

The
DISCOVERER
Volume 72, #95, April 12, 2009

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

THE FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
Of COLUMBUS
93 West Weisheimer Rd. Columbus OH 43214
phone: 614-267-4946; fax: 614-267-4924
email: Office@FirstUUColumbus.org
web <http://www.FirstUUColumbus.org>

PUBLISHED BI-WEEKLY

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

TIME DATED MATERIAL – PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY

WORSHIP SERVICES
April Theme: Restoration

April 19, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

First UU Youth

"Restoration in Family Relationships"

April 26, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Morrison Read

"Dragged Kicking and Screaming Into Heaven"

See Markings on the back page for more information about our guest speaker.

Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed will be signing his latest book, In Between: Memoirs of an Integration Baby, between services and he will read from the book at 12:30, following the Worship Service.

May Theme: Family

May 3, 2009 - 9:00 A.M. & 11:00 A.M.

Rev. Mark Belletini

"How to Create a Family"

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

Wednesday, April 15, 2009

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Membership Com.; UU Humanists
7:30p Men's Spirituality; Healing Journey
8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, April 16, 2009

9:30a Improvisational Dance
6:00p Communications Committee
6:45p Nonviolent Commun. Practice
7:30p Chalice (11:00 A.M.) Choir

Friday, April 17, 2009

9:00a UU Food Co-op
12:00p Cooking for Faith Mission

Saturday, April 18, 2009

8:30a Zen Meditation
9:00a Principled Commitment
9:00a Voluntary Simplicity

Sunday, April 19, 2009

8:30p Breakfast
9:00a/11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a/12:15a Getting to Know UU
12:30p Youth Group
12:30p Job Search Workshop
12:45p "Five Wishes" Workshop
1:00p Green Team; Afghan Knitting Bee
1:00p Nominating Committee

Monday, April 20, 2009

11:00a UU Handcrafts & Book Society
6:00p COA Team
6:45p Sunday School Committee
7:00p Building Com.; UU Social Dance

Tuesday, April 21, 2009

10:00a Archives Organizing
1:00p Cancer Support Groups
5:00p Memoir Writing
5:30p Tuesday Night Supper (until 7:00p)
6:15p Peace Pals Choir
7:00p Zen Meditation; Rising Voices Choir
7:00p Sound Techs; Stewardship Committee
7:00p Finance Committee; Book Bites
7:00p R.E. Council
7:30p BYOT; Roots & Wings
7:45p Spirit of Life Choir

Wednesday, April 22, 2009

1:00p Archives Organizing
7:00p Memoir Writing Grp.; Bd. Of Trustees
7:30p Hatha Yoga; Men's Spirituality
7:30p Healing Journey

8:00p Women's Spirituality

Thursday, April 23, 2009

9:30a Improvisational Dance
7:00p Soul Collage; Writing Better Memoirs
7:30p Chalice Choir

Friday, April 24, 2009

7:00p Other Friday Film Series

Saturday, April 25, 2009

8:30a Zen Meditation
9:00a Path to Membership
9:00a Voluntary Simplicity
4:00p SYC 40th Anniversary Celebration

Sunday, April 26, 2009

8:30p Breakfast
9:00a/11:00a Worship Service/Sunday School
10:15a/12:15a Getting to Know UU
12:45p YASC
1:00p UU Artists; Children's Clothing Swap
1:30p UU Hist. Nuts; Mark Morrison-Read
2:00p PFLAG
6:00p Bridge Club (732-5108)
7:00p Voluntary Simplicity II

Monday, April 27, 2009

11:00a UU Handcrafts/Book Society
7:00p UU Social Dance; First UU Allies

Tuesday, April 28, 2009

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

Wednesday, April 29, 2009

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

7:30p Wednesdays, FOCUS meets in the OSU Campus area. Call 330-805-0207.

The next issue of *The Discoverer*: **Sunday, April 26, 2009**. Deadline: **1:00pm** – hard copy in the church office; or **6:00pm** – e-mail copy to olwfire@yahoo.com.

LINKS

Two items: the first is to encourage you to take part in the Pastoral Team's workshop this Sunday, ***Planning: Five Wishes for Me and My Loved Ones at the End of Life.***

If you haven't determined a Living Will or Health Care Power of Attorney, or even if you have, I would ask you to seriously consider taking part. We'll be going through a workbook called *Five Wishes* which poses questions from selecting whom you trust to make health care decision in case you are no longer able, to how you would like to be remembered. Then Pastoral Team member David Hedden will go over forms for end-of-life planning that are legal in Ohio. And please remember, no adult is too young for this sort of thing. Tragedy strikes those of any age. Planning ahead can be one of the most caring gifts you can give to you loved ones. See the blue insert for more information.

Next, I've been reading the new book by Michael Durall, a Unitarian Universalist church consultant, ***The Almost Church Revitalized.*** In one of the middle chapters is a section I keep returning to. In it, Durall talks about courage. Taking a line from William Sloan Coffin, he lifts up courage as the primary virtue, the one from which all the rest stem. Then he goes on to quote Marilynne Robinson's novel *Gilead*, in which the main character reflects, "My grandfather had nowhere to spend his courage, no way to feel it in himself." Unpacking the line would take more space than this column provides. All the same, I'd like to leave you with this question: "What does your courage guide you toward?" And while none of us are courageous all the time, have you been courageous enough lately? (Yes, you get to define that as you see fit.)

In peace,



Rev. Eric Meter

CHURCH NEWS

BOARD OF TRUSTEES - *Highlights of the March 25 meeting of the Board.* Full minutes will be posted in the Window Hallway and on the church website after they are corrected and approved at the April Board meeting. **Staff Report highlights**, presented by Eric Meter: Mark Belletini is preparing a study guide for the BREAD ministers on social justice questions brought up in the Sermon on the Mount; attended the Senior Ministers of Large Churches Conference and learned that we are doing most things very well (however, among congregations our size, we have the smallest budget); has received a very high number of pastoral calls this month. Eric Meter is serving as Interim Executive for the UU Support Ministers group; will continue the well-received monthly UU History course; is planning an evaluation of the Covenant Group program. Jolinda Stephens created an RE parents' blog; delivered a talk on Tapestry of Faith curriculum at a district event; promoted and staged major events with outside speakers. **Treasurer's Report:** Frank Phillips reported that we are in fairly good shape financially, mainly because of our revised budget. We will likely end the year with a small deficit. **Music Search:** Tony McDonald presented the calendar for the search to hire directors for the children's, youth, and Spirit of Life choirs. Search Committee: Holly Adams, Sandy Coen, Rich Humenick, Peg Meckling, Linda McNabb, and Tony. **Green Audit:** Margie Richardson and John Seryak (an engineer from Go Sustainable Energy) discussed the possible ways for the church to do an energy audit. Marge will report to the Board again in April. The goal is to reduce energy usage and costs. **Mission/ Vision:** The current version will be in the Order of Worship on coming Sundays, and also in the Discoverer and on the web-site. Feedback will be accepted until April 30. The congregation

will vote on these statements at the annual meeting in June. **Board Work Group Reports:** The four task groups reported on the progress they are making on various initiatives, including: Anti-Racism Anti-Oppression Multicultural programming; Healthy Congregation Teams; organization and financing of social justice programs, strengthening the worship program; enhancing a culture of abundance in stewardship; supporting the RE program, recommending a new model for the Committee on Church Ministry; advancing the recommendations of last year's Welcoming Plan; and promoting multi-generational community.

-- Bob Gordon, Secretary, Board of Trustees

HEALING JOURNEY A series of six sessions for anyone experiencing a deeply felt loss such as: the loss of a loved one, a relationship, a job, a pet. 7:30-9:00pm on **Wednesdays, April 8 to May 13**. Facilitated by Kathleen Fowler and Suzan McCrystal.

ROOTS & WINGS Have the worship experience ever touched something in your life or soul deeply and you wanted to talk about it, to know more, to go deeper? Join Suzan McCrystal, candidate for Unitarian Universalist ministry, for an exploration of restoration in our history and in our lives today. Third Tuesday of each month; next meeting April 21, 7:30-9pm.

BOOKBITES April 21, 7-9pm. New topic is *Little Known Women*. Questions, call Kathleen Boston, 262-4025.

HARD TIMES HELP The *CommUUnity Spring Fair*, held Sunday, April 5, attracted over 70 members, friends, and visitors to the 14 tables staffed by individuals offering services to help our "commUUnity" through challenging economic and environmental times. The interest expressed by participants

has led to a commitment by the organizers to host a table in Fellowship Hall each Sunday staffed by representatives of the different services available. An updated directory of all services will be available each week. For information or to suggest or offer additional services, contact Michael Greenman, 898-5825 or mgreenma@columbus.rr.com.

EMPOWERMENT CONTROVERSY

The **First Unitarian Universalist Church Allies** will host a viewing and discussion of the UUA documentary, *Wilderness Journey*, on **Monday, April 27, 7-9:30pm** at the church. Telling their own truth in their own voices and with their own tears, both UU ministers and lay members remember the painful time in the history of our Association when many of our African-American members and their allies walked out of General Assembly, most never to return, in a protest that is now referred to as "The Empowerment Controversy." Come learn and discuss some of the recent history of our faith and how it affects us still today. All are welcome. Refreshments included.

-- Lauri Nandyal and Steve Kraynak

OTHER FRIDAY FILM SERIES Join Len Powlick at 7 pm, April 17. The film *Putney Swope* is a devastating satire that takes on Black Power rhetoric and racism in the media and in society at large.

SPRING WORK DAY **Saturday, May 2.** Breakfast at 8:30am. Help with indoor and outdoor projects from 9 - 12. Sponsored by the Building and Grounds committees. Watch for people with clipboards on Sundays to sign up! - Roger Nash

SWAP! Children's clothing, books and toys **Sunday, April 26** in Room 9 after both services. Bring items in good condition with no stains or rips. *Please separate clothing by size.* **You do NOT need to bring clothes**

to take clothes. This is a wonderful way for children's clothes, books and toys to have an extended "greener" life.

-- Patricia Boughton, 860-1164

VOLUNTARY SIMPLICITY A brief organizational (and informational) meeting on *Sunday, April 26, 7-8pm* (to mutually agree upon non-Saturday date). Register BEFORE Tuesday, April 21 by leaving your name and phone number at 433-0363.

JOB SEARCH WORKSHOP A quick organizational and informational meeting on *Sunday, April 19, 12:30pm* (please be prompt). To register, please leave your name and number at 433-0363.

SOCIAL JUSTICE

BAKE SALE *Sunday, April 26*, after the 9:00am and 11:00am services, in Fellowship Hall. Proceeds will benefit the Middle School Youth Group's service project with Community Refugee and Immigration Services (CRIS). CRIS offers the opportunity for a group to donate a "Welcome Basket" (new or gently used items to meet the basic material needs of a family of six) to a family of refugees immigrating to Columbus. The group can choose to simply donate the items, or can do additional things such as meeting the family at the airport and/or delivering the welcome basket items to the family's new residence. The group can also choose to have a long term relationship with the family, doing things such as helping the children with homework, getting the family acquainted with Columbus, assisting members of the family working on their English, etc. A list of items the youth group needs to complete the welcome basket will be posted at the bake sale



- **PROBLEM:** Over 5,200 *documented* vacant houses in Franklin County...and many more undocumented = crime; lower property values; lost property taxes.
- **PROBLEM:** 152,000 people in Franklin County do not have health insurance = lack of primary care leads to unnecessary illness and death; overuse of Emergency Rooms.
- **SOLUTION:** YOU and YOUR FAMILY, friends, neighbors, and colleagues attending the BREAD Nehemiah Action Meeting. 3,000 BREAD congregation adults and children all gathered in one spot will not only get the attention of our public officials but also their cooperation.

BREAD Nehemiah Action Meeting
Monday, May 4 – 6:15 p.m. registration
Veterans Memorial
Free Parking...Child Care (ages 3-7)
Carpools from your neighborhood & the church

Contact Alice Rathburn at 895-2109, or 563-0536 or alice37@insight.rr.com, for more information about BREAD (www.breadcolumbus.org)

HEALTH CARE Supporters of health care for all are encouraged to attend the annual meeting of Single Payer Action Network on Saturday, April 25, 10:00am at the Ramada Conference Center, 4900Sinclair Road. The keynote speaker is Dr.Oliver Fein, president of Physicians for a National Health Program who will report on the forces shaping our national policy. Register on line at www.spanohio.org. -- Alice Faryna, alicyna@yahoo.com

APPALACHIA MINISTRY Start thinking of a time to bring your children to visit the food pantry in Athens County. Those who have been there have found the experience to be exceptional. The children help make food boxes and bag beans and rice. They also give children's books to the children who come to the pantry with their parents.

Last month the Feed My Sheep Food Pantry served a record number of families: 285. Our contributions of food and donations of money continue to provide much-appreciated support. Thanks so much.
- Jacques Angelino

WARM UP APPALACHIA Afghan Knitting Bee after church on **Sunday, April 19, 12:45 - 2:30pm**. (Our beautiful finished afghans are on display on Sundays.
- Gretchen Curtis, 734-1214

SYC's 40th Anniversary Celebration
The School for Young Children will be celebrating our 40th Anniversary on Saturday, April 25, 4:00- 8:00pm. We invite you to join us for our celebration as we share memories of the old days and hear stories about life after preschool.

If you can't come but would like to share stories about what your former SYC students are up to these days or an SYC memory please send them to: sycdirector@firstuucolumbus.org or put them in the SYC mailbox in the Volunteer Room. I will add your stories to our collection to share at our celebration.

There are paper invitations available on the poster about our celebration in the Gallery. Please give one to anyone you think might be interested in attending.

-- Stephanie Rottmayer, SYC Director

NOTE CARDS The 11:00 am first grade class has been busy making hand-stamped note cards that will be available for sale on April 19 and 26 in Fellowship Hall.

Proceeds of the sale will benefit the Clintonville-Beechwood Community Resource Center (CCRC). The class will also accept food items for their pantry. Especially welcome are: soup, cereal, canned fruit or juice, canned protein, nutritional supplement drinks, Lunchables, juice drink boxes, popcorn, one pot meals like spaghettios or stew, and cookies or candy. The class will deliver the donations during Sunday School the following week.

PEACE CAMP There are a few more spots available for Peace Camp. Registration opens to everyone on May 1. Applications are available on Sundays at the Sunday School Information Table or by emailing dre@firstuucolumbus.org.

Peace Camp 2009 will be held in two sessions, each from 9:00 am-12:00 pm:
August 3-7: Peace Camp 1 for those completing Kindergarten through 3rd grades
August 10-14: Peace Camp 2 for those completing 4th through 6th grades

CARING CORNER

Congratulations to **Donna Jarrell**, awarded a full tuition scholarship to the Methodist Theological School of Ohio; and to **Lavaughn and Chris Margraff** on the adoption of their baby girl.

We send support to **Hap Baer** who will have hip replacement surgery April 16.

We offer sympathy to Laura deBrier Miller, her brother Jeff deBrier and sister Jenny. Their mother, **Nancy de Brier**, died this week. They are the children of long-time member (now deceased) Eric deBrier.

A speedy recovery to **Marna Austin**, who broke her arm in a fall; and to **Ben Falana** who is recovering from prostate surgery.

Our condolences to **Marian Clover** and family on the death of **Frank Clover** who

died on March 28; and to the family of **George Schoyer** on George's death. A memorial service at the church for George is being planned.

MEDICAL SUPPLIES The Neighborhood Network is happy to have a new Medical Supply Loan Coordinator. Christine Hardin 707-8997 chardin123@att.net. Chris will update and coordinate the list of available supplies. Please contact Chris if you have medical supplies, such as wheelchairs, crutches, walkers, etc, to loan to others in need. She will also receive your requests for supplies as the need arises.

FCACO The Funeral Consumers Alliance of Central Ohio (formerly called *The Memorial Society*) will be holding its annual meeting on *Saturday, May 16, 2009* at the church. The buffet luncheon begins at noon and costs \$10.00. The program follows and will feature Dan Pallay, the funeral director of Cook & Son–Pallay Funeral Home, one of our cooperating funeral homes. He will discuss current laws and regulations affecting handling of the dead, funeral practices, cremations and related subjects. Members and non-members are welcome to attend. Come and learn more about the really important work we do.

The FCACO was born in this UU Church 56 years ago as the Columbus Memorial Society. It was created to help reduce funeral costs and to give individuals more control. Currently FCACO still has options for controlling funeral costs, in addition to conducting surveys of regional funeral costs and offering educational programs and materials to help people understand what is involved in purchasing a funeral. We also monitor the meetings of the State Board. Many of our church members serve on the FCACO Board. For additional information, go to our website: www.funeralsohio.org If you are interested in attending the luncheon, send a check for \$10.00 per person by May 8 to FCACO, PO Box 14835, Columbus OH 43214. There is no charge to attend the program only at 1:00 pm.

DENOMINATIONAL CONCERNS

GENERAL ASSEMBLY (GA 09) June 24-28 in Salt Lake City: Early Registration (until the end of April) is \$300 (scholarships and volunteer opportunities are available).

More information can be found about GA <http://www.uua.org/events/generalassembly>. Contact Debra Boyd about housing options at debra_boyd@columbus.rr.com

GREEN TIP

Americans throw away 100 billion polyethylene plastic bags each year, equating to over 36 million barrels of oil used in their manufacture. Aside from clogging landfills, these nearly indestructible pieces of plastic kill millions of birds, sea turtles, marine mammals, and even domestic livestock every year.

The answer? Stop taking plastic bags when you shop. Keep a few cloth shopping bags in your car and take them into the store with you. They are completely washable, and with reasonable care, a cloth bag can last you 10-15 years, replacing over 1000 plastic bags. Now, that's smart!

When I was a young minister in San Francisco, I used to step into the ample gothic pulpit there, and terrify myself by remembering that I was standing in the same place where R. Waldo Emerson, T. Starr King, Swami Vivikenanda, Bruno Bettelheim, Margaret Mead, Viktor Frankl, Rollo May, and Alan Watts also held forth, influential pulpit guests in that august place.

Those were the influential folks of yore. But I would say that this pulpit, this 2008-2009 year, has also been glowing from the touch of the influential in our time: Holly Near, Beth Osnes, Amy Goodman, Meg Barnhouse, Gini Courter, and coming up, the amazing Mark Morrison Reed. Those of you who read the *World*, our associational magazine, will have read about him and his work. Suffice it to say that his book, *Black Pioneers in a White Denomination*, is required reading for all upcoming UU ministers, and his recent book: *In Between: Memoirs of an Integration Baby* reveals the whole last half of the 20th century through his eyes and tears. He will be reading from his book on the last Sunday of this month, signing copies, and yes, preaching, on ideas out of Universalism.

Oh, and since we were both born on June 16, 1949, early in the morning and pretty close geographically, we figure we're twins separated at birth.

The Sunday after Easter, our youth will lead an amazing service. Lots of prep has gone into it already.

And coming up on the first Monday in May, the annual interfaith BREAD Assembly. I am inviting you to give two hours of your "one wild and precious life" to the social justice method of power and presence known as the Nehemiah Action Assembly. The idea of 300 of us showing up is simply not hard for me to imagine anymore...although I confess it once was.

Ah, Spring!



Rev. Mark Belletini

The Inner Flame

A Passage by Matilda von Meysenberg 1900

I was alone upon the seashore as all of these thoughts flowed over me, liberating and reconciling. Earth, heaven, and the sea resounded in one vast world-encircling harmony. It was as if the chorus of all the great who had ever lived were about me. I felt myself one with them, and it appeared as if I heard their greeting: "You too belong to the company of those who overcome."

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

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

Faith Development for All Ages

We see the elementary and preschool children every week so we have a better sense of who they are and how many children we have. Our youth, however are not so visible. They meet only at 11 am and do not start out in the Worship Center. Let me bring you up to date on what is going on with them. Over the next two months you will be seeing more of them.

We have about 50 youth in our *Race to Justice* (6th & 7th grade), 8th Grade *Our Whole Lives* (OWL) sexuality education, 9th Grade *Coming of Age* and two alternating high school programs - *Our Whole Lives* and *Covenant Group*. In addition there is a very active Middle School Youth Group and our Youth Adult Steering Committee (YASC) with six youth and two adults.

You will see a few of these youth on April 19th as they lead the worship services. The leadership for the worship is provided by YASC. You will hear accomplished youth musicians, as well as the Chalice Choir at both services, poetry and several perspectives on family relationships.

Some of you have seen a bit of the project that *Race To Justice* is working on, as you have been interviewed for a video about the attitudes and experiences of First UUsers with racial issues. Before the end of the church year you will see a 5-minute video of their work and a more in depth video will be available for screening to your group.

Coming of Age (COA) will go on its final retreat at the end of April and then complete their Credo Statements. Each youth has been going through a process of learning more about Unitarian Universalism and their own values and beliefs. They have worked with their teachers, their mentors and our Consulting Minister. They will soon begin preparation for their own worship service in June. This is the third year that COA has used this new curriculum and the teachers have improved it every year. They are very excited about the way this year is going. Make sure you're at the service on June 7 to find out more.

Unlike most of our Covenant Groups, the High School group is not closed. Youth can join at any time. They use a standard Covenant Group format and often develop their own content. High School sexuality education (OWL) extends many of the concepts that they first encountered in 8th grade OWL. Media messages, up-to-the-minute topics such as sexting, and much more about relationships and respect, as relationships deepen and become more complex.

Some of our youth are growing and developing in the wider Unitarian Universalist world. Lydia Delphia spent the weekend before Easter in Salt Lake City developing the youth programming for our General Assembly. She will serve General Assembly as a Youth Chaplain. Last month Lydia was in Washington, D. C. with Sexuality Education Advocacy Training (SEAT) to lobby Congress for comprehensive sexuality education. The program is a joint project of a number of religious denominations.

One place you can usually spot youth is in Fellowship Hall at Coffee Hour. Let me urge you, if you haven't met, to introduce yourself. Their interests are wide. The chances are you have some interests in common.

I will be in a training retreat April 14-16. Please contact RE Assistant Deb McGuire for assistance on those days. -- Jolinda Stephens, jolindast@gmail.com

RG&E News

Parent Blog: <http://firstuuparents.blogspot.com>

Graduating Seniors: We want to honor you! Rev. Eric Meter and Jolinda Stephens are seeking the high school youth who are graduating this year. We plan to honor you in the worship service May 31 - the first 10 am service (one service only) for the summer. Please call or email Eric (extension 23, EricM@firstuucolumbus.org) or Jolinda (extension 28, dre@firstuucolumbus.org), if you know of seniors we should be honoring. We will have an event to bring together those who still attend First UU regularly and those who attend more sporadically to renew acquaintances and do a few games and exercises, reflect around their time with us and what they take into their new life, as well as prepare them for the Bridging Ceremony. Our major goals are to support the young adult in this transition, acknowledge this life passage, and support the idea that they remain connected Unitarian Universalists as they move into adulthood.

Five Actors Needed...for the Ingathering Story on April 26. Characters are mother, older teenage daughter with two friends and older brother, but actors don't have to be those ages. Email or call Jolinda Stephens (dre@firstuucolumbus.org) if you would like to take part.

ATTENTION Young Artists! We need you and your art! For our SECOND ANNUAL YOUTH ART SHOW at First UU : “*Wonderful Creations-The art of our youth*”
Do you: * photograph? * draw? * paint? * collage? * make fiber pieces? * sculpt?
* make beaded jewelry?

Please fill out the entry form available at the Sunday School Information Table by May 1.

Bring your pieces matted or mounted on board-ready to hang on May 2, 10 am to Room 6 or to Fellowship Hall May 3 after the church services. If you need help with the matting and mounting call Deb Baillieul (447-1223) and we'll arrange a time to do this on Saturday, May 2, 10-12 in Room 6.

Give your work a title! This personalizes it. And sign it! Be proud of what you “see” in the world as art. WE ARE ALL CREATIVE ARTISTS!

NEW: Three class groupings this summer! On the May 31 we switch to one worship service and one Sunday School session. We are hoping to offer more programming this year, *if we can get help from parents*. The plan is to offer 1) ***Dr Seuss and UU Principles*** for the **3 to 5 year olds**. This was offered to the elementary group last year but there are plenty of stories and activities for younger children. 2) We will return to ***Harry Potter*** for the **elementary group**. To assist Cindy Dillard, who will lead this group, email her at cynthia@cynthiadillard.com. 3) For **Middle Schoolers** we will use ***Popcorn Theology***, a curriculum that uses clips from popular movies to help youth think about UU Principles and basic theology. There are a wide variety of movies to choose from. Stephanie Mesler-Evans is recruiting for this.

Registration for children and youth and volunteers sign up sheets are available now at the Sunday School Table on Sundays. Email me or Cindy if you need a form.

Training for New Chalice Lighters April 19 at 11:00am. At each Sunday service, one of our young people, wearing a green stole made by Pat Hanson, lights the chalice in the Worship Center, signaling the start of worship. Trainings for chalice lighters are offered a couple of times each year. Children and youth of all ages are welcome. No advanced registration is required. If you have questions or concerns, please contact the chalice lighters' coordinator, Stephanie Mesler-Evans, by calling her at 614-622-7081.

Have you given your input yet? Every voice counts! The deadline is April 30, 2009.

Mission Statement Draft

We are here to learn and practice authentic hospitality,
to revere both the reasoning mind and the generous heart,
to claim the challenges of our diversity as a source of spiritual strength,
and to relinquish the safety of privilege for the freedom to engage
in transforming justice.

Vision Statement Draft

To fulfill this Mission, and to make it come alive in ourselves, our children, and our world:

1. We seek to always center ourselves in worship and other Celebrations. Thus do we express our desire for wholeness in a broken world: with communal joy, shared sorrow, artful beauty and an engaged spirit.
2. We seek to build caring, honest relationships in all aspects of congregational life. Thus do we grow an inter-generational, multicultural community of lifelong learning, spiritual growth, a liberating conscience, and responsible, grateful stewardship.
3. We seek to live lives of active engagement. Thus do we embody the power of our Unitarian Universalist tradition to advocate for religious freedom, to acclaim the value of each unique spiritual journey, and to help us claim our own free place in that shared history of compassion and love.
4. We seek to honestly confront suffering, and the seen-and-unseen effects of oppression in this world. Thus do we act for social and ecological justice, organize to deepen our pastoral care, and open ourselves for transformative interfaith cooperation.
5. We seek to welcome all persons to our central Ohio congregation, no matter who they are, or how they define self or weave family, to claim their share in co-creating this beloved community. Thus do we envision a world transformed by the practice of justice into a common home of peace. (Draft 03/2009)

*****>

FROM the ARCHIVES Coming up! Discover part of our Universalist past with the Archives Team display to be posted on April 19 and 26.

The team is looking for Orders of Service/Worship from the early 1960s. Do you have any in your collection of items?

UUNIVERSE! First UU's Resident Chamber Ensemble. DEBUT CONCERT, Saturday, May 2, 7:00 PM This concert series of "Diverse Music You Want to Hear" is sponsored by first UU and the Greater Columbus Arts Council. This opening concert features music by women composers from Hildegard to Libby Larsen. Musicians Sarah Case, Kari Gunderson, Nathan Hamm, Lea Pearson and Mark Rudoff will be joined by guests Judy Kleen, Joanna Lowenstein and Mark Merchant. Tickets \$10, \$5 for students and seniors. Available from Marian Garcia at the office. 267-4946, x21. *Other concerts in this series:* June 18, music of GLBT composers, and next fall, music by African American and Hispanic composers.



Planning:

Five Wishes for Me and My Loved Ones at the End of Life

A Workshop Presented by
the Pastoral Care Team



A look at:

How I want to be remembered
Medical decisions (when I can't make them)
Health Care Powers of Attorney
Living Wills
Do Not Resuscitate Orders
Other concerns relating to end of life issues.

These and other topics will be presented and discussed on

Sunday, April 19,
in the Worship Center, 12:45 to 3 pm.

No one looks forward to end-of-life health care planning,
but doing so can be one of the key gifts you can give those
who will survive you.

Recommended for adults of all ages.

Light refreshments will be served in the Worship Center.

