



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA
FOUNDED 1887

News From Your Board Of Trustees

- Bonnie Till, President

All members and friends of First UU have received the 2014 Stewardship package.

Elaine Edens, Chair of the Stewardship Committee, canvassed the Board at the March meeting which got the 2014 Canvass off to a great start. Please study the materials provided in the stewardship packet and make your pledge as generous as you are able. Didn't receive a Canvass package? Please contact Elaine Edens (213-0032).

MidAmerica Region Meeting in Topeka - April 11-13, 2014

Three members of First UU are planning to attend the MidAmerica Region Assembly in Topeka in April. The Board voted to appoint Mike Diggs and Bonnie Till as Congregational delegates to the Assembly. Rev. David Carter as minister of First UU is automatically our Ministerial delegate to the Assembly. Our congregation is entitled to one more Congregational delegate. If you are interested in attending the MidAmerica Assembly, please contact Rev. Carter (259-0842) or Bonnie Till (722-8208).

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An Invitation:

First UU's Proposed Covenant

Initial work on the Covenant of Right Relations (standards of behavior for our congregation) is completed. The next step is meeting with other members of the congregation to explore the purpose of a covenant and for members to express any concerns they might have. The first of these meetings will be held April 5th at 10 am. The second will be held April 8th at 7 pm. Both meetings will be held at the church. Members are urged to attend the meeting which fits their schedule.

The Covenant of Right Relations task force and committee met March 11th to review and edit a rough draft of what the task force had prepared. Bonnie Till, Marguerite Regan, Rolando Gomez, Kathy Hull, Jana Rambo, Del Smith, Marcia Ellsworth, Nancy Milner and Kathleen McGee had previously expressed interest in being a part of this process. The group discussed the covenant and related action points in depth and wording was changed as needed. Members of this group will be present at the meetings in April. Ways to familiarize all members of the congregation with the covenant and action points will also be part of the discussion at the meetings.

Treasurer's Report

-Anne Bailey

As of March 21, 2014

	Budgeted (Year Ending 6-30-14)	Actual (Year to Date 3-12-14)
Income	\$151,200.00	\$122,966.89
Expenses	\$151,200.00	\$100,980.93
Net	-0-	\$ 21,985.94

Our income has exceeded expenses at this point but don't let that keep you from making a generous pledge for next year. The proposed budget includes an ambitious amount designated for social justice projects and there are always things we just don't have funds to cover.

In Touch

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

www.firstuu.net

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

A New Way of Thinking

By Elaine Edens, Stewardship Team Chair

It is time once again for our annual stewardship campaign. A New Way of Thinking, based on Michael Durall's book and workshop at the church early this year, is our stewardship theme. A concentration on outreach is new this year.

You will receive material in the mail explaining what this is all about. Please read it carefully and then decide what your pledge for the 2014-2015 fiscal year will be.

Stewardship implies many areas of involvement in the life of the church. At this time, church leadership is concentrating on financial support. It is important that every member, and every friend of the church who is in tune with our way of "doing church," make a commitment to support First Unitarian Universalist Church with their treasure to the best of their ability. We ask for a specified pledge so we will know exactly how to budget for outreach, programs, ministerial and staff compensation and pay our bills.

Please be as generous as you possibly can. We are anticipating a wonderful year that will come about only as we all pitch in together to the best of our ability.

*We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: ...
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; ...*

Hunger for Justice, MidAmerica UUA Regional Assembly in Topeka, April 11-13, 2014

This is a reminder that one of the sites for the first MidAmerica UUA Regional Assembly in 2014 will be in eastern Kansas. The Regional Assembly is a weekend of coming together for fellowship, worship, wonderful music, public advocacy, and inspiring lectures, programs and workshops. This is an opportunity to connect with UUs from all over the MidAmerica region.

Topeka Assembly Highlights

- Friday workshop on racial justice at the Brown v. Board National Historic Site
- Opening ceremony on Friday night with banner parade, video greeting from UUA President Peter Morales, song festival and vesper service

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News From Your Board Of Trustees

- continued

On-going Standing Committee and Task Force Activity

Many new social action projects have been taken on since September. Plus, the standing committees and special task force groups are busy working. You will find reports on these activities elsewhere in this newsletter. Everyone involved is busy working on the following: Installing new church computers, creating/funding sign for 21st Street, dealing with a donation of furniture (pick-up/storage/sale), Eco-Fest planning, Social Action projects, Covenant of Right Relations (standards of behavior for our congregation) Task Force, By-laws Review/Revision Task Force, and investigation of ways to re-establish a choir and add more music during services.

What can you do?

If you are not involved actively in the life of the church, pick a committee or task force and join in. In particular, the By-laws Review/Revision Task Force would like more members. Call Jamey Findling, chair of the committee (300-1755).

Eco-Fest Planning Update

Many UU members are already committed to making next October's Eco-Fest (It's Easy to be Green) a success. The October 11 all day event will celebrate living green and be an opportunity to share our values with the community at large, and, oh yes, very significantly - generate income for the church.

Listed below are the movers and shakers for the event. (Planning Committee members are indicated by an asterisk*.) See one or more of them to offer your talents and time in the areas which interest you. It's never too early to perfect plans!

Co-Chairs: Marcia Ellsworth* and Vivien Minshull-Ford*

Slogan and Poster Contest: Susan Hund-Milne*

Food Committee: Magda Garrett, Dianne Waltner*, and Mary Moore

Vendors/Sponsors/Donations: Vivien Minshull-Ford*, Dianne Waltner, and Janet Roberts*

Community Educational Booths: Kent Rowe

Music/Entertainment: David Brewer*

Event Promotion: Del Smith* and Kent Rowe

Set Up/Clean Up: Doug Wilson*

Children's Activities: Wendy Haynie-Crosby and Denise Jackson-Simon

Event Volunteer Coordinators: LaRilla Combs and Nancy Milner

UU Booths: Fair trade, Charles Merrifield; Admission and raffle (vacant); Antiques and collectibles, Susan Hund-Milne*; Gently used repurposed clothing (vacant); Bake Sale (Vacant); Art display, Jim Hammer* and Mary Moore*; Books (vacant).

It may be "Easy to be Green" but getting the EcoFest accomplished with maximum effectiveness takes time and energy. Join the Crew!

Art Reception, 4PM Sunday, April 12

All are invited to attend a reception for Nanetta Bananto and Lincoln Scott, local photographers, at the church, 4 to 6 pm, Sunday, April 12. Music and refreshments have been arranged by Jim Hammer, Aesthetics Committee. Jim curates First UU's rotating art exhibits.

First Sunday Lunch: Plus Bonus Historical Factoid

April Lunch will be Breakfast! Magda Garrett and friends will welcome your contribution of breakfast food items on April 6th. Or perhaps you'd prefer to bring something fun and creative. (Del Smith remembers her mother slathering luscious thick chocolate frosting on cornbread. The Pinochle Club fell for it, much to the amusement of the hostess!)

April Fools' Day began when the Gregorian calendar was adopted, shifting the new year beginning from spring to January 1st. (The Christians did it!) Country folk didn't hear about it and continued celebrating the New Year on April 1st. They became known as "fools." Thus, April Fools' Day - devoted to tricking people into believing that something false is true!

We, the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association, covenant to affirm and promote: ...

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations; ...

Meet Marque Payne

- Vivien Minshull-Ford

The man who quietly takes care of recording the Reverend Carter's sermons and makes them available for the congregation is Marque Payne, a semi-retired computer programmer, who transforms the finished recordings at home with software which removes room noise, coughs, and crackles. Marque is also a published song writer with his own album; his songs have been performed by other groups, including Heath and Molly Eric who performed his "Coffee and Cream" at a concert in a Kentucky cave

(http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SjRyDt_ETuM on YouTube). Or you can lose yourself in the video, art, and of music, which Marque describes as Folk Rock or occasionally "straight up Country," on www.marquepayne.com.

His story began in Kentucky, where he grew up as an extremely devout young Catholic: "Other kids wanted to be baseball players or firemen; I wanted to be a saint." Marque entered cloistered seminary when he was 14, but he was rapidly disillusioned: "I was aghast to find that priests there were no more than

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



The Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) is making changes to how we tell the story of our liberal religion to the wider world.

Our new logo, for many, will be the first introduction to who we are. It's meant to entice a person to learn more. And it's doing just that. Our random testing groups of UUs and non-UUs described emotions and images evoked by this logo with words such as brave, enlightening, warm, spiritual, energizing, having integrity, welcoming and determined. Our logo is the first innovation among many that the UUA plans to implement to better tell our story.

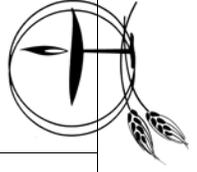
You will be seeing this new logo, and more components of our brand identity, being implemented across all UUA communication channels over the next few months. And many of these changes will be featured at our General Assembly in Providence, RI, this June.

This is the beginning of a transformative journey to tell the story of Unitarian Universalism and inspire individuals to join that journey. In Faith, Rev. Peter Morales

April 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
6 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p 1st Sun Lunch	7	8 7:00p Covenant Congregational Work Session	9 6:00p Zen Friends 7:00p Book Discussion 7:00p Worship Committee	10	11	12 4:00p Art Reception
13 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	14 6:30p Ethical Eating Vegan Potluck	15 7:00p Full Moon Dance	16 6:00p Zen Friends 7:00p Board Meeting NEWSLETTER & CALENDAR DEADLINE	17	18 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	19
20 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE	21	22 6:30p New Jim Crow Action Group 7:00p Eco-Fest Committee	23 9:30a Newsletter Mailing 6:00p Zen Friends	24	25	26 10:00a Caring Committee
27 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Comm 2:00p Chamber Music Concert	28	29	30 6:00p Zen Friends			



Every Week at First UU

Adult Religious Exploration, Sunday, 9:45 am - Corey Swertfager, 201-6921

Social Justice Task Force, Sunday, 12:15 pm - Louis Goseland, 204-9972

(exception: when there is other church business, i.e, congregational meetings)

Zen Friends of Wichita, Wednesday, 6:00 pm - Bob Feleppa, 683-9295

Every Month at First UU

Board Meeting - third Wednesday, 7 pm - Bonnie Till, 722-8208

Book Discussion - second Wednesday, 7 pm - Anne Bailey, 943-3861

Caring Committee - fourth Saturday, 10 am - LaRilla Combs, 733-2089

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

First Sunday Lunch - Magda Garrett, 765-3352

Leadership Council - second Sunday, 12:15, Charles Merrifield, 688-5352

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

Pagan Group - Seasonal ritual and potluck feasting - Kathy Hull, 204-9956, Anne Bailey 943-3861

As announced

Garden Group - Anita Culp, 744-2840

Singles Group Potlucks - Frank Ruf, 650-3842

Who's Who @ First UUOfficers & Board Of Trustees

President - Bonnie Till

President-Elect - Charles Merrifield

Board of Trustees

Anne Bailey

Elaine Edens

Jamey Findling

Magda Garrett

DeeDee Jordan

Nancy Milner

Vivien Minshull-Ford

Co-Treasurers - Anne Bailey & Marsha Diggs

Committee Chairpersons

Adult RE - Corey Swertfager

Buildings/Grounds - Tom Moore

Caring - Jana Rambo and LaRilla Combs

Children's RE - Wendy Haynie-Coxby

Communications - Del Smith

Denominational Affairs - Mike Diggs

Finance/Financial Commitment

- Charles Merrifield

Kitchen Mavens - Magda Garrett

Membership - Anne Bailey

Music - David Brewer

Partner Church - Betty Hensley and

Debbie Wadman

Personnel - Janet Roberts and

Magda Garrett

Social Action - Louis Goseland

Worship - Marsha Diggs

Committee On Ministry

David Brewer, Chair

Marcia Ellsworth

Kathy Hull

Susan Hund-Milne

Lara Pollock

Jana Rambo

Rev. Carter's office hours: Wednesday 11 am to 2 pm and by appointment. (minister@firstuu.net)

Office Manager: Anita Culp: Office hours: Mon, Wed-Fri: 1-5 pm, Tuesday: 2-6 pm. (officemanager@firstuu.net)

Keep "In Touch" with First UU between newsletters: Weekly Up Dates (contact Anita Culp, Office manager); ListServ (contact Charles Merrifield); Website www.firstuu.net has links to Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, and Google+ and best of all, attend Sunday Services, 11 am.

Unfinished Craft Project? Procrastinate No More; Join other UU Crafters: 7 pm, Tuesday, April 1st -Anita Culp

Craft Night is a get together for anyone who does crafting. People bring their own project and work on it in a group setting. We chat about interesting things while we work. If you have a craft project that you just don't seem to get around to doing, this is a good place to make progress. We usually have a pot of hot water for anyone who wants to make tea. Sometimes people bring snacks to share as the mood strikes. We usually go from 7:00 - 9:00 pm. There is plenty of parking in a brightly-lit parking lot. Everyone is welcome. Call the church office for information.

RE Corner:

- Denise Jackson-Simon (DRE)

Happy Spring! What a perfect time to get out and come to church on Sundays. We will be continuing our lessons on Peace and Tolerance, along with celebrating the holidays and festivals which Spring brings.

We hope to see you soon. Our UU experience is not the same without YOU! Remember, it's much more fun when YOU are there!

After

-Diane Wahto
January 2014

He says, if you die before I do, I will cancel
the cable, get an antenna, rabbit ears.
I will move our money to a credit union
I will put a basket on my bike, ride
it to the grocery store, shop daily
for my food, European style.

She listens, thinks of the void her absence
will make, the hole in the world they inhabit,
clawing their way to get to this place.
She thinks of the shadow that would fall
on her if he would go before. Thinks,
but does not say, does not want to say
such a thing aloud into the lamp-lit room.
She turns her face to the dark outside
the window, to the quarter moon.

Lonely Bookstore Seeks Manager

The Chalice Bookstore has been slimmed down,
dusted off and is ready to rumble!

Books which have been on the shelves for months
have been boxed up to be sold during EcoFest next
fall. The bookstore is basically self-serve, but a
manager is needed to answer questions and to keep
the shelves organized. Rewards include meeting
other booklovers and helping raise some money for
First UU.

If you consider donating books, ask yourself this
question: "Would I genuinely and enthusiastically
recommend this book to a UU friend?" If the
answer is "yes," donate! If the answer is "maybe,"
ask for a second opinion. If the answer is "no," then
donate the book to the Friends of the Public Library
or hold for EcoFest.

See Del Smith if you'd like to take on this job. She
managed the bookstore for a number of years and
can provide background information and
"coaching" if requested.

A Tale of Three Tubs: Once Lost, Never Found

Three tubs of lost items are stacked in the storage room. The items are too numerous to list, but include dishes, serving tools, clothing and all manner of miscellaneous. Please check the tubs for anything you are missing. Watch the Update for the date when unclaimed items will be donated to a charitable cause.

Hunger For Justice - continued

- Programming for elementary students and youth, which will include age-appropriate sessions at the Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site
- Opportunities for young adults to learn, socialize and worship together
- A keynote address (Arthur M. Judy Memorial Lecture) by the Rev. Paul Razor, which will be live-streamed to the other assembly locations
- Nineteen workshops will be available including visits to the Brown v. Board National Historic Site and workshops on a variety of justice topics including literacy, sustainability, torture, equality, immigration, women empowerment, nonviolence, reproductive justice and much more
- Advocacy event with a march to the state capital carrying our banners and wearing our *Standing on the Side of Love* shirts in full view of the capital city
- For those interested in governance, there will be a live-streamed regional business meeting including delegates from all four assembly sites
- More group singing on Saturday night and a worship service highlighting the regional sermon contest winner
- Closing worship service on Sunday morning including the all-conference choir

For much more information and to register for the Assembly, visit the MidAmerica UUA website and click on the *Hunger for Justice* Topeka Assembly button. Registration at the door is possible, but no meals are furnished.

Spotlight On

-Jana Rambo

This is a new feature of In Touch that will acquaint members and friends with the groups which make things happen at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita, AKA "committees." We're calling it:

The Caring Committee is the arm of the church that reaches out to those experiencing illness, bereavement or other crises, 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 provision of meals, light housework or yardwork, transportation, and hospital visits. Most recently, we have helped Caring Committee member Nona Ponder with errands when she was unable to get out during the inclement weather, and organized the reception following Linda Joslin's memorial service.

Over the past several months the Committee has lost several members, so we are in need of more people to carry out our work. You can help by becoming a member of the Committee, or by being on call to help with specific needs when they are identified. Individuals interested in participating are encouraged to contact LaRilla Combs or Jana Rambo.

Hip Hip Hurrah!

First UU's mission statement includes the following phrase: [we'll] "serve the larger community through social action...." This month we salute the following who represent the congregation's commitment to social justice while living that statement.

Doug Wilson reported the joy of delivering the Bags of Blessings to St. John's Episcopal Church. Countless members of the congregation contributed items to the overflowing basket.

A number of individuals have helped serve lunch at St. Paul's AME Church. At "press time" Louis Goseland reported that the following had joined him in this service to the larger community: Mary Erickson, Don Erickson, Rev. David Carter, Kent Rowe, George Rivera, Bonnie Till and Doug Wilson. Mary wrote about her experience at St. Paul's in her blog, "A Circle of Service," on the website.

How many of you saw Mary's letter to the editor, "Top Priority"? She pointed out that Wichita is home to thousands of hungry children. Members of our church contribute to the Kansas Food Bank with weekly donations of non-perishable food items.

And closer to home, but appreciated service: Anita Culp and Mary Erickson worked to clean up the entry garden on a recent Saturday, in anticipation of the coming beauty. Bonnie Till donated the frame for the Non-Violence Communication poster donated to the church. But who is anonymous donor of the poster? We'd love to identify him or her!

April Worship Schedule

4/6 Rev. David Carter, Egbert Ethelred Brown: An Unsung Hero

Few Unitarian Universalists know of the Rev. Egbert Ethelred Brown, yet he was one of the heroes of our faith. Rev. Brown was the first African American Unitarian minister who set out to bring the message of the liberal faith to his community in spite of facing racial and class prejudices. His inspirational story was an important part of our history and it is equally important for understanding our tradition today.

4/13 Rabbi Davis, Passover

Learn about the Passover celebration and its importance to the Christian faith.

4/20 Rev. David Carter Easter

4/27 Carolyn Harrison, Making It Your Decision: Advanced Directives

Ms. Harrison is a nurse and member of the Kansas Commission on Ethics. She will talk about the importance of making your wishes known and the steps involved in doing so.

Cello Choir Host Homes Needed, June 7-10:

- Nona Ponder

Camaratta Cellista (Cello Choir) will perform at our church at 2:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 8. This group performed here several years ago and was a great event. They're directed by my son, Benjamin Ponder. They are students and teachers from the public schools in McAllen, TX.

We need at least five hosts who will be able and willing to share their homes with one teacher and two students. They will arrive in Wichita on Saturday, June 7 and be here through Tuesday, June 10. Put this date on your calendars.

Contact Nona if you can help with this program. Her phone is 687-5116, email nonapond@cox.net.

Meet Marque Payne (continued)

human." He began to doubt his faith and even the existence of God and after two years, in 1968, left the seminary. Outside, Marque found a whole generation "who, like me, were questioning the basic principles we had been taught when young." At Breschia College, he was influenced by Ferlinghetti, Brautigan, and Vonnegut, but left after two years and "dove headlong into the hippy culture." He experimented with drugs and hitchhiked all over the country, seeing scores of concerts, living in communes, and even spending time with some Hare Krishnas. Then on a return trip home to Kentucky, he made a mistake that was the "undoing of my freewheeling lifestyle:" he married, settled down, and raised four children.

When Marque was divorced in 1997, he decided that his children should "have the structure of a church" in their lives. He had already come to believe that universal truth did not exist and "a man could gather wisdom from diverse sources." After a friend described Unitarian Universalism in just those terms, he found a place "where my kids and I could be free to be ourselves."

2011 brought Marque to Wichita to be with his daughter and grandchildren. He also found First UU, where he found people both accepting and interesting. What keeps him coming back more than anything is the Rev. David Carter: he has been both touched and moved by the Rev. Carter's personal kindness and teaching. Marque has made a few friends and "will be pleased to make a few more."

FIRST UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

7202 E. 21st St. N.

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www.firstuu.net



From Our Book Reading Groups

Wednesday Evening Book Club:

We did not meet in March, but we will talk about *The Rapture of Canaan* on Wednesday, April 9, 7:00 at the Church. The book centers on adolescent Ninah, who lives in a fundamentalist community. Breaking the Church of Fire and Brimstone and God's Almighty Baptizing Wind's rules leads to punishment which can include spending a night in a grave.

The selection for May, continuing with suggestions from Michael Durall, will be *Christianity for the Rest of Us* by Diane Butler Buss. You are welcome to join us - please call Anne Bailey, 650-4905, for further information.

Eclectic Readers Group:

11:30, Wednesday, April 18. *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln* by historian [Doris Kearns Goodwin](#) portrays Lincoln and some of the men who served with him in his cabinet from 1861 to 1865. The book focuses on Lincoln's mostly successful attempts to reconcile conflicting personalities and political factions. President Obama reportedly used it as a model for constructing his own cabinet.

Living up to the "eclectic" in our name, our choice for May is Bram Stoker's *Dracula*. Brownbag lunch with a stimulating discussion. Please join us. - Del Smith, 612-0826

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

"You need not think alike to love alike."

- Francis David