



# In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

## Pulpit Announcement:

Several people resigned recently from leadership: Helen Barnes resigned as President, Courtney Ruthven resigned as President Elect and the following three board members stepped down: Dan DeMott, Billie Knighton, Pat Felton.

The remaining board members are Anne Bailey, Bonnie Till, Magda Garrett and DeeDee Jordan. They filled the three board vacancies by appointment, according to church by-laws. They appointed Jamey Findling, Nancy Milner and Mike Diggs.

A special congregational election will be held after the service on Sunday, Nov. 3<sup>rd</sup> for the positions of president and president-elect. The Nominating Committee has nominated Bonnie Till for President and Charles Merrifield for President-Elect.

Some members of the congregation have had questions about the congregational meeting and related issues. The Committee on Ministry urges anyone with questions to feel free to talk with any of the CoM members, David Brewer, Jana Rambo, Marcia Ellsworth and Lara Pollock. We want your feedback. If we don't have the answers

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## A Saturday Morning Well Spent

Thirty-two people with high expectations gave up their Saturday morning, October 19, for a wonderful workshop with Michael Durall. Areas he covered included:

- Developing expectations for church membership
- Telling others about our church. People want to know what's in our hearts, not "cold" facts about Unitarian Universalism.
- Participating in some type of outreach program (social justice) each year.
- Growing: finding a certain segment of the community to reach out to.

He challenged us to develop our own pamphlet which tells our church's story in an engaging manner.

After the mid morning break, participants were invited to ask questions and comment on 1<sup>st</sup> UU's situation. Space permits only one example of the thoughtful questions and comments. Regarding the need for more visible signage Peter Ninemire challenged the congregation to match his pledge of \$1,250 for a street side

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## Treasurer's Report

-Kim Talbot

For the month of September

	Budgeted	Actual	Net
Cash In	\$12,600.03	\$13,237	\$637.46
Cash Out	\$12,600.03	\$8,100	-\$4,499.67

**Interpretation:** We continue to see a positive net balance on the cash flow. This month we saw an above expected pledge donations and

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# In Touch

The newsletter of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita is published monthly.

[www.firstuu.net](http://www.firstuu.net)

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The deadline for In Touch and for the monthly calendar is the third Wednesday of each month.

## News from your Board of Trustees

- Bonnie Till

At the October 16, 2013, Board meeting, the Board of Trustees (Anne Bailey, DeeDee Jordan, Magda Garrett, and Bonnie Till, previously elected, plus Mike Diggs, Jamey Findling, and Nancy Milner, recently appointed) met to begin the process of moving forward.

The significance of the November 3, 2013 Congregational Meeting was emphasized. The Congregation must ratify the President appointed at this meeting, as well as elect a President-Elect and 3 Trustees. This meeting will be short, sweet and to the point. (We've combined it with First Sunday Lunch to ensure it will be sweet.) Nominees for the elective positions will be announced in a letter calling the Congregation Meeting as provided by the by-laws.

Fruitful discussion regarding Church by-laws determined that the Board could appoint a Trustee from the current Board to serve as President. The Board voted to appoint Bonnie Till with the understanding that the Congregation will have the opportunity to ratify the appointment at the Congregational Meeting.

Kim Talbot, Treasurer, reminded the Board that the President and Treasurer need to act before the end of this year to renegotiate First UU's Per Member Payment with the UUA to a level consistent with the amount budgeted in the FY2014 budget. A review of bylaw Article VI-Membership is essential toward facilitating a successful renegotiation with the UUA.

It became clear that the bylaws need to be reviewed and revised.

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## Vision Statement

It is our Vision:

To be a growing, inclusive, vital congregation that encourages shared values amidst differing beliefs and nurtures creative exploration of intellectual and spiritual paths. To be visible community leader that promotes human equity and compassion, and celebrates life through the arts.

Mission Statement:

Our mission consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles, is to provide a joyful, safe, healing environment where diversity is embraced. We will inspire and uplift the whole person through enriching programs and services for all ages, and serve the larger community through social action

## News from your Board of Trustees

- continued

The Board is in the process of forming a Bylaw Review Committee.

Committee chair appointments are delayed until the November meeting so that the committee structure be reviewed and clarified by the new board. A vacancy on the Committee on Ministry was filled with the appointment of Kathy Hull.

*"...Word of mouth is the most effective way to grow congregations, as about 70 percent of people in all churches are there because someone invited them" - Michael Dural,*

### In The Beginning: Meatless Mondays

- Dianne Waltner

Every couple of years, UUA member congregations select a congregational study/ action issue (CSAI). <http://www.uua.org/statements/process/>

In the 2008 General Assembly, Ethical Eating was the chosen topic. Following GA, a small group of interested 1st UUers met to discuss ways in which we could participate in the CSAI process. We settled on having a monthly Meatless Monday dinner, which began as vegetarian meals prepared by Marsha Diggs. In December, we decided to try a potluck. I was soon asked to take over and decided to continue the potlucks instead of tackling the tricky task of figuring out how much food to prepare each month.

In the early months and years, attendance was small but committed. And, in March of 2009, I went vegan after 20+ years of being vegetarian. A few other vegans started attending so I began transitioning the potlucks from vegetarian to vegan so that everyone could partake.

In addition to the potlucks, we have shown various films on related topics as well as hosting speakers and a conference.

I attended the 2011 GA and directly participated in the CSAI process. After much discussion, debate, and revision, the Statement of Conscience was passed.

<http://www.uua.org/statements/statements/185320.shtml>

This last year has seen significant growth and interest in the potlucks. In September, the attendance was 41! Everyone is invited to join us for our monthly feasts. And mark your calendar for Saturday, December 14, when we will have our 5th annual vegan holiday potluck!

### At Your Service:

Rev. Carter's office hours: Wednesday 11 am to 2 pm and by appointment.

The office is staffed by volunteers. We suggest you CALL FIRST (684-3481) to be sure your trip isn't in vain! Monday, 3:30-4:30 pm; Tuesday, 2:45-4 pm; Wednesday, hours vary ; Thursday, 2:45-4 pm; Friday, 9:30 to 11:15 am. Anita Culp, Marsha Diggs, Jana Rambo and Bonnie Till are the regulars, with Marcia Ellsworth "on call."

## Treasurer's Report (continued)

unpledged donations. Income from building use also contributed significantly.

**Treasurer's concerns:** 1) No significant fundraisers have been planned. 2) We need to have the president and treasurer appeal to the UUA and Mid America Region for a reduction in the pledged dues. This has been discussed at the Annual Meeting. 3) No new pledges received. This is a large part of our growth plan for our budget. 4) Next month we will see the increase in the payroll expenses by a net \$862. 5) I have grossly estimated that we have lost \$900/month in pledges.

You will receive pledge statements late in October to update you on the status of your pledge payments. If you have any questions about the budget please email Kim at [kltalbot17@gmail.com](mailto:kltalbot17@gmail.com). Please allow a couple days for a response.

## Minding My Own Business

-Rev David Carter, written for his daughter Zakia

I was - that is to say - I was bathing the Moon in the Milky Way when I heard the quiet kind of cough that isn't a cough, really, but a kind of call to attention from someone gentle and unobserved who had been observing my happy lunary ablutions. When I looked up, there was my firstborn, Radhakinkari Zakia Thakurani, the discrete cougher from beyond. Clad in a gown the color of Peacock feathers, her head bedight with musical Rainbows, her fingers dandled with blossoming flowers the fragrance of pineapple, banana, and tuberose, she was peering at me from a universe other than the one I inhabited. I was momentarily bewildered till I grasped that she was lifting, with one flower-filled hand, the horizon which was acting as a sort of wall between the two dimensions. Smiling at me from that alternate reality, she made inquiry without words: "My friends and I were wondering if you would welcome it if we came to play with you for an aeon or so." 'T'was then I first caught glimpse of Ian, Leo, August, Zora, and Miles, giggling in the firmament above and behind her luminous form and each clothed with the swirling heavens and crowned with the roaring stars.... I turned to Manmo and indicating our new friends with a gesture of welcome, I (without words) bid them enter, of course, of course...

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations*

## Membership Corner

Welcome to the newest members of our congregation. They "signed the book" during the past few weeks.

**Deborah Burnham  
Mary Erickson  
Aubren Lewis  
Deborah Lewis  
Paula Peare**

## Did You Know?

An article about the Chalice Lighter Program of the MidAmerica Region was in the September InTouch issue. Why was that information included? Because some of us think fondly of the Chalice Lighters Program, often on a Sunday morning. In 2005 the Program purchased for us all the chairs in the sanctuary. Prior to that we sat in folding chairs, not particularly comfortable, and certainly none with arms. It's a weekly reminder that the Wichita congregation is part of a larger liberal religious community.

## Committee On Ministry Report

-David Brewer

The Committee on Ministry (CoM) met on October 2 at the church and decided on a new member of the committee. Kathy Hull was asked to be a member of the CoM. and she agreed to serve. The Board of Trustees was asked to approve the appointment at the October 16th meeting and they agreed. Our next issue will be working on the Michael Durall project and determining a schedule for the rest of the year. We ask the members of the church to come to a member of the CoM. with any problems or questions about the church. We will try to help you if possible. Some problems will need to go to the Board of Trustees.

Members of the CoM are: David Brewer-Chair, Marcia Ellsworth, Susan Hund-Milne, Jana Rambo, Lara Pollock, and Kathy Hull.

### From the RE Corner:

Volunteer to teach in our Religious Education Program, under the direction of Denise Jackson-Simon. No experience? Not a problem. You'll get great guidance and tips from Denise and the experienced members of our Religious Education, Committee, Wendy Haynie-Cosby, Chair. Opportunities at every level - from Kindergarten on up.

Appreciation guaranteed: The kids will appreciate you. Denise and Wendy will appreciate you. And the parents and guardians will appreciate you.

### A Saturday Morning Well Spent (continued)

sign. At least one check was written before we left the building.

Michael Durall gave no pat answers to achieving growth and financial stability. It depends on us. He will use the information we gave him on a questionnaire to report back to the congregation. Let the planning and the work of the entire congregation begin!

(A PDF copy of Durall's book, "The Almost Church Revitalized" can be obtained for \$10.00 from Charles Merrifield, [cmerrifield@cox.net](mailto:cmerrifield@cox.net).)

## From the Caring Committee

Our heartfelt condolences to Doug Clayton and Jenny Bowen in the passing of Doug's grandmother. A note of sympathy goes to Tom Moore, whose aunt passed away recently.

The Caring Committee wants to thank everyone who helped with the supper the evening of Helon King's Memorial Service.

The Caring Committee is the arm of the church that reaches out to those experiencing illness, bereavement or other crisis, as well as celebrations such as graduations and birthdays. On behalf of the congregation, we send appropriate cards and coordinate assistance from the congregation such as provisions of meals, light housework or yardwork, transportation, and hospital visits. If you are interested in joining our committee please contact Jana Rambo or LaRilla Combs, Co-Chairs.

### Pulpit Announcement (continued)

to your questions, we will find out and get back to you.

The CoM members, the board members and candidates for office are dedicated to going forward with transparency and with lines of communication wide-open.

Thank you for being part of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita. Each and every one of you is a valued member of our congregational family.

(Susan Hund-Milne is a member of Committee on Ministry and the Nominating Committee. The other two members of the Nominating committee are David Brewer and Peter Ninemire.)

## OBSERVANCES

October is a month of C's  
 Columbus Day, candy apples cool and crispy air  
 Candles glow and pumpkins fright  
 Changing leaves make treetops bright a flair  
 of color casting gold then it's time for costume night

In November we will Remember  
 Those who fought on  
 Veteran's Day  
 Those who struggled on  
 Thanksgiving Day

December comes with Winter's wind;  
 a day of Infamy ushered in  
 a war we'll not forget; Quickly our attention turns  
 to that season of good cheer, and after all the chaos, ribbons and  
 champagne  
 We'll say goodbye to another year.

--by Amy Geyer

## Wanted: Keeper of the Bookstore

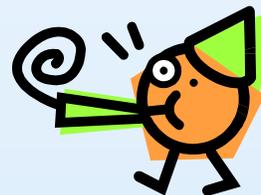
Taryn Cipra writes: "I have to bow out gracefully from commitments, including keeping track of the used bookstore at church, due to time commitments elsewhere and meeting the needs of my family." Anyone who is a bibliophile or knows anyone who can help keep the Chalice Bookstore organized and books flowing, please contact Taryn at [tcipra.kinship@gmail.com](mailto:tcipra.kinship@gmail.com) or by phone (316)300-1011 and she'll help you get started.

**Every Week at First UU**

Adult RE, Sunday, 9:30 am - Corey Swertsfager, 201-6921  
 Zen Friends of Wichita, Wednesday, 6:00 pm - Bob Feleppa, 683-9295

**Every Month at First UU**

Board Meeting - third Wednesday, 7 pm  
 Book Discussion - second Wednesday, 7 pm - Anne Bailey, 943-3861  
 CUUPS - third Fridays  
 Craft Night - first Tuesday, 7 pm - 440-3097, Amy Geyer  
 Dinners for Eight - dates vary, Marcia Ellsworth, 688-5352, Sigrid Trombley, 683-7075  
 Eclectic Readers - third Friday, 11:30 AM, Del Smith, 612-0826  
 Game Night - second Thursday, 6:30 PM, Joie Vitkus, 613-2527  
 Meatless Monday (Ethical Eating) - second Monday, 6:30 PM, Dianne Waltner, 946-1115  
 Music Committee, fourth Sunday after church  
 Newsletter Deadline - third Wednesday, evening - Del Smith, 612-0826  
 Newsletter Folding - fourth Wednesday, 9:30 AM - Del Smith, 612-0826

HIP, HIP,  
UURAH!

We are proud of the younger set at First UU. Guess what these three have in common?

Tiger Pollock, freshman at Rose Hill, is a second degree black belt in Tae Kwando. He's helping in the nursery on the Sundays Rev. Carter is in the pulpit.

Miranda (Mo) Pollock) absolutely loves her speech pathology program at WSU. Way to go, Mo!

Amanda Diggs will be graduating from WSU in December with an MA in history. She wants to work as a curator or curatorial assistant.

Did you guess?

*(All three grew up in the UU church. And Tiger is carrying on the tradition of helping in the nursery. Both Mo and Amanda were nursery attendants while in high school.)*



# November 2013

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
3 9:30 am Adult RE 11am Sunday Service 12:00 pm 1st Sunday Lunch 12:15 pm Congregational Meeting	4	5 7:00 pm UU Craft Night	6 6:00 pm Zen Friends of Wichita 7:00 pm Worship Committee	7	8	9
10 9:30 am Adult RE 11:00 am Sunday Service 12:15 pm Leadership Council (Tentative)	11 6:30pm Ethical Eating Group - Meatless Monday	12	13 6:00 pm Zen Friends of Wichita 7:00 pm Book Discussion	14 6:30 pm Game Night	15 11:30 am Eclectic Readers Group 7:00 pm CUUPS Gathering	16 2:00pm Private Event
17 9:30 am Adult RE 9:30 am Seeking Circle 11:00 am Sunday Service	18	19	20 9:30am Newsletter Mailing 6:00pm Zen Friends of Wichita 7:00 pm Board Meeting Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	21 7 pm NOW Meeting	22 7:00 pm Chamber Music Concert	23 10:00 a mCaring Committee 10am Compassionate Communication Workshop
24 9:30 am Adult RE 11:00 am Sunday Service 12:15 pm Music Committee 5:30 pm CUUPS Meeting	25	26	27 6:00pm Zen Friends of Wichita	28 Annual Thanksgiving Pot Luck 2:00 pm Dinner	29	30

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FIRST UNITARIAN  
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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Wichita, KS 67206

[www.firstuu.net](http://www.firstuu.net)



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*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: The inherent worth and dignity of every person*

**Our Thanksgiving Tradition:  
Good Eats & Great Games!**

On Thanksgiving Day many of us gather for a potluck, usually eating around 2 pm. Let Jana Rambo know what you'll be bringing. Joie and Cris Vitkus will have their selection of board games from which to choose.

Conversation? Of course! We're UUs. Sometimes we kick off the holiday season by putting up a holiday tree! Let the eating, the games, and the decorating begin!

**From Our Book Reading Groups:**

Evening Book Group: We did not meet in October, due to scheduling difficulties. Graham Greene's "The Power and the Glory" will be discussed on Wednesday, November 13<sup>th</sup>, 7 pm, at the church.

Eclectic Readers Group: "Dakota: A Spiritual Geography" is the choice for Friday, November 15<sup>th</sup>. Kathleen Norris' critically acclaimed memoir contributes to a deeper understanding of contemporary Midwest. Looking ahead to December 20<sup>th</sup>, we return to a seasonal classic: Dickens' "A Christmas Carol." 11:30 am, brown bag lunch.

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**Chamber Concert  
Season Begins**



7 pm, Friday, November 22  
"Music for the Common People"

In commemoration of  
Benjamin Britton's 100<sup>th</sup>  
anniversary

Native American Flute Music  
Paul Doherty, featured musician  
\$10.00 Suggested Donation