



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

News From Your Board Of Trustees

- Bonnie Till, President

Plan to Attend: The Camaratta Cellista (Cello Choir) will be performing at First UU on Sunday, June 8. This group performed at our church a few years ago. I attended that concert. It was one of the most joyful experiences of my life: High school students and adults playing cello together with excellence and joie de vie. I encourage all of you to mark the date—June 8—on your calendar, and do not let *anything* stop you from hearing this group. They are that good!

Westar Solar Project: Sadly, First UU was not selected to participate in the Westar Solar Project. However, Kent Rowe assures me that there are other options for us to investigate toward making First UU more energy efficient.

Covenant of Healthy Relations Task Force: The task force composed of Marcia Ellsworth, Nancy Milner, and Del Smith presented the final form of the Covenant to the Board for approval. The creation of this Covenant had wide congregational input. The Board approved the covenant unanimously. The final form of the Covenant will be presented to the congregation via all First UU's methods of communications prior to a vote at the June 15 Annual Meeting.

Continued on page 3

A Covenant of Healthy Relations

-Rolando Gomez

I'm guessing that everyone heard a bit about a communications covenant by now. We had a few meetings and workshops beginning last fall. They initially covered Non-Violent Communication and then the slow assembly of the covenant. It is based on themes and desires of participants from the workshops as well as other UU congregations. I've learned that many other UU congregations have communications covenants. A few of us speculated that perhaps as a church where so many varied beliefs are embraced, a difference of opinion is a pretty common thing. So maybe UU churches tend to need communication covenants more than other churches.

So after some last minute tweaking the Covenant of Healthy Relations was presented to the Board which approved its roll out. The Covenant will be voted on by the members at the June meeting. You should to start seeing copies beginning in mid-May. Please share your comments and questions with Board Members or members of the Task Force/Committee (Marcia Ellsworth, Del Smith, Nancy Milner, Rolando Gomez, Kathy Hull, Kathleen McGee, Marguerite Regan, Bonnie Till, and Jana Rambo).

For a covenant to work requires everyone's participation. So the adoption of the covenant is our first dress rehearsal of the covenant itself.

Treasurer's Report

-Anne Bailey

As of April 15, a little past three fourths of our fiscal year, we have received 75.4% of pledges. Income still exceeds expenses, although much of the income is designated for specific projects and cannot be spent for day-to-day expenses. Keep up the good work, and don't forget to say "Yes" when a canvasser calls asking for your pledge for next year.

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.

Global Faith In Action: Universal Harmony Concert Sunday, May 4

World renowned master musicians Ustad Nizami, Jakub Omsky, and Karnamrita Dasi, will combine their talents and faith traditions in concert May 4, 2014, at St Vincent de Paul Catholic Church. 123 N. Andover Rd., Andover. Doors open at 6:30 PM.

Global Faith In Action hosts the Universal Harmony Concert, a continuing Kansas tradition that is a joyful dialogue of sacred Christian, Muslim and Hindu music traditions. Free to the public, seating for the concert will be first come first serve.

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

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning; ...

Meeting Avoidance Syndrome: Symptoms and Relief Offered

Do you suffer from MAS (Meeting Avoidance Syndrome)? Does MAS cause pangs of conscience because you WANT to help First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita with your time and talent, but hate meetings?

Perhaps your MAS is connected to something that is unavoidable, such as family or work obligations. But there's that persistent itch to help First UU. Opportunities abound for relief from MAS. A couple of current needs:

Greeters: Susan Hund-Milne is currently in charge of greeters and can always use more volunteers. Please let her know if you can arrive 20 min. early and help greet our Sunday visitors. This is not an every Sunday obligation and Susan will answer any questions you might have.

Caring Committee: Support from the congregation at large is needed. It is not necessary to be a "member" of the committee to be of service. Some examples: providing soup or other meals to those recuperating from illness or surgery; transportation; hospital or home visits; helping at memorial service receptions. Let Jana Rambo or LaRilla Combs know if you will be "on call" for any of these or other needs which may come to their attention.

Other: If neither of these areas appeal, look over the list of Committee Chairs (page 6) and ask the chair of the committee how you can help, without attending meetings!

 News From Your Board Of Trustees

- continued

By-laws Review/Revision Task Force: Jamie Findling, Task Force Chair, reported the committee is close to a final review/revision of the by-laws except for the Membership section. The Board directed the Task Force to submit all but the Membership Section to the Board for review prior to the May Board meeting. The Congregation will have time to review changes to the by-laws prior to the vote at the June 15 Annual Meeting. Further, the Board has directed the Task Force Committee to continue reviewing/ revising the Membership section of the by-laws and to solicit congregation input in the review/revision process. A Congregational vote on the Membership section will be set once the process is complete.

MidAmerica Region (MAR) Assembly: The Assembly was held in Topeka and three other locations in the region over the weekend of April 11-13. It was inspiring to be among 150 UUs. (full details elsewhere)

-Don't stand on the sidelines: If there is an items mentioned in this report that interests you, call me (722-8208 or 644-4043) I'll help you get involved. Or, if you find an item of interest elsewhere in this newsletter, call me and I'll help you get involved

MidAmerica Regional Assembly: Hunger for Justice

Rev. David Carter, LaRilla Combs, Charles Merrifield and Bonnie Till represented our congregation at the MidAmerica Regional Assembly hosted by Topeka, Lawrence, Manhattan and Salina Fellowships. Charles reported to Leadership Council on the Assembly, one of four being held in different cities in the MidAmerica Region. The theme of the assembly, Hunger for Justice, was an opportunity to gather in collective conscience, to "hold each other up in community to accomplish what we cannot as individuals."

Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor gave the Arthur M. Judy Memorial keynote lecture Saturday morning in Topeka, which was live-streamed to the other assembly locations. "Reclaiming Our Liberal Heritage and Embracing Our Hunger for Justice" was his topic.

Varied workshops were available to the 150 people from 9 states in attendance. Saturday Charles and Bonnie attended a workshop on a topic close to home, "Fighting for Reproductive Justice in Hostile Territory." Julie Burkhart spoke about the trials and tribulations of opening South Wind Women's Center four years after the assassination of Dr. George Tiller. (Marsha Diggs of the Worship Committee announced that Julie or Michael Moeder of TrustWomen will present a Sunday service on a date to be announced.)

Rev. Carter and Bonnie attended the Friday afternoon workshop, "Civil Rights and your Congregation," held at the elementary school attended by Linda Brown prior to the 1954 landmark school desegregation decision. Also featured was a documentary about black activist and Unitarian, Andrew Young. The school is now a National Historic Site. Other workshops our representatives attended were: "Restorative Justice" and "Church History" (Charles); "Reclaiming Our Liberal Heritage and Embracing our Hunger for Justice" (Bonnie); "Unitarian Universalism Made Real: Effective International Peace Action" (LaRilla).

Saturday afternoon Rev. Carter joined many attendees and gathered at the State Capitol in peaceful demonstration to end bullying. Denying equal rights and treatment for individuals based on race, ethnicity, religion and sexual orientation is a continued form of bullying seen in our world today. Bonnie participated in the business meeting on Saturday.

Activities began Friday night, with an opening celebration, which included a banner parade, chalice lighting, official welcome from MidAmerica staff and board members, a video message from UUA President Peter Morales, introduction of the assembly theme song composed by Ann Zimmerman, a brief history of Unitarians and Universalists in Kansas, and a lively song festival. The evening concluded with a Taizé meditation service titled "The Hunger in Our Soul."

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If Winter Comes...

-Lila Arnold - 12/18/06

Sliding down November's dark trough
to the deepest murk of December
the official first of day of winter,
this shortest day, this solstice,
comes.

Our souls know this pit ,
this harbinger of despair,
this long obsidian night..

Still, put an ear to the icy ground
And hear the slightest burbling sound
of sap readying to rise
teased out by the tiniest increase
in light that will lead us all
to summer,
again.

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 Wendy Haynie-Cosby

- Marque Payne

Wendy facilitates the children's Religious Exploration program at First UU. She is passionate about it and considers it her calling. She says, "These remarkable adults and children inspire me. I get excited about the lessons and the opportunity to make a difference. I teach so I can learn. It is fulfilling."

Wendy was raised in Georgia in a Methodist church that was founded by her grandfather. She felt nurtured and loved there. In 1996, Wendy, her husband and their three children Zeb, Abigail, and William Jacob moved to Wichita.

Wendy embraced the move in a positive way and determined to expand her horizons. In particular she decided to investigate and educate her family about other religions. She set out, children in tow, to visit every

Continued on page 9

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

An Invitation: UU Holiday Party Group Premiere Event

On Memorial Day, Monday, May 26, you are cordially invited to attend the Premiere Event of the UU Holiday Party Group. Please join us for scintillating conversation, irresistible edibles, and a laugh-out-loud game of Apples to Apples. Please bring a covered dish to share for dinner. Doors open at 5:30 pm, dinner begins at 6:00 pm.


RE Corner:

- Denise Jackson-Simon (DRE)

It's time to start thinking about our summer RE program and how you can participate. It gives congregation members an opportunity to share their knowledge, skills, talents, interests and time with the young people of our church. Almost anything goes. It is a wonderful way to give back to the church and to get to know our children and youth. There will be a sign-up sheet on the office window beginning in May, so please consider signing up for a summer Sunday. It will do your heart and soul good! Questions or comments, call Denise Jackson-Simon, DRE, at 945-7622.

May 2014



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3 6p Beltane Potluck
4 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	5 6p Music & Meditation	6 7p UU Craft Night	7 6p Zen Friends 7p Committee on Ministry	8	9	10
11 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Leadership Council	12 6p Music & Meditation 6:30p Ethical Eating Vegan Potluck	13	14 6p Zen Friends 7p Book Discussion 7p Worship Committee	15 7p NOW Meeting 7p Full Moon Dance	16 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	17
18 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE	19 6p Music & Meditation	20	21 6p Zen Friends 7p Board Meeting CALENDAR & NEWS-LETTER DEADLINE	22	23	24 10a Caring Committee
25 NO Adult RE 11:00 Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	26 6p Music & Meditation 6p Memorial Day Potluck	27	28 2p Newsletter Mailing 6p Zen Friends	29	30	31 

Every Week at First UU

Adult Religious Exploration, Sunday, 9:45 am – Corey Swertfager, 201-6921
 Chalice Bookstore – Marque Payne, 941-8385
 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 – Anita Culp, 744-2840
 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, 2:00 PM – 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.

Mid-America Regional Assembly - continued

Ann Zimmerman, a Kansas singer-songwriter, wrote lyrics and a full musical score for a new song titled *Bending Toward Justice* based on the words of Theodore Parker — “I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice.” The lyrics and spirit of the song echoed the justice themes delivered in the keynote address, workshops, worship services and social action event held in Topeka. The song can be downloaded at <http://cdbaby.com/cd/annzimmerman4>.

The Sunday morning worship service featured five UU ministers from Kansas delivering justice messages about race and marriage equality. Bonnie termed the Sunday service as “wonderful, the 50 voice choir fantastic, and Rev. Carter’s presentation, along with Rev. Thea Nietfeld, on John Brown, excellent.” The offering collected over \$1,600 for the All’s Fair Kansas organization, which is fighting for marriage equality in Kansas.

Anyone who has ever attended a Regional or National UU gathering can testify to the exhilaration and inspiration that comes from mingling with and learning from other religious liberals. Just because Wichita is the southernmost congregation in the Region does not mean we are isolated.

NOTE: For those of you who are wondering why Wichita didn’t attend a “Prairie Star District Assembly,” the answer is simple. After more than a year of work, three Districts (Prairie Star, Heartland and Central Midwest) melded themselves into the MidAmerica Region (MAR), which is made up of thirteen states. (www.midamericauua.org). Next year’s regional assembly is planned for one site in the Chicago area. (Del Smith, In Touch, and Phil Roudebush, Topeka Fellowship and Co-Chair of the Assembly, contributed to this article.)

Dillon’s Gift Cards: Yours To Use And The Church’s To Gain

Anne Bailey reports that the church gets \$200 to \$300 each month from Dillon’s Gift Cards. The return is pretty steady, but could be increased if more people used the gift card regularly. Anne buys her prescriptions with her card and says “I feel guilty if I don’t use it for everything at Dillon’s, even the stuff I buy for Sunday morning coffee.” If you’re not set up with a card see Anne or Office Manager Anita Culp.

Regular users find creative and rewarding ways to use the card to First UU’s benefit.

“Charles and I love using our Dillon’s gift cards. We put money (usually what we think we will spend that month) on our cards at the cash register at the beginning of the month or when the card is getting low. Then we just pull the card out at check out. It is so convenient to use! Truly! It is also an easy way to keep track of what we spend and 5% goes to the church! It doesn’t cost us a cent extra! Another bonus is the points I get on my credit card for personal gifts and cash because I used my credit card to put money on the Dillon’s card. Definitely a “win” “win” situation. Amazon is just as easy. We just do our on-line shopping from the church website by clicking the Amazon link and then signing into our account. Nothing lost for us and a big gain for the church. – Marcia Ellsworth

“I pay my pledge to First UU each month. Last month the church got my pledge plus \$10 more. I loaded my Dillon’s card for \$200, then used it to buy gas and groceries. Painless!” - Del Smith

“Now maybe you aren’t a Dillon’s grocery item shopper, but here’s a way to use a Dillon’s Gift Card for shopping just about anywhere. Every Dillon’s has Gift Cards you can purchase for numerous stores, shops and restaurants. For example, purchase a gift card for Applebee’s, Outback, Chili’s or any number of other restaurants. If not a restaurant, a gift card for a clothing store. Or if you don’t want to pick the store or restaurant, use your Dillon’s Gift Card dollars to purchase a Visa gift card that can be used anywhere. We all spend money, make your expenditures benefit First UU. Remember First UU gets 5% of every Dillon’s Gift Card dollar you spend.” - Sigrid Trombley

Hip Hip Hurray!

Success Story: Dinner in Transylvania

-Vivien Minshull-Ford

On Saturday March 29th, First UU held the annual dinner to raise funds for Homorod Szenpal, the partner church in Transylvania, the historic location of the birth of Unitarianism. 47 people, from inside and outside the church, listened to Transylvanian music, drank wine and dined on goulash, chicken paprikash, red cabbage, potato bread, apple kuchen, and other Hungarian and Transylvanian dishes. Following the dinner, an auction of art and other donated items raised \$1,400 for the church, almost twice as much as last year's event. The star prize was a Helen Brewer oil of a villager from Homorod Szenpal against rolling Transylvanian landscape, painted from a photograph taken by Betty Hensley, who visited Homorod Szenpal several times and attended the dinner. Past donations to the Transylvanian church have paid for repairing the bell, buying computer equipment, and helped build a playground for the village children. In late May Debbie Wadman, Nancy Milner, and Vivien Minshull-Ford will travel to Transylvania to deliver the funds to the church and spend several days with the minister and the people of Homorod Szenpal. Currently their task, apart from arranging travel, is deciding on perfect local gifts to take to their hosts and the 30 children who attend the church.

The support for this event from the congregation was overwhelming and splendid: the posters, cooking, organizing, serving, table decoration, and ticket selling, auction donations, and impromptu auctioneer Charles Merrifield contributed to a splendid event we could all be proud of.

Spotlight On: Committee On Ministry

-Vivian Minshull-Ford

The Committee on Ministry oversees the ministry of First Unitarian Universalist Church; CoM is the place for members of the congregation who have an issue with the minister or any ministry to bring their complaints or questions. CoM also works to improve the various ministries, including Adult Religious Education, which is currently resuming The New Jim Crow Discussions, as well as listening to weekly lectures on the history of religion in America. Other ministries under the CoM umbrella are Children's Religious Education, the Caring Committee, the Social Action Committee, the Finance Committee, and the Worship Committee. Contrary to the expectations of this writer, CoM does not do the work of the Worship Committee. However, CoM may talk to the Worship Committee after a service, telling them of positive or negative responses. In addition, CoM makes occasional recommendations to the Board of Trustees about church policies and activities.

David Brewer, CoM Chair, sees his role as "keeping the committee members focused on their tasks and to make sure everyone gets heard." In the future, David Brewer would like to see his committee help improve the various ministries and "the overall feelings of people toward First UU."

First Sunday Lunch: Celebrate Mothers

What food dish makes you think of mom? Magda and friends invite you to share that love and comfort with us at 1st Sunday lunch on May 4th.

FYI: If you think Mother's Day was an invention of the florist and greeting card industries, think again! Unitarian Julia Ward Howe originated it with a proclamation she called "Mother's Day of Peace." Learn more about this inspiring woman on Mother's Day when Reverent Carter's sermon will be about this UU Visionary, Julia Ward Howe.

Flower Communion

This First Sunday Lunch coincides with our traditional Flower Communion, which was originated in 1923 by Dr. Norbert Capek, founder of the modern Unitarian movement in Czechoslovakia. Each person brings a single flower to the service. The flowers are brought together to create a bouquet and at the end of the service each person takes a new flower. This ritual reminds us of the diverse gifts and talents each person has. Dr. Capek was one of the martyrs of our faith. The Nazis found his gospel of the inherent worth and dignity of every person to be "...too dangerous to the Reich to be allowed to live." Dr. Capek was sent to Dachau, where he was killed in a "medical experiment." This gentle man suffered a cruel death, but his message of human hope and dignity lives on in the Flower Communion, which is widely celebrated among Unitarian Universalists today.

April Worship Schedule

5/4 Kathy Hull **Beltane & Flower Communion**

Celebrate Spring with a unique UU Tradition: The Flower Communion in conjunction with honoring the feminine divinity on one of the most sacred days on the Pagan calendar. Bring a flower or two for the flower communion. Your flower will be commingled with the others for the service. Everyone will take a flower home as a remembrance of this particularly special Unitarian Universalist ceremony.

5/11 Rev. David Carter **Mother's Day of Peace: UU Visionary, Julia Ward Howe**

Unitarian social activist and visionary Julia Ward Howe penned a proclamation of prophetic truth nearly one hundred fifty years ago, which she called "Mother's Day of Peace." Today, her radical call to witness is no less urgent:

"We will not have great questions decided by irrelevant agencies. Our husbands shall not come to us, reeking with carnage, for caresses and applause. Our sons shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy and patience.

We women of one country will be too tender of those of another country to allow our sons to be trained to injure theirs. From the bosom of the devastated earth a voice goes up with our own. It says "Disarm, Disarm! The sword of murder is not the balance of justice."

5/18 Rev. David Carter **The Divine Mother**

Some of the problems inherent in theologies that omit any reference to feminine divinity were recently parodied in a televised monologue by comedian Louis C. K.: "If there is a God, I don't know if it's the one in the Bible, 'cause that's a weird story... He's our father and we're His children. That's it. "Our father, who art in Heaven." Where's our mother? What happened to our mom? What did He do to our mom? Something happened... and I want the story. Well, how can we not have a mother?! At least, maybe, God's divorced. Maybe he has an ex-wife... Maybe that's what's going on. Maybe your life is your... weekend with Dad, that's what life is... and then when you die, you go to mom's house..."

Divine Mother explores alternate theologies that offer divergent versions of the Source, theologies that elaborate on femininity as divine, theologies that portray the eternal Godhead as simultaneously, inextricably, joyfully Female and Male.

5/25 Claudia Amaro, **Dream 9 The Immigration System is Broken ~ How can we fix it?**

Read more here: www.tucsonsentinel.com/local/report/080713_dream_9_released/

Meet Wendy Haynie-Cosby

- continued

church in the Wichita area. She found that, in a list of US cities based on the ratio of churches to population, Wichita ranks third. She decided to focus on the point of it all: finding a spiritual home and a place where her teenage children might become involved. She felt she may have found it at a local Methodist church and she began to attend and teach Sunday school there. She loved the relationships she developed there but it was about that time that she heard about Unitarian Universalism and visited First UU. She made the difficult decision to leave her former church because she knew she had found principles she could truly embrace at First UU. When her granddaughter, Ozzie Lee, was born in 2003 she recognized that Unitarian Universalism was the spiritual journey that she wanted for her and she joined the church. On another scale, Wendy felt Wichita needed this church and wanted to be a part of it.

Wendy describes her household as wondrously full, noisy, and active. Her youngest son, her daughter, and grandchildren, Maverick and Ozzie Lee, all live there and keep things interesting. Zeb and his wife Val live on the west side of Wichita and are also important parts of the family. Wendy teaches third grade at Andale Elementary-Middle school. She takes Ozzie and Maverick to school with her every day and finds it both rewarding and exhausting. In other words, she loves it!

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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From Our Book Reading Groups

Wednesday Evening Book Club:

Wednesday, May 14, 7 pm. Church and religion expert Diana Butler Bass studied centrist and progressive churches across the country for several years and reports her findings in *Christianity for the Rest of Us*. The publisher's description of the book notes that it "offers a how-to approach for Protestants eager to remain faithful to their tradition while becoming a vital spiritual community. As Butler Bass delved into the rich spiritual life of various Episcopal, United Methodist, Disciples of Christ, Presbyterian, United Church of Christ, and Lutheran churches, certain consistent practices – such as hospitality, contemplation, diversity, justice, discernment, and worship – emerged as core expressions of congregations seeking to rediscover authentic Christian faith and witness today." The book is on Michael Durrall's recommended reading list. All are welcome. Please call Anne Bailey, 650-4905, for further information.

Eclectic Readers Group:

Friday, May 16, 11:30 am. We cancelled our April meeting in order to do justice to Doris Kearns Goodwin's 754 page *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. Goodwin, a Pulitzer Prize winner for History illuminates Lincoln's successful leadership. His experiences raised him above his more privileged rivals and allowed him to understand the motives and desires of others.

For those who like to read ahead, our June selection is the book which introduced the character of the vampire Count Dracula. Irish author Bram Stoker's *Dracula* was published in 1897. Although Stoker did not invent the vampire, he defined its modern form, and the novel has spawned numerous theatrical, film and television interpretations.

Brown bag lunch, discussion often begins before noon. All are welcome. Del Smith, 612-0826.

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"You need not think alike to love alike."

- Francis David