What motivates my volunteerism is a phrase from my Boy Scout days, "cheerful service."

**COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY** (two to be elected; one appointed)

**Ginny Wemmerus (to be elected for 3 year term)**

**Doug Rossiter (to be elected for one year term)**

Doug, with Rosemary and son Ben, has been a member of the church for about three years. He currently serves on the Worship Committee and has been part of the BREAD team for this past year.

**Cindy Dillard** (to be appointed for 3 year term)

**MODERATOR** (one to be elected) **Steve Abbott** (Bio in April 27 issue.)

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**Nominees** (4 to be elected)

**Sarah Case, Karen Dawson, Shirley Lange, Geoff Mize, Julie Pinsonneault, Marilyn Page, Karen Torvik, Jack Wisniewski**

### **Bios:**

**Sarah Case:** Member for nearly 4 years. She has shared her musical talents in services and has organized an annual music benefit service for the Leukemia & Lymphoma Society. She has felt very supported by her church home and looks forward to becoming more involved. Sarah typically attends the 9AM service with her husband Peter and 3-year-old son Ian.

**Karen Dawson:** active member for 25 years; I served on the Board of Trustees and as Chair of the Board; as chair of the Inclusiveness/Diversity Committee; co-chair of the Second Service Committee; Sunday School Teacher; helped develop the Coming of Age Program (Mentor in the first class) and the Covenant Group Program. Helped lead our Leadership Development efforts.

**Shirley Lange:** I've participated in this church community for 20 years in a variety of roles, including choir member, conference organizer, and Search Committee co-chair. My family and I have been rooted in our spiritual home through SYC, RE, Interweave, the music program, and yes, even committees! I love our diverse and welcoming community and would be pleased to serve.

**Geoff Mize:** Seven years ago, my family came to this church as part of our search for a community of faith in which to better raise a child. We stayed here because of the Seven Principles that we covenant. I became involved in the church because of the people.

**Julie Pinsonneault:** I was 4 when my parents joined a Unitarian-Universalist congregation. I was active in UU youth programming, where I met my husband Marc. Joined First UU in 1995. My leadership experience includes the Nominating Committee, organizing 13 Labor Day weekend retreats, and serving on the OMD Board of Trustees twice.

**Marilyn Page:** Current Chair of the Caring Committee

**Karen Torvik:** Current Co-Chair of the Grounds Committee

**Jack Wisniewski:** member for about 5 years. Choir; played piano for services; Information Technology Committee; Youth Adult Steering Committee; mentor and now teacher for the Coming of Age program; co-founder of a First UU chapter of UFETA (Unitarian Universalists for the Ethical Treatment of Animals). Studying to become a UU minister.

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**Don't forget!** Annual reports are due to the front office by Thursday, May 15. Send to [marian@firstuucolumbus.org](mailto:marian@firstuucolumbus.org).