

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 72, #82, October 12, 2008

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WORSHIP SERVICES
October Theme: Forgiveness

October 19, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.	Rev. Mark Belletini
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"The Beauty of it All"

Social Justice Offering

October 26, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.	Rev. Stefan Jonasson & Rev. Mark Belletini
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"Local Growth of Spirit"

How can the local congregation help each member deepen?

November Theme: Gratitude

November 2, 2008 – 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.	Rev. Mark Belletini
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"On Not Being the Higher Power"

Standard Time begins. Set watches back one hour.

► **Getting to Know UU** meets Sunday mornings in Slowter Lounge after each Worship Service.

Wednesday, October 15, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
 7:00p UU Humanists; Membership Com.
 7:00p Cov. Grp. Steering Team; RE Council
 7:30p Men's Spirituality; Hatha Yoga
 8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, October 16, 2008

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 7:00p Global Warming; Artist's Way
 7:15p Governance Documents Com.
 7:30p Chalice (11:00 A.M.) Choir

Friday, October 17, 2008

9:45a Cov. Grp. Curriculum Team
 12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission
 7:00p Mark's 10th Anniversary Party

Saturday, October 18, 2008

8:30a Zen Meditation
 1:00p HappensDance

Sunday, October 19, 2008

9:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
 10:15a Getting to Know UU
 11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
 12:15p Getting to Know UU
 12:45p Book Discussion; Navigating the Church
 1:00p Boy Friendly Groups; Service Project
 1:00p Youth Group

Monday, October 20, 2008

11:00a UU Handcrafts and Book Society
 6:00p COA Team
 7:00p UU Social Dance; BREAD Team
 7:00p Grief and Loss; Building Com.
 7:00p Sunday School Committee

Tuesday, October 21, 2008

10:00a Archives Organizing
 1:00p Cancer Support Groups
 5:00p Memoir Writing
 5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7pm)
 6:15p Peace Pals Choir
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir; Zen Meditation
 7:00p Book Bites; Stewardship Com.
 7:30p Finance Committee
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, October 22, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
 7:00p Holly Near Concert (doors open at 6:00)
 7:00p Board of Trustees; Memoir Writing
 7:30p Men's Spirituality; Hatha Yoga
 8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, October 23, 2008

9:30a Improvisational Dance
 7:00p Soul Collage; Global Warming
 7:30p Chalice Choir

Friday, October 24, 2008

9:00a UU Food Co-op
 7:00p Other Friday Films

Saturday, October 25, 2008

8:30a Zen Meditation
 9:00a Mission/Vision

Sunday, October 26, 2008

9:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
 10:15a Getting to Know UU
 11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
 12:15p Getting to Know UU
 1:00p Bookstore Volunteers; UU Artists
 2:00p PFLAG
 6:00p Bridge Club

Monday, October 27, 2008

11:00a UU Handcrafts/Book Society
 6:30p Candidates Night
 7:00p UU Social Dance; Healing Journey
 7:30p Music Committee

Tuesday, October 28, 2008

9:00a Newsletter folding
 10:00a Archives Organizing
 1:00p Cancer Support Groups
 5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7pm)
 6:15p Peace Pals Choir
 7:00p Rising Voices Choir
 7:00p Atheist/Agnostic; Zen Meditation
 7:00p Women's Sharing Circle
 7:30p Men's Spirituality
 7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, October 29, 2008

1:00p Archives Organizing
 7:30p Men's Spirituality; Hatha Yoga
 7:30p The Healing Self
 8:00p Women's Spirituality

7:30p Wednesdays, FOCUS meets in the OSU Campus area. Call 447-8407.

The next issue of *The Discoverer*: **Sunday, October 26. Deadline: 1:00pm** – hard copy in the church office; or **6:00pm** – e-mail copy to olwfire@yahoo.com.

One morning when I was nine years old, I was watching Saturday morning cartoons when my grandmother called with the news that my uncle Dave, my father's younger brother, had died. After several previous attempts, at 26, Dave had taken his own life.

Earlier in my childhood I learned that grownups could cry just like me when my mother badly hurt her foot. But I had no idea that grownups could wail like my father did after the memorial service for Dave. Clearly this was something big. A new doorway had opened into what it meant to be human.

I have thought back to that moment often during my ministry, especially while sitting with those who are facing deep grief for the first time and are upended by the experience, caught off guard by waves of sadness or despair.

Each of us may grieve in our own way, but all of us will grieve.

If you are grieving a recent loss or something that happened in the past which you still carry with you, consider taking part in the congregation's new series *The Healing Journey*. Kathleen Fowler and I will lead the six-week series which will begin on Monday, October 27 at 7pm and end on Monday, December 1. The groups will be offered again quarterly through the church year. Not exactly a support group or class and a little like a Covenant Group, these sessions will provide opportunities to explore many facets of the grieving experience: from facing stillness, to finding permission to grieve, to expressing gratitude even while we are grieving. I recommend *The Healing Journey* to you.

Please contact me at 267-4946 ext. 23 or ericm@firstuucolumbus.org for further information or to register. Of course, drop-ins will always be welcome.

In peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR Thanks to the nearly 200 attendees at the recent Fellowship Dinner, we began a conversation on the issue of our name and its relationship to the overall mission and vision of our congregation. At last year's Annual Meeting, the membership directed the Board to form a committee to explore this issue. Following our meal, we had lively and diverse table discussions about whether a name change is warranted, and if so, what alternatives might be considered. John Dickinson, chair of the ad hoc Committee on Church Name, collected the written results, which will help the committee as it continues to study this issue and seek feedback from members and friends. The next opportunity for congregation-wide input on our future course will take place at our Mission and Vision retreat on Saturday, October 25, from 9-4. Please plan to attend.

Then on October 26, we will participate in UUA Association Sunday, a fund-raising event to support the important work of our national association. We will give the baskets at both services to Association Sunday. Last year the UUA raised more than \$1.4 million to fund a national advertising campaign, support ministers of color and their congregations, and provide growth grants to congregations. This year's campaign, titled "Growing Our Spirit," will raise funds for theological training for lay leadership and to support excellence in ministry. Our national association is a tremendous resource to us, and deserves our modest contribution on Association Sunday.

--David Easter, Chair, Board of Trustees

MISSION/VISION *Discovering Our Saving Message.* Your help is needed as we look to the future. Why are you a member of First UU Columbus? What is our important contribution to our local and global community? How can we better reach out to and serve those who are part of us, but have

yet to discover Unitarian Universalism? These are just some of the questions that Stefan Jonasson will help us unwrap during our vision/mission process on October 25, 9-4.

A light breakfast will be available from 8:30 – 9am and lunch will also be provided. Please take just a moment to register on-line (<http://www.firstuucolumbus.org/signmeup/form-vision.htm>) or in Fellowship Hall after services on October 19 so we can provide food, transportation and child care as needed.

ASSOCIATION SUNDAY October 26

\$\$\$ Last year began a new tradition within Unitarian Universalist Association congregations - Association Sunday. We gave the October 25 Sunday collection of \$2327 to a special fund within the UUA. (See the Board Chair's column.) Fifty percent went to increasing public awareness of Unitarian Universalism through the Time magazine ads; 25% went to the diversity of Ministry Initiative; and 25% went to the districts to support congregational growth. More info at: <http://www.uua.org/giving/associationSunday/112319.shtml>.

This year, the funds will be used to support lay theological education programs (50%) and to support Excellence in Ministry Programs (\$50). Deepening both the lay and ministerial understanding of our faith, our traditions and our daily spiritual practices can only strengthen our movement and better enable us to support the social justice and outreach programs that are the cornerstone of Unitarian Universalism. \$\$\$

STEWARDSHIP: Short, sweet and spiced with spirit! In this current climate of financial uncertainty, the Stewardship Committee would like to remind the congregation that the spiritual practice of stewardship is one of good self-care. Individually we are called to be responsible for our bodies, spirits and actions. As stewards of our congregation we covenant to share these responsibilities.

Money is an imperfect tool we use to facilitate the exchange of goods and services, a convenient way to trade or freely give our energy to one another. When systems of financial exchange falter, our energy and good will remains. So please take stock of your investment of time, talent, energy and money in our religious community. We hope you will find, as we have, that our stock in each other continues to grow and pays dividends of faith and hope.

ACORN SOCIETY Members of the Acorn Society enjoyed a reception at the home of Dan Hronek on August 26, to celebrate two decades of growth for our endowment fund. "Acorn Society" is the name given to First UU members and friends who have already included our First UU Church in their wills. Guests included those in the process of making their bequests. All learned about the current status of the endowment and received their acorn pins.

If you have contemplated including First UU in your will and would like more information, look for the Planned Giving brochure in the Gallery, contact Alice Faryna at 442-9310, or alicyna@yahoo.com, and look for the folks wearing the golden acorn.

TRY SOMETHING NEW AT FIRST UU!

Where else can you get great exercise, meet new, friendly people of all ages and backgrounds, learn a new skill and enjoy live music played by top-level musicians! In a church community the size of First UU, it can be daunting for new members to explore the smaller communities that allow us to connect to each others' lives so richly. One such established community is the All Soles Contra Dance, open to new dancers ages 8-80, who come together one evening a month to learn this highly social, centuries-old American folk dance. No experience is required (all dances are taught and prompted by a caller), no partner is needed (we change partners after

each dance and enjoy meeting new people), smiles abound, laughter is guaranteed, and the music is high-energy.

Friday, October 31 in Fellowship Hall – a Halloween Contra Dance (costume encouraged) featuring caller Susan Moffett and Hot Club of Derbytown, all from Louisville, KY. Hot Club's cool tones harken back to Django Reinhardt's smooth French influence on the American jazz scene of the 1930s. Veteran performers Tom Cunningham, "Django" Jim Webb, and Blue 'Bleu' Murphy will bring this sophisticated and energetic music to All Soles Contra Dance, along with red-hot gypsy melodies and old-time blues and ragtime music. Teaching session at 7:30; dancing from 8:00-10:30, Admission is \$7 (\$4 for under age 25). Children are welcome to dance if interested and able, and childcare is also available in a separate room. Feel free to bring a Halloween-themed snack or dessert to share! Also bring a refillable water bottle. Details at <http://firstuucolumbus.org/AllSoles> or call Kate Power at 789-0652.

ENTERTAINMENT BOOKS Buy a book and help our Coming of Age group at the same time! Entertainment Books. \$20 each with \$4.00 going to the Coming of Age group. These books have 50% off coupons and other value savings for places and events: Columbus area restaurants, dry cleaners, BalletMet, Wexner Center etc. Available in Fellowship Hall on Sundays, or call Karin Erickson, 833-6479

"HAPPENDANCE"- Two sessions - sponsored by Adult Enrichment Programs, designed with your natural dance-self in mind. Jo Dickinson, MA, will guide adult woman and men in a dancing, mainly improvised, expressive experience using everyday movement abilities. Saturday, **October 18 or November 1 from 1-3pm** in Fellowship Hall. Attend either or both; no need to pre-register.

Wear clothing to allow full movement...and sneakers. No fee; contributions to AEP gladly accepted. – Jo, 888-7677.

SPIRIT OF LIFE, SPIRIT OF LOVE -- an evening of celebration, music, and fellowship on **Friday, October 17, starting at 7:00pm.** to celebrate Rev. Mark Belletini's 10th anniversary as our Senior Minister. There will be guest speakers from Mark's past and present, all four choirs will sing, and there will be a reception in Fellowship Hall following the program. Call the church office (267-4946) to arrange for child care.

BOOKBITES October 21, 7-9 pm in Slowter lounge. Topic: a book about a political candidate or campaign. In addition, bring a short essay about "What I learned during the great wind storm of 2008" to read at the meeting! – Kathleen Boston

BOOK EXCHANGE Thanks to all who participated in the October Book Exchange. The remaining books were donated to Buckeye Bargains at OSU. The profits from their book sales go to a scholarship fund.

FALL WORK DAY Saturday November 8. The Building and Grounds committee would like to invite all who contribute to First UU in any way to attend a Volunteer Appreciation Breakfast. Working after the breakfast is not a pre-requisite to attending the free breakfast!

Work will include some bulb and bush planting and raking leaves (if you have a rake, please bring it). Register with the B&G committee after services starting October 19. so we know how much food to prepare. Child care available. If you need transportation, contact Michael at 267-4946x25.

OTHER FRIDAY FILM SERIES will feature "Uncle Tom's Cabin" on Friday, October 24 at 7:00pm.

FORUM Wednesday, October 15, 7pm, Dr. Asma Mobin-Uddin and Editor Ben Marrison, The Columbus Dispatch, will discuss the issues related to "The Obsession," a DVD disk distributed within the Columbus community to attack Muslims and the candidacy of Barack Obama.

THANKS to everyone for helping to make the Fellowship Dinner a success. We learned that we really do need five tables for all of the wonderful potluck donations as well as a special table for appetizers! We especially want to thank everyone who helped to set up the dinner, cleaned up afterward, and set everything up for Sunday services Many hands made for light work and fellowship!
--Margaret Haldeman and Becky Wolff

SOCIAL JUSTICE

The Community Resource Center, located in Clintonville, thanks First UU Church for its annual support again this October in providing volunteers and food for its monthly brunch for senior citizens in this community. Thank you to Rev. Carol Brody, Ruth Ann Farthing, Jo-E. Miller, Joan Shkolnik, Jeannie Sperling, Jane Young and Erin Young Kirwin.

YWCA FAMILY CENTER 4th Friday Taco and Brownie Dinner We did it again! We served a delicious meal to the families at the YWCA Family Center. We fed about 190 people. As usual they were extremely grateful.

Saun Rose and her children, Joe and Jordan, were able to take some time and read to some of the children there after the second serving. Candyce Walchesky cooked and helped serve both meals. Barbie and Megan Luna washed all the dishes and (due to my not so great defrosting techniques) the burnt pots and pans. Barbara Hunt and Bridgette Mazer at Wendy's generously donated produce for the dinner.

Our next date at the Family Center is **Friday, October 24**. We could use some more volunteers. If you are interested in helping out

two hours once a month (always the 4th Friday) to really make a difference with people please, please, please give me a call at 274-2457 or email me at mcutcheoncathy@yahoo.com. We need cooks to come at 4:45, servers to come at 5:45 and/or 6:45. If you are not available on Fridays, but would like to help, we could use someone to do the shopping or the donation pickup at Wendy's corporate office on Thursday afternoons. -- Cathy McCutcheon

EMPTY BOWLS-Saturday, November 15, 11am-2pm. This annual event is a fundraiser for the Mid-Ohio Foodbank. Bring a pot of your favorite soup, help serve or just stop by to enjoy hot soup and good company. For a \$10 donation, you can enjoy soup and bread and pick out a ceramic bowl to take home.--



Support Drive: Kudos to Suzanne Condray and Kim Raderstorf, Danya Furda and Jim Pinkham, Cathy and Kevin O'Neil, and Laurie Weltlin for their financial investments in BREAD's work to bring justice to central Ohio. First UU members' investments now total \$11,555, nearing the \$12,310 total we reached last year. Write your generous, tax-deductible check to BREAD (**not** First UU) and mail/bring it to the church in an envelope marked BREAD.

Listening Process: The problems BREAD chooses to address are selected democratically by you, me, and the members of the other BREAD congregations. But without participation, there can be no democracy! Only seven more BREAD house meetings (10 persons each) for community building, your input toward selecting a serious community problem for BREAD to work on in 2009, additional information on Issue 5 (vote YES to prevent the Payday Lending APR from returning to 391%), and to give BREAD your opinion re a new idea for providing more

primary health care in Franklin County. Please contact Alice Rathburn, 895-2109 , or alice37@insight.rr.com, to indicate the BREAD House Meeting you will attend or go to the BREAD table after October worship services to make a reservation.

- Saturday, 10/18 – 7:00pm Refreshments; 7:15pm meeting (Ben Sostrom; near OSU)
- Sunday, 10/19 – 12:45pm Light lunch; 1:00 pm; meeting (Wesley Thompson; at 1st UU)
- Tuesday, 10/21 – 6:45pm Refreshments; 7:00pm meeting (Don Hippensteel; near Morse and I-71)
- Thursday, 10/23 - 6:45pm Refreshments; 7:00pm meeting (Rathburn; near I-270 and Cleveland)
- Tuesday, 10/28 - 6:45pm Refreshments; 7:00pm meeting (Susan Gorman; Hilliard)
- Wednesday, 10/29 - 6:45pm Refreshments;
- 7:00pm Meeting (M. Timmons/W. Miller; Dublin)
- Sunday 11/2 - 2:00pm (Doug Rossiter; Old Worthington)

MEET THE CANDIDATES FORUM

Monday, October 27 at First UU Church Reception at 6:30pm; Program at 7:00pm
Races for US Congress 15th District; Ohio Senate 16th District; Ohio House 21st and 22nd Districts; Franklin County Commissioners; Clerk of Courts and Coroner; City of Columbus Voted Bond Package and Columbus City Schools Levy/Bond Issue
--The Franklin County Consortium for Good Government, First UU Church, and Congregation Beth Tikvah

ATHENS COUNTY/APPALACHIA MINISTRY Greetings from Rev. Ray Ogburn, Director of the "Feed My Sheep" food pantry in Mineral, OH. He thanks us for all of our donations during the past four years. More donations are needed each week. Please bring peanut butter, mac and cheese, spaghetti and sauce, canned meats, fruits and veggies. A large bag of groceries now costs \$30; a

small one, \$15. Warm clothing of all sizes is needed. And don't forget those aluminum cans! Please bring items to the Social Justice Table on Sunday. – Jacques Angelino,



SPECIAL CONCERT "Sing Out the Vote—Suite for Change" Holly Near, Laura Love, John McCutcheon and 11 other folk singers will be at First UU for a musical rally on Wednesday, October 22. Doors open at 6:00pm; concert at 7:00.

Tickets (\$10) from Global Gallery in the Short North; First UU, 267-4946, ext. 21; or from David Maywhoor, 738-0100.

– Michael Brennan, Church Administrator

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Colin and Ruby Classen** on the birth of their son; to **Shane Roussi** who was awarded his First Degree Black Belt in martial arts and presented with a "Warrior Award" for his spirit and determination during the test; and to **Ruby Linhan** who is celebrating her new job at Rosemont Center.

Our sympathy to **Sam Kiner and Jeannie Sperling** on the death of Sam's mother.

NEW GRIEF/LOSS GROUP "The Healing Journey" (see Eric's column) 7-8:30pm in the church library. Six consecutive Monday nights – October 27 – December 1. A second round will begin Monday January 19, 2009; a third will get underway Monday April 6, 2009. Rev. Eric Meter, Kathleen Fowler, and Suzan McCrystal will serve as facilitators. Kathleen and Suzan have completed seminary work in preparation for the UU ministry and currently serve as hospital chaplains. A brochure will be available at Caring Table.

1. Eric and I will be away from October 13 to October 16, noonish. Our Ohio River Study Group. This year, Unitarian Universalist Theology, including Thandeka and folks like Charles Hartshorne. Probably most of you will have received this after we are already back anyway! But thought it best you should know.
2. I am still a bit high after the concert with Meg Barnhouse and Kaya Heartland on Saturday. A total rush of joy and deep wisdom. Sharing my pulpit with Meg was a privilege, even though the service did go a bit over. My friends David and Tim were here with their two boys, Jaden and Ty, this weekend too, giving me extra joy. This is proving to be a rich month around here.
3. Remember to sign up...online if you like, at our website...to come to the Mission/Vision Saturday on October 25 from 9am to 4pm. As society grows and changes, so does the mission of a lively and pertinent congregation of principle and peace. Stefan Jonasson of Winnipeg, our Unitarian Universalist Large Church Consultant, will help us through an exercise to compose a fresh vision and mission. There are other articles in the *Discoverer* about this.
4. Talking with a member of the congregation recently, I came to realize how newsy these *Markings* columns have become...so much is going on. So I intend to offer something perhaps more spiritual, more depth-centered rather than activity-centered, each and every time I write. This week's offering: a prayer by poet Katherine Mosby in her *Uncommon Prayer 1996*

*Deliver me to myself
that I may stop fretting the hours in vain,
looking for what's lacking,
always elsewhere and otherwise.
Let befall me the peace
which drops like wind, suddenly,
between the folds of a linnets wing,
between shadow and sky,
the hush of the intervals of quiet
between question, between the calls
of crickets, the sorrows of one season
and the next, swift and sure and sharp
as grace.*



Rev. Mark Belletini

Rev. Mark Belletini, Senior Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Consulting Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Jolinda Stephens, Director of Religious Education
Dick Dawson, Chaplain
Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Doug O'Neal/Elizabeth Woodhouse, Choir Directors
Nathan Hamm, Pianist/Accompanist
Michael Brennan, Church Administrator

Marian Garcia, Administrative Assistant
Deb McGuire, Staff Secretary/RE Assistant
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
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Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
David Easter, Chair, Board of Trustees
Bob Graffagnino, Co-Webmaster
Kevin O'Neil, Co-Webmaster
Olwen Firestone, Newsletter Editor

Lifespan Faith Development

Do I love being a DRE! There is just so much going on in my world. Let me give you a few peeks:

I just heard last night from Carol Robison, one of the facilitators for our campus ministry, FOCUUS, which meets on Wednesday nights on the OSU campus. They had their first gathering for the new year recently and there were many new faces among the 20 students, about the largest gathering they have had. Carol is also one of three adults who are supporting a new Junior High Youth Group meeting the 1st and 3rd Sundays at 12:30. Many of our Junior High youth will be heading to the Junior High Conference in Pittsburgh the weekend of November 7.

Coming of Age is preparing for Fall Retreat, also on November 7 and they are beginning to recruit mentors. I don't think there is a volunteer position that is more engaging or more important than mentoring our Coming of Age youth.

The 4th and 5th grade group at 11am is busy preparing models of a Galilean village of 2000 years ago and thinking up a skit to explain to the whole congregation what they are learning about the radical kingdom of equals that Jesus preached about. That class supplied most of the actors for the skit in the October 12th 11 am service and they enjoyed a potluck between services that same Sunday. The 9am 3rd to 6th grade group supplied most of the actors for the 9am service.

The Middle School is exploring ways to deal with racism this year. They have recently looked at mtDNA sequences and discovered that mtDNA for people on the same continent often show more differences than mtDNA for people on different continents.

Currently, we have two sexuality education classes, called Our Whole Lives (OWL), on Sunday morning, one for the Junior High and a second for the Senior High. In the winter and spring, shorter classes will be offered to the 4th and 5th graders and another for the kindergarteners and 1st graders. Meanwhile our 4 and 5 year olds in the Web of Life groups at both 9 and 11 are reveling in their love of nature and the wonder of it. Each week they walk to their special place and note how it has changed from the Sunday before. Recently, they raked up fallen leaves and made a huge tree decorated with leaf rubbings.

We have secured some exciting adult events and classes for the Winter/Spring term. Here's a sample. The Rev. Susan Ritchie will present a seminar on the relationship between Unitarianism in our early European history and Islam; a one-woman show called (M)other will be a highlight of Women's History Month; and a new UU couples' relationship course designed especially for all those in committed relationships, is in the works. The Adult Enrichment Program (AEP) committee is putting together the brochure for the January through May term NOW. Make sure you get your proposals to them. See the people at the AEP table each Sunday or email Judy Fettman.

There is lots more going on. More than 70 dedicated, vital people make the Sunday School happen each week. There are a few opportunities for you to be a part of all this. We need a few more people for both the 9am and 11am groups. Please call me or drop by the Information Area on Sunday morning to sign up.

I will be off to training and a conference of my professional organization from October 21 to October 28. Please talk to Deb McGuire, the new RE Assistant, or the chairs of the Sunday School Committee, Julie Henderson and Katie Swett, and the RE Council, Margaret Haldeman and Amy Thompson. My usual office hours are Mon-Thurs from 1 to 5, with staff meetings on Wednesday until 2:30. To meet at other times, please call 267-4946, extension 28. Our new RE Assistant is in the office Monday-Wednesday in the mornings.

Jolinda Stephens

Please welcome a familiar face to a new role. Staff Secretary and Sunday Receptionist, Deb McGuire, is our new RE Assistant. Deb has been a Sunday School volunteer for many years. She has her MA in counseling and has worked as a family and child therapist. She leaves her receptionist duties now to make sure that Sunday School runs smoothly and continues as Staff Secretary.

Calling all 7th, 8th and 9th Graders. It's "CONFidential," the spy-themed Junior High Con, the weekend of November 7 at the First UU Church of Pittsburgh. Registration must be signed by the DRE and turned in to Kathleen Fowler, the new CONcierge, by October 17. The First UU registration form is in the Youth CONcierge mailbox. Download the district form from the website - <http://www.ohiomeadville.org/yac/index.php>. There will be a meeting for those new to cons and their parents on October 16 at 7 pm.

Calling all 6-8th graders. There is fun and food just for you at 12:30 on the first and third Sundays each month in room 7. Come find out what's happening.

The New Year/Samhain celebration for Turning of the Earth Wheel has been moved from October 25 to November 1 at 7pm. It will be a participatory circle worship, featuring holidays from around the world at this time of year, and music from a variety of traditions.

Come discover your Dancing Self with Jo Dickinson on Saturday, October 18 and November 1 from 1 to 3pm. It's called HappensDance and everyone can do it. (See page 5)

Sign up now at the AEP Information Table for *The Healing Self* with Dr. Jeanne Desy on Wednesdays at 7:30pm starting October 29. Explore four classic methods for lowering stress and encouraging your own healing capacity.

Please Register for the “SOUP, SERVICE AND LEADERSHIP” Workshops.

On October 19 the first of the “Soup, Service and Leadership Development” Workshops will be offered from 12:45-3:30 after Church. A light lunch of soup and salad will be served. The Nominating Committee is sponsoring the series this year. The workshop is free. Complete the registration form below online or leave at the office or at the AEP table on Sundays.

Workshop Schedule:

- October 19: “Navigating the Church,” facilitated by Doris Oursler, Chas. Williams
- November 16: “Nurturing the Leader Within,” facilitated by Laura Adams & Sharon Stout-Shaffer
- January 18: “Working Effectively with Volunteers,” facilitated by Michael Brennan & Karen Dawson
- March 22: “Conflict as Opportunity,” facilitated by Karen Dawson and others

100% of past participants said the Church should offer the workshops. Comments from workshop participants include:

Navigating the Church:

- √ “I learned a lot about church structure and how things get done”
- √ “Very beneficial for new and seasoned members”

Nurturing the Leader Within:

- √ “I definitely feel that I and others received positive feedback and helpful information.”
- √ “There are so many new, talented members in our church family—this really acknowledged that everyone has leadership potential and can play a significant role in the church”

Working Effectively with Volunteers:

- √ “I liked the idea of hospitality as spiritual practice”
- √ “Of interest to any church member—we are all affected by quality and number of volunteers here”

Conflict as Opportunity

- √ “I began to see that conflict can be used as an opportunity to see problems from other perspectives”
 - √ “It is helpful for anyone, whether in a leadership position or not, to learn how to effectively handle conflict”
- *****

Soup, Service and Leadership: Workshop Registration (2008-2009)

Name: _____ Telephone: _____

E-Mail: _____

October 19 -- Navigating the Church _____

November 16 --Nurturing the Leader Within _____

January 18 -- Working Effectively with Volunteers _____

March 22 -- Conflict as Opportunity _____

Cost: FREE

Child Care Needed? Yes ___ No ___ (If Yes, Number and ages of children _____)

Need Transportation? Yes ___ No ___ (If Yes, please specify _____)

PARTNER CHURCH

Please join the Partner Church workgroup on Sunday, November 2 at 1:00pm for a light lunch and an opportunity to learn more about partnership and what it might mean for First UU. We want your input and involvement in this opportunity to come to know people in a very different part of the world with whom we share a religious connection.

The Partner Church workgroup has read and studied and talked to UUs whose churches are involved in partnership. We have spoken with outreach workers from the Partner Church Council and listened to members of Cincinnati's St. John's Church tell us of their partner church experience. Finally, we have drafted an application for partnership we will submit to the Partner Church Council soon. Typically, a partnership is an on-going relationship between a church in North America and a Unitarian or UU congregation overseas. Please check out <http://www.uupcc.org/> for more information.

The Partner Church Council performs an important role in matching congregations seeking partnership. We have been in conversation and know there are congregations seeking partners from three main areas—Transylvania, the Philippines, and the Khasi Hills in India. We are interested in establishing a partnership that will be a true partnership, allowing us to share and learn together. If we have strong feelings about a partnership in a particular area, the council will listen. Otherwise, they will use their knowledge and experience to make a match.

Partnership typically involves regular communication - sharing the activities, joys, and challenges of the two congregations. Visits help deepen the relationship and allow exploration of further partnership opportunities. Children may share their traditions of holiday celebration. Adults may be interested in pen pals. Other congregations have provided scholarships to support college students, traveled to conduct summer day camps, and sent their choirs to visit and tour. We are limited only by our imaginations and the resources we may choose to marshal.

We expect to start slowly and carefully, establishing the relationship with intention and care. We will work to establish protocols for communication and, eventually, a congregation-to-congregation covenant.

We hope you will make the time to attend the information session on 11/2. Please RSVP to Gretchen Faulstich, 481-9754, to help us plan the food and to let us know if you need childcare.

Gretchen Faulstich, for the Partner Church workgroup.