



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA
FOUNDED 1887

President's Report

January 21, 2015

- Charles Merrifield

The January 21 meeting of the Board of Trustees of the church focused on preparing for the January 25 Midyear Meeting. There are two main topics on the agenda of the meeting. First, there is the acceptance of the provisional budget, and second is the discussion on the bylaws revisions.

The provisional budget sets the goals for the pledge drive. If the pledge drive reaches its goal, then the church has a good chance of achieving the goals set forth in the provisional budget during the forthcoming fiscal year. If the pledge drive does not reach the goals set forth in the provisional budget, then cuts in the budget are established at the Annual Meeting in June.

Most of the provisional budget recommended by the board consists of standard items. One such standard recommendation is that the church employees receive a cost of living pay increase. The board recommends a 1.3% pay increase based on the 1.3% increase in the Consumer Price Index.

There are two challenging areas of the proposed budget. Michael Durall has recommended that the church devote more attention and resources to social justice issues. It is by focusing more on social justice that we will become more of a public

Continued on page 4

UU Principles In Motion

- Louis Goseland

First UU Social Action has been keeping our principles in motion in the congregation and throughout the community.

During the first Sunday service in January, UUs braved the snowy weather to hear First UU Social Action Coordinator Louis Goseland speak on the power of stories, and the need for listening in making justice. After service, First UU member Marguerite Regan led members into a powerful dialogue, employing restorative practices which brought out deep thoughts and feelings surrounding race, justice, and community.

Throughout the month, our members were involved in various efforts, including First UU President Charles Merrifield, who is working with regular visitor, Durell Gilmore of Sunflower Community Action, in researching statistics for the Fair Chance campaign. Fair Chance is a campaign, led by Sunflower Community Action, seeking to work with local stakeholders to create greater opportunities for good jobs, and to remove hiring practices that discriminate against people with past criminal convictions.

Durell, along with First UU members, were joined by a recent visitor, Alan Trenary, in attending the South Central Kansas Legislative Delegation's

Continued on page 2

From The Treasurers

- Anne Bailey and Marsha Diggs

End of the year statements have been sent to everyone who has made a pledge to First UU. All payments to pledges made during calendar year 2014 are listed to assist you in preparing income taxes. If you find any errors, please call the Church and leave a message. Corrections can be made and another statement printed.

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.

UU Principles, continued

community forum. While Durell spoke on Fair Chance, Alan spoke in favor of opening up Kansas for industrial hemp cultivation.

Other community meetings included recent town halls put on by local faith leaders, community organizations, the City of Wichita, and the Wichita Police Department. The town halls focused on what can be done to hold police officers accountable, and rebuild public trust in local law enforcement. UUs also attended a vigil that was held for JP Quintero, a young unarmed Wichitan who was shot and killed by Wichita police.

There is a lot going inside the church too!

Over the past month, Rev. Carter has pulled together people interested in starting a local chapter of Food for Life Global. Food for Life Global equips groups with materials and assistance in providing food to those in need.

Laura Robison has partnered First UU with Behavioral Links to start up a youth group. The group began using the church over the past month, and Laura hopes to involve congregants in assisting with activities.

February's First Sunday Lunch: Sounds Super!

"A Super Bowl Sunday Snack Lunch Menu" will be offered by Magda and Friends on February 1st. Let Magda Garrett (magdagarrett@gmail.com) know how you will help. First time visitors are always our guests, so if you're reading this and have been thinking about coming to First UU "someday," this would be a good day to do it! The food is always good and the fellowship fabulous.

Mysteries

(Simone Weil: *"There are three mysteries in human life of which all human beings... have more or less knowledge. One is beauty."*)

Beauty, the work of the mind in understanding and in application, and those precious flashes – all these are somehow augmented in the sad and mad season, all these come as angels of mercy.

The sheer beauty of the day and night, of the simple gifts of sky and sun and moon and star, of tree and grass and bird – all these uphold us. We sing them. We live them daily.

This beauty is twofold. Often we look upon its embodiment from a distance and perceive or create the beauty. This is a pleasure. But sometimes we enter into union with a simple thing. In this communion we lose our painful, nagging, loquacious self. What begins in the joy of recognition passes into peace.

- Rev. Greta W. Crosby, Minister Emerita, First UU Church of Wichita. Published in "Tree and Jubilee," 1982, Unitarian Universalist Association.

Ecofest 2015

-Marcia Ellsworth

If you enjoyed 1st UU's EcoFest 2014 celebration and would like to become a part of this year's planning committee, mark your calendar for 7pm, Tuesday, February 10th, and help get the ball rolling!

Our first annual EcoFest was a huge success thanks to the support of so many church members. We were able to meet all of our stated goals! Not bad for our first try in our new building! These goals included celebrating green living, sharing our values with the community while promoting visibility, and generating income for the church (\$1000 of last year's profits have been approved to help make our church more energy efficient). With your continued support this year's Fest will be another worthwhile, fun filled family day.

Last year we met about once a month for the first few months and then as the event got close, about twice a month. The many committees that you could be a part of include our UU booths: bake sale, repurposed clothing, antiques and collectibles, children's activities and feeding the crowd. In addition, help is needed to find sponsors, select vendors, provide music, promote the event, coordinate community education booths, select and display art, organize raffle, building set up, and other possibilities.

If you have an interest in the environment, getting to know other church members better, helping our church to become more public, and generating income while having fun, this is the committee for you! Please email or phone Marcia Ellsworth (mjelsworth@aol.com 688-5352) or Vivien Minshull-Ford (vminshull@yahoo.com 683-9295) for more information or just show up on February 10th. We are open to comments about last years' event and need your fresh ideas and enthusiasm to improve EcoFest 2015.

Use Dillons Plus Card, Support First UU Church

Supporting First UU Church has never been easier - just shop at Dillons and scan your Plus Shopper's Card! Here's how:

1. Visit www.dillons.com/community rewards.
2. Scroll down to find your location and click "Enroll Now".
3. Sign in to your online account, or create an account.
4. Find and select First Unitarian Universalist Church (our number is 10162), and click "Save".

You'll start earning rewards for the Church right away on qualifying purchases made using your Plus Shopper's Card! If you have questions or do not have computer access, please talk to Anne Bailey at Church or call 316-650-4905.

The Sweetest Silent Auction Ever...

Something to suit every budget will be offered during the Valentine Day Silent Auction, February 1-11, at First UU. Bidding will start at 10 am, Sunday, February 1, and close at 6 pm, Wednesday, February 11.

At press time thirteen items are confirmed for the auction, but St. Valentine's assistants, Elaine Edens and Del Smith, will accept items until January 28th. A partial list: heart shaped wreath designed by Mary Moore; heart shaped containers of various sizes, each filled with Fair Trade Chocolates; Nancy Berube's homemade candy; some cups, including an English bone china cup, containing Fair Trade Chocolates; a heart shaped spring form cake pan; a Longaberger small vegetable basket, signed and dated, filled with Fair Trade products; an apron; a violin serenade.

Bids may be made any time the church is open. On closing bid day, Elaine and/or Del will be at the church until 6 pm. Winning bidders will be notified by phone or email to arrange picking up their items before Valentine's Day, Sunday, February 14.

This is definitely a win-win: money to support our programs and a gift for the loved one of your choice. Questions or donation offers - Elaine (Elaine.bulatkin@cox.net) or Del (wichitadel@aol.com).

President's Report, continued

church, effect the world of human issues, and accelerate the growth of the church.

He recommends that we hire a social justice coordinator and increase Rev. Carter's hours of work. The finance committee and the board recommend in the budget that we employ a social justice coordinator ½ time and increase Rev. Carter to ¾ time instead of ½ time. A full report of the meeting, including the budget will be placed in the Board Minute binder in the Library.

The second major topic of the Midyear Meeting is the introduction of the proposed bylaw revisions. The Bylaws Committee has worked extensively reviewing the bylaws. Several changes are of a general updating nature. There are two big proposed changes. First, the committee has made changes to modify the bylaws to implement Michael Durall's ideas about membership. Second, the committee proposed changes to the bylaws that relate to an interim minister. The committee plans to introduce the proposed revisions at the Jan 25 meeting, and the committee plans to have open discussions of the proposal over the following month. The committee will then review all comments and attempt to synthesize the will of the congregation into a final draft which will be voted on hopefully in a special congregational meeting.

Other items of interest: I have been discussing the Statement of Conscience on Reproductive Justice to submit a congregational response by Feb. 2 to the UUA.

As president of the congregation, I was asked to deliver a few words at Nona Ponder's memorial service on Jan. 7. I recognized Nona's many years of service to the church and what an important part of the church she was.

Rev. Carter has begun a planning group to develop an affiliate of Food For Life Global to provide food for the hungry in Wichita beginning with our own church members with limited mobility. The organization has a history of success internationally. There is some controversy in the church because Food For Life Global only provides vegan food which may not be well received in this region. The board chose not to oppose the project because Rev. Carter reports that there are about 8 church members who are interested in working with the project. The board has informally adopted Michael Durall's recommendation that the board does not need to approve every project of the church as long as the project operates within the values of the church and there are sufficient participants.

RE Corner:

- Denise Jackson-Simon DRE

We welcomed the New Year with our annual Burning Bowl and goal setting activity. We continue exploring our "Toolbox of Faith" curriculum with lessons on Power, Spirit of Life, Courage & Conviction, and Listening. We celebrated MLK JR.'s birthday and will finish up the video on UU Principles on February 1. You'll want to be sure and be here for that!

On February 15, we will participate in a community service activity by filling the "Bags of Blessings" so they will be ready for delivery at the end of the month.

Please plan to join us on Sunday mornings from 11:00-12:00. It's much more fun when YOU are here!

Dr. Bart Ehrman Comes To Wichita

- Amy Geyer

Participants in First UU's Adult RE groups, both morning and evening (EARS) may enjoy The 2015 Word & Note event at Plymouth Congregational Church. Dr. Ehrman, author of *How Jesus Became God*, will give four lectures based on his book. The event runs from February 20th thru 22nd. For information and to purchase tickets you can call 316-684-0221. The lecture schedule is also on their website:

<http://www.plymouth-church.net>

A Success Story

Thanks to all who contributed to the 1,225-plus pounds donated to the Food Bank through First UU's CornUucopia program from November, 2013-December, 2014. (Receipts for the entire month of January 2014 went missing on the program coordinators, Marcia Ellsworth, Vivien Minshull-Ford and Jana Rambo.) Keep up the good work, folks! Bring one or two cans of non-perishable foodstuffs each week. If you'd like to help deliver to the Food Bank, just let Marcia, Vivien or Jana know.



February 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45a Adult Relig. Explor. 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens RE 12:15p Music Committee 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	2 6:00p Zen Friends	3 7:00p UU Craft Night 7:00p Full Moon Celebration	4 7:00p Committee on Ministry	5 6:30p Meditation, Mysticism & Consciousness Class 6:45p Evening Adult Relig. Studies Group	6	7 8:00a Zen Friends Retreat
8 9:45a Adult Relig. Explor. 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens RE 12:15p Leadership Council 3:00 p Chamber Music Concert	9 6:00p Zen Friends 6:30p Ethical Eating Vegan Potluck	10 7:00p EcoFest Committee	11 7:00p Worship Committee	12 6:30p Meditation, Mysticism & Consciousness Class 6:45p Evening Adult Relig. Studies Group	13	14 9:00a Private Event
15 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult Relig. Explor. 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens RE 12:15p Call to Action Group	16 6:00p Zen Friends	17	18 7:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	19 6:30p Meditation, Mysticism & Consciousness Class 6:45p Evening Adult Relig. Studies Group	20 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	21
22 9:45a Adult Relig. Explor. 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens RE 12:15p Music Committee	23 6:00p Zen Friends	24 6:30p Dismantling Injustice Action Group	25 1:00p Newsletter Mailing	26 6:30p Meditation, Mysticism & Consciousness Class 6:45p Evening Adult Relig. Studies Group	27	28 9:00a Private Event 10:00a Caring Committee

MEET KATHLEEN McGee

-By Del Smith

Kathleen McGee has a vivid recollection of her first visit to First UU on April 1, 1990. Before Patt Herdklotz' sermon, Joe and Helen Brewer gave her a brief history of our church and Unitarian Universalism on the way to the coffee table. Between their welcoming and the impact of the sermon, Kathleen says she "was hooked." She joined that very day.

An atheist daughter of an atheist father and Catholic mother, Kathleen came to our church because all of her co-workers went to church. Her physician father and her sister, also an atheist, had told her about the Unitarians, so when it was time to find a church in which she could be comfortable she sought us out. A product of parochial schools, Kathleen stayed with the Catholic church out of respect for her mother. However, that did not mean she was a model student. She managed to "flunk religion" in the second grade because she asked too many questions and wasn't satisfied with the answers. She read Immanuel Veliitkorsky's "Worlds in Collision" (published, 1977) which finished the job of disenchantment with established religion.

Kathleen lived in several places before moving to Wichita in 1986: Madison, WI, New York City, Toledo, OH, 2 years in Guatemala (with her then-husband, an archeologist). Her two bachelor's degrees are from University of Wichita and Kansas University.

She is a member of the By-Laws Committee and active in the Adult Religious Exploration Group. She attends the Dismantling Injustice Task Force which meets on the 4th Tuesday. Now that she's retired she expects to get even more involved in Social Action issues and to join the Book group. An avid reader, she currently reading "The Selfish Gene," the book on evolution by Richard Dawkins as well as a thriller.

How many people can say they milked goats and then pasteurized the milk in the cellar? Not many, we bet, but Kathleen did as a child in Wisconsin. Just another "believe it or not" type fact about one of our fellow congregants.

Kathleen retired from her job as a Medical Record Coder at Wesley Medical Center on December 12. She and her husband Vernon will have more time to enjoy their clowder of cats, 4 rescued ferals and 1 from the Humane Society. They feed birds and other critters (including a possum) at their home. The couple was married by Rev. Herdklotz in 1992. (Vernon, a church member and steady presence at First UU, declined to be interviewed.)

(Editor's observation and note: During one of the discussions about Michael Durall's book "The Almost Church Revisited," talk about buying a sign for 21st Street turned serious. Kathleen pulled out her checkbook and made her donation then and there! An example of Durall's recommendation that we lessen our "attitude of scarcity.")



Left is a buzz back to last year EcoFest. See the article on page 3 for busy bee activities for 2015.

Welcome New Members

Please welcome Summer and Bill Ludwig and Crystal Thompson to First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita. We invited them to introduce themselves via this newsletter. Read on!

"We moved to Wichita about 2 years ago from Topeka where we were members of the UUFT. We have 3 children Betsi, 20, Liam, 15, and Davis, 8. We also have a granddaughter, Joey who is 8 months old and just amazing. Bill works as the Senior Web Developer for Pratt Industries and I work as a Manager at Corporate Lodging Consultants in Oil Field Services. We are excited to be new members!" - Summer and Bill Ludwig



Right, Summer, Bill and Davis Ludwig



Left, Crystal Thompson

"I went to college at Kansas State University for English Literature and recently attended Brown Mackie College in Salina for Medical Billing and Coding. I am currently employed at Kansas Pathology Consultants as a Biller and Coder. I have a 19 year old son named Ethan, who lives in Salina. I have a brother here in Wichita and one who lives in Salina. My

parents live in Glen Elder, Kansas. I love to cook, garden, read, sew, and spend time with any dog I meet." - Crystal Thompson

And we're excited to have all three of you as members!

This Just In!

Bylaws Task Force Report Highlights: Discussion and Feedback Details

Members of the Congregation will have opportunity to acquaint themselves with the proposed bylaws changes, according to Jamey Findling, chair of the group which has been meeting regularly since December 2013.

The proposed revisions will be presented in draft form for the purpose of inviting discussion and feedback. It will be posted on the church website where it will be available to anyone able to use an internet-connected computer. Printed copies are also available on request. Jamey and the other members of the Task Force, Sigrid Trombley and Kathleen McGee, strongly encourage that we read through all of the proposed revisions before commenting. (The draft includes explanatory rationale for most of the changes.)

The comment period will run until the end of February. The process is planned for members to provide feedback in one of two ways. 1) Write your comments down and submit them to a special email address: bylaws@firstuu.net. Or 2) attend one of the listening sessions scheduled at the church on February 8 after church or February 11 at 7 pm.

Editor's note: A full copy of the Report will be placed in the Board Minute Binder in the Library, along with other reports and minutes of the Mid-Year Business Meeting.

Chamber Music Concert, February 8, 2015, 3:00 pm

- By Carol Neighbor

Save Sunday, February 8, for a delightful afternoon of chamber music at our First Unitarian Universalist Church. A return to a 3:00 starting allows for a rest after Sunday Service.

Violinists Nancy Johnson and Dominique Corbeil will perform two works "Atlantic Drift, Three pieces for Two Violins" and "Sleep Sound ida Mornin," a very short duet based on a traditional tune by British composer, Judith Weir. She holds the honor of Master of the Queen's Music, the first woman to do so. A Jean-Pierre Guignon (1702-1774) work "Folies d'Espagne, Op. 9, variations on Spanish airs for two Violins" will follow. Cellist Caitlin Schmidt, will make her first appearance on our concert series. She plans to bring the WSU Graduate String Quartet with a special music program. In addition, Carol Neighbor on alto recorder and Greg Golding on guitar will play George Frederic Handel's "Sonata in D minor, HWV 367." This work begins with a pensive slow section which moves to the jocular. Next the two instruments alternate with furiously fast notes followed by hopping bursts of tones. Lastly a rather strident ascending melodic section flowers into a quick joyous dance.

Do plan to be a part of this concert. A \$10 donation is suggested. Refreshments will be served.

"Escalating Inequality": Unitarian Universalist Association's CSAI: 2014-2018

(CSAI: *Congregational Study/Action Issue*. Delegates to the annual General Assembly by vote select from a list of issues local congregations recommend. A CSAI is an invitation for congregations and districts to take a topic of concern and engage it, reflect on it, learn about it, respond to it, comment on it take action – each in their own way. A CSAI is NOT a statement – it is a question.)

Delegates at the 2014 General Assembly in Providence, RI, selected "Escalating Inequality" to be the 2014-2018 Congregational Study/Action Issue (CSAI) of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) of Congregations. Our Unitarian Universalist (UU) tradition places its faith in people to create a more loving community for all, guided by "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations." Challenging extreme inequality has now become a moral imperative, just as prior generations have led movements from abolition to civil rights and marriage equality.

Study guides and other information can be found on the UUA Website. The full text of the CSAI for 2014-2018 may be found at <http://www.uua.org/economic/escalatinginequality/290506.shtml>.

New Member Class

The Membership Team will be offering a class for new and prospective members on Wednesday, February 25, 7 to 9:00 PM. A brief history of the local church as well as Unitarianism and Universalism will be presented. Please call the Church office to register for this class. Come early (6:00) to share in a light supper before the class.

NEW! Evening Adult Religious Studies Group

The Evening Adult Religious Studies Group (EARS) will begin on Thursday February 5th at 6:45 pm in the R.E. room and continue to meet weekly on Thursdays. Our first program will be Bart D. Ehrman's 24-lecture audio series *How Jesus Became God*. We will listen to a 30 minute lecture followed by a group discussion. The lecture will begin promptly at 7:00. Contact Amy Geyer at 316-440-3097 or amy@inannasjourney.com for more information and to receive the course guide.

Full Moon Celebration - Tuesday, February 3, 7:00

Full Moon Celebrations are an opportunity for earth-centered ritual practice, including drumming, chanting, trancing and dancing. Offered by WUUPS, a UU feminist spirituality crones' circle with a 25 year history of offering public earth-centered programming at First UU, we share experiential wisdom and traditional lore, crafty techniques, and friendly networking for Polytheists, Pagans, Wiccans and Witches. Whether curious or dedicated, we invite you to join us! Schedules for the New Year are available at the Church.

February Worship Schedule

2/1 Rev. Carter *Pluralism and Censorship* We are blessed with a diverse and vibrant congregation. But how much should you have to censor your beliefs to accommodate another? Shouldn't you be accepted for who you are? Rev. Carter will address the thorny issue of pluralism during his presentation.

2/8 Dorlan Bales *A Quaker Service* Please join us in celebrating the beauty and spirituality of the Quaker faith.

2/15 Rev. Carter *Peace in the Home: Finding an End to Domestic Violence* A companion sermon to the upcoming community interfaith gathering scheduled for February 18 at 7 pm at the WSU Metroplex.

2/22 Corey Swertfager – **How Jesus Became God II.** By popular demand, Corey follows-up his December 21 presentation based on the Adult Exploration class study of Bart D. Ehrman's audio lectures. The series explains how the early Christian claim that Jesus of Nazareth was God completely changed the course of Western civilization. EARS, the evening Adult Religious Exploration class led by Amy Geyer, begins the series on February 5.

Registration for Regional Assembly is Open

Join UUs from across the Region in Naperville, Illinois, April 17 to 19.

All programming will take place at the Marriott Hotel in Naperville (just west of Chicago). Guest rooms are available at a special group rate.

Early bird registration fee for adults is \$175. Discounted rates are available for young adults, youth, and children. A limited number of partial scholarships are available - apply online. Registration includes all programming plus four meals. Child care will be provided for registered children over the age of three.

Registration is open now. Early bird registration ends March 16.

To register or for more information go to <http://www.midamericauua.org/RA>

Wanted: 100 Bags Of Blessings By February 26 From 1st UU

- Del Smith

The collection bin for Bags of Blessings from the Heart has started to fill, but is there enough to meet our goal of 100 bags from this congregation? Probably not! More items, individual or bagged, are needed if we are to meet the increased need of assistance for homeless and low income people in Wichita and surrounding areas.

If you choose to bring a completed Bag of Blessing it must be in a closed gallon size bag and contain one of every item on this list:

Nonfragrant unopened items for people of all ages, TRIAL SIZE, please:

Shampoo/conditioner	Chapstick/Lip balm	Nail file or clippers
Shaving cream	Lotion	Deodorant
Washcloth	Toothpaste	Toothbrush
Comb	Kleenex	Disposable Razor
Soap (bar, liquid or sanitizer)		

Let Marcia Ellsworth, our liaison to Partners for Wichita, know if you can help bag individual items in gallon size bags. (mjelsworth@aol.com) . If you traveled over the holidays, check shaving and make-up kits for unused hotel toiletries.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

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From The Eclectic Readers Group

11:30 am, Friday, February 20. Ernest Hemingway's *The Old Man and the Sea* is our selection. The book was the last major work of fiction he wrote and published in his lifetime. The story of the struggle by the aging fisherman and a giant marlin is likely familiar to some of us, not only by reading the book, but by seeing the movie (Spencer Tracy in the late '50s or Anthony Quinn in a made-for-TV movie in the '90s). The novella won the Pulitzer Prize in 1953 and most believe it led to Papa Hemingway receiving the Nobel Prize in Literature in 1954.

March: *Like Water for Chocolate* (**Spanish:** *Como agua para chocolate*) is a popular novel published in 1989 by first-time **Mexican novelist Laura Esquivel**. The novel follows the story of a young girl named Tita who longs to marry her lover, Pedro, but can never have him because of her mother's upholding of the family **tradition** of the youngest daughter not marrying but taking care of her mother until the day she dies. Tita is only able to express herself when she cooks. Esquivel employs **magical realism** to combine the supernatural with the ordinary. http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Like_Water_for_Chocolate_-_cite_note-2

Join us for a brownbag lunch on the third Friday of every month. The discussions are lively! - Del Smith, 316-612-0826.