



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA
FOUNDED 1887

President's Report January 21, 2015 - Charles Merrifield

The Mid Year Meeting was held January 25 to approve the proposed budget and to receive reports on the activities of the church. The proposed budget for the July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016 fiscal year was designed to maintain the current activities of the church with two major expansions: Employ a part-time social action coordinator and to expand the hours of Rev. Carter. The proposed budget contains about \$38,000 more than the current budget. The proposed budget sets the goals for the annual pledge drive which will conclude in April.

A grant request for \$12,000 has been submitted to the MidAmerica UUA Chalice Lighters to help support a social action coordinator position. Louis Goseland was the primary author of the grant request with help from Rev. Carter, Anita Culp, Anne Bailey, and myself.

Among the several items of business discussed at the February 18 board meeting, several items stand out. The first item is that the annual stewardship pledge drive is beginning. Elaine Edens and I will chair it again this year. Many helping hands make for quick work on this task so

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Partner Church Dinner 6:30 PM - Saturday, March 28

If you attended the Partner Church Sunday Service last August you know the special relationship we have with our Partner Church in Transylvania. Debbie Wadman and Nancy Milner presented the service, delightfully illustrated with pictures from their visit to Honorod-Szentpal last year. The annual dinner raises funds for the church and has helped in many ways, from purchasing choir robes to putting plumbing in their old church. A critical concern is the centuries old church bell and the church organ, both of which need repair, costing several thousands of dollars.

Support this social mission and connection to our Unitarian roots by planning to attend the dinner on Saturday, March 28th, at the church. Tickets are \$15, and \$2 for children under the age of 10.

The food is fabulous and part of the fun is an auction. Debbie Wadman suggests, "Look over your treasures collecting on a shelf somewhere, a special book, piece of art, jewelry or craft item as a donation. Remember too, that donations of time or service (an afternoon of babysitting, a garage clean-up day, yard work, computer trouble-shooting, math tutoring, special baked goods – all these types

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RE Corner:

- Denise Jackson-Simon DRE

We'll be starting the month with "March Madness UU Style" for Way Cool Sunday School. Lessons on LOVE and HUMOR will be explored during the month. And we will celebrate World Water Day, plus more...So you won't want to miss out.

Be on the lookout on our church website for the "What would a UU do?" video, part 2, created by the children of our church. A big thanks to Alyssa for implementing this fun project!

See you at church. It's much more fun when YOU are there!

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.

Partner Church Dinner, continued

of donations go well at our auction. I encourage you to also ask acquaintances to donate their special offers, restaurant gift certificates, coupons for a massage."

Many hands are needed to help cook, serve or clean up on March 28. Please contact Debbie Wadman at 681-3307 (debbie.wadman@wichita.edu) or Vivien Minshull-Ford (vminshull@yahoo.com) to volunteer to make a dish or help at the Partner Church Dinner.

Hermine Greywall Art: A Unique Fundraiser Final Friday, Gallery 12

- Del Smith

Paintings which have graced our walls since Hermine Greywall's memorial last year will continue to benefit our church after they are exhibited at Gallery XII, 412 E. Douglas, March 27-April 21. The Final Friday Reception is 5:30-10:00 PM on March 27th.

Hermine's legacy to the art world is both immediate at First Unitarian Universalist Church and city-wide. She curated art exhibits at First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita for a number of years. She was one of the 12 women who founded Gallery XII, the first cooperative gallery in Wichita. The number of artists at the cooperative has increased in both number and gender since its founding in 1977.

Susan Hund-Milne of our Aesthetics Committee arranged with Maureen Walter of Gallery XII to select paintings for the exhibit and sale. Proceeds will come to First UU after the Gallery's commission is deducted.



Mary Erickson, left, and Jerrete Preisser. Jerrete was the successful bidder on Mary's painting at the "Sweetest Silent Auction Ever" fundraiser. Approximately \$420 was raised to support First UU Program. Organizers Elaine Edens, Stewardship Committee, and Del Smith found the event fun and pretty

easy to do, thanks to the generosity of those who donated Valentine-themed items and those who bid.

Minister's Musings

- Rev. David Carter

Seismic Canaries

On the morning of Feb 5th my car began to rock and roll like a boat at sea. Absorbed in a phone call, I put the odd sensation off to the notorious Kansas wind. Moments later, though, when my wife called excitedly to ask had I too felt the tremor that made her four story brick office building shiver and dance, we knew it wasn't the south wind. We had been rattled by a 4.3 magnitude earthquake. In the last few months, I've been shaken by four powerful quakes. Here in the Midwest, where fracking has "boomed" (pun intended), so have earthquakes.

Between 1967 and 2000, prior to the "boom," the Midwest typically experienced an average of 21 quakes per year. Between 2010 and 2012, since the fracking boom, there were 300 quakes in the same region. The worst occurred Nov 5th, 2011 in Prague, OK. Fourteen homes were destroyed, two people injured, and the tremors, which registered 5.6 on the Richter scale, were felt in 17 states. So what? From a scientific perspective, is there a possible connection between fracking and the recent quakes?

Hydraulic fracturing of the earth, in one of its stages, involves injecting millions of gallons of chemical drenched waste water deep into "disposal wells." With carefully chosen words, scientists and the energy industry blandly acknowledge that this fracking related process of waste disposal can "induce seismic activity." Of course, visionary journalists, poets, and singer songwriters also carefully chose words when they want to get their messages across. I am thinking here, for example, of the protest song by Sean Lennon and Yoko Ono, "Don't Frack My Mother."

Lennon and Ono are protesting the escalating pollution of our air, water, and land. For example, a peer reviewed scientific study conducted at Duke and Stanford universities found that even highly diluted fracking wastewater, when in contact with the disinfectants used in water treatment plants produces DBPs (trihalomethanes, haloacetic acids, bromate, and chlorite), highly toxic carcinogens. Presently, with little regulation and insufficient enforcement of the few protective measures that do exist, huge quantities of chemically polluted fracking wastewater migrates. It seeps into aquifers or is dumped into rivers and streams upstream of water treatment plants.

On Feb 5th, there were two sizable earthquakes in Wichita. In the previous week, Wichita felt nine quakes of magnitude 1.5 or greater. That month, there were thirty five M1.5 or greater quakes, and in the last year there were a total of one hundred seventy five. Big business routinely subverts responsible stewardship of our Mother Earth. As I see it, the quakes are seismic canaries in a coal mine. They warn of the danger inherent in the unchecked spread of toxicity in the wake of fracking.

Are we listening? What will it take to really shake things up? I wonder.

David Carter Feb 7th, 2015 (www.governing.com/news/headlines/kansas-has-a-lot-more-earthquakes-is-that-because-of-fracking)

Last Call!

- Jamey Findling

The Bylaws Task Force reminds church members that the open comment period for the proposed revisions to the church bylaws concludes at the end of February. The bylaws can be accessed online by going to the church's website and clicking on the Blog tab. A printed copy may also be requested from the office manager. We encourage everyone to read the draft and share their written feedback by emailing the task force at bylaws@firstuu.net.



It's Easy Being Green

October 3 is the date for EcoFest 2015. Mark your calendars now so the day will be clear for you to attend. Planning for this year's event has already started. It will be much the same as last year with, but not necessarily limited to, vendors, educators, lunch and bake sale. This year we will be adding a church booth to educate about and sell houseplants that clean indoor air of toxins that are present in our homes. Another change is that the public will be charged \$1.00, kids free.

If you would like to help with the planning and execution of EcoFest, want to have a booth, or have an idea for a sponsor, vendor or educator, please let Marcia Ellsworth know at mjelsworth@aol.com. – Elaine Edens

President's Report, continued please contact us to help out.

The second item concerns the UUA General Assembly that will be in Portland, OR this June 24-28. We would like to have several members of the church attend. Each year the conference is full of ideas that have been useful in other congregations that should prove useful here. There are scholarships for which you may be eligible, if you need help going. Let me know if you are interested in going.

Another item was a quick scan of board policies that have accumulated over the years. The board is particularly interested in looking at building use policies. A committee was formed to evaluate building use. A more extensive review of other policies will be in the future.

A fourth item was discussion of a planned giving campaign for the church. More information on this campaign will be available as the project unfolds.

Party Time!

Please join the UU Holiday Party Group for an early St. Patrick's Day Potluck Dinner and games.

Saturday, March 14, 2015
First UU Church
Doors open at 5:30. - Eat at 6.

"I went to kiss the Blarney stone when a leprechaun jumped out from under a shamrock and made off with me Irish Oak shillelagh!"

"Scrapping at the Bricks": A Collaboration

The current art exhibit, "Scrapping at the Bricks" came about as a collaboration between Jim Hammer, photography, and Rob Williams, concept/model. Both are members of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita.

"The Bricks," the local name for the apartments near 15th and Kansas built in the 1950s, were demolished several weeks ago to make way for a new housing project. They had been abandoned for years. The images begin at Apartment 1463, where Rob was shot as a teenager. He lived in the apartments at various times and was recently part of a crew salvaging parts from the apartments before demolition.

The exhibit was mounted February 15 and will be up for a couple of months. There will be an artist's reception arranged by Jim of First UU's Aesthetics Committee.



March 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 9:45a Adult Relig. Explor. 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch	2 6:00p Zen Friends	3 7:00p UU Craft Night	4 7:00p Committee on Ministry	5 7:00p Full Moon Celebration 7:00p UU Video History	6 7:00p Membership Comm Task Force	7 8:00a Zen Friends Retreat
8 9:45a Adult Relig. Explor. 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens RE 12:15p Leadership Council	9 6:00p Zen Friends 6:30p Ethical Eating Vegan Potluck	10	11 7:00p Worship Committee	12 7:00p UU Video History	13 6:00p Friday Book Club	14 9:00a Private Event 5:30p St. Patrick's Day Potluck
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 7:00p UU Video History	20 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	21 6:30p Partner Church Dinner
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 7:00p UU Video History	27 6:00p Friday Book Club	28 9:00a Private Event 10:00a Caring Committee 11:00a Private Event
29 9:45a Adult Relig. Explor. 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Childrens RE	30 6:00p Zen Friends	31				

Who's Who @ First UU

OFFICERS & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President - Charles Merrifield
 President-Elect - Vivien Minshull-Ford
 Board of Trustees
 Mike Diggs
 Elaine Edens
 Jamey Findling
 Magda Garrett
 DeeDee Jordan
 Nancy Milner
 Cristan Vitkus

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
 (Stewardship - Elaine Edens)
 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
 Bonnie Till
 Doug Wilson

Every Week at First UU

Adult RE, Sunday, 9:30 am - Corey Swertfager, 201-6921
 Chalice Bookstore - Whenever the church is open -
 Zen Friends of Wichita, Monday, 6:00 pm - Bob Feleppa, 683-9295

Every Month at First UU

Board Meeting - third Wednesday, 7 pm - Charles Merrifield, 688-5352
 Caring Committee - fourth Saturday, 10 am - LaRilla Combs, 733-2089
 Craft Night - first Tuesday, 7 pm - Anita Culp, 744-2840
 Dismantling Injustice Action Group, 6:30 pm, fourth Tuesday, Rev. Carter 684-3481
 Eclectic Readers - third Friday, 11:30 AM, Del Smith, 612-0826
 First Sunday Lunch - after service - Magda Garrett, 765-3351
 Leadership Council - second Sunday, 12:15 - Vivien Minshull-Ford, 683-9295
 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
 Social Justice Call to Action - third Sundays, 12:15 PM - Louis Goseland

As announced

EcoFest 2015 - Marcia Ellsworth, 688-5352, Vivien Minshull-Ford, 683-9295
 Garden Group - Anita Culp, 744-2840

Begin A "Long Strange Trip" With Adult Religious Explorers

Thursday, March 5, 7 P.M.

"Long Strange Trip" is the popular video history of Unitarian Universalism which has garnered rave reviews from congregants who have seen it. The six-part history starts with the beginning of Christianity and carries through to current times. Each session starts with an hour-long video (subtitled for those who prefer) followed by discussion. This entertaining in-depth video history Adult Religious Exploration course begins at 7 pm, Thursday, March 5th, at the church. (Editor's Note: "How Jesus Became God," the other Adult RE course previously announced was canceled, due to lack of enrollment.)

Staying Connected: A Brief Introduction To Social Media And Other Communication Tools

First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita is a thriving place and sometimes it's hard to keep up with everything that is going on. Agreed?

No longer can we depend upon the monthly newsletter, *In Touch*, to keep abreast of everything that's happening. And while the Orders of Service and Weekly Update that Anita Culp, Office Manager, produces are valuable sources of information, they just can't include everything!

More and more we are relying upon Social Media to keep us informed. Here's an overview of current social media and other communication tools.

WEBSITE: Jack Regehr is webmaster. He and Anita keep it current. www.firstuu.net. Links to our Facebook page and Twitter account are on the cover page of the website. *Current and urgent need: Someone to videotape sermons. See Jack Regehr.*

FACEBOOK: First Unitarian Universalist Church of Wichita is managed by Del Smith, Communications Chair. Anne Bailey, Dianne Waltner, and Louis Goseland add content. Programs, sermons, special events and activities, and photographs are posted, nearly on a daily basis. This reaches nearly 600 persons, half of whom live in the greater Wichita area.

TWITTER: Every post on Facebook is automatically sent out on Twitter, thanks to Louis Goseland of the Communications Team. (See Website info above.)

LISTS: We have access to two lists. WichitaUUExclusive was started by Charles Merrifield, who continues to moderate it. As the name implies, it is a closed list and deals with First UU matters. Anyone wishing to join the group should email cmerrifield@cox.net.

The other list is open and was initiated by David and Christine Heinsohn some years ago. The Heinsohns live at a distance and this valuable service is appreciated. In addition to matters of First UU concern, members can post information about community matters. To join, send a request to 1st-uu-subscribe@yahoogroups.com.

If you are a member who has trouble accessing a yahoo group, let Del or Charles know. There are ways around the problem.

FIRST UU FLICKR: To enjoy a photo gallery of First UU activities, visit this site, which was created by Rolando Gomez of the Communications Team. Check out <https://www.flickr.com/groups/1stuu/> if you want to share join up and upload your memories.

Questions? Del Smith, Communications Chair, wichitadel@aol.com

CONTEMPLATING WAR – February, 2003

They speak of war.....
 They are so glib –
 The TV people
 The government policy-makers
 The arm-chair generals
 The untested patriots
 The young who have never known terror.

Is war a play
 With pain and destruction ended
 When the young athletic victors
 March to patriotic music?
 And we –
 Shall we be led like lambs,
 For there shall be slaughter.
 Mothers will bleat
 As their young ones bleed.
 The beautiful soldiers will be shattered,
 The land will burn.
 Water will flow
 But it will not cleanse.

War –
 The very word should cause an earthquake
 In our souls.
 The fires of hell should lap our skins;
 Horror should echo from every hill and valley.

The enemy are not alone in pain;
 We also shall pay.
 Where is the cave where we can hide?
 Where is the mountain that will protect us?

--Jean Vaughn, February, 2003

UUA Regional Assembly 2015 Registration Starts

MidAmerica Regional Assembly is a weekend long gathering of UUs, featuring speakers, workshops and best of all, the chance to meet and schmooze with UUs from all over the Region. Assembly is April 17-19 in Naperville, IL, just outside Chicago. Youth are welcome and childcare is offered. Limited partial scholarships are available. Hotel rooms have discounted group rates. Deadline to register at the early bird discount is March 15. Go to www.midamericanuua.org/RA for program details and registration.

Shop Dillons, 1st UU Gains: It's Easier than Ever!

With Dillons new rewards system you will no longer need to reload money onto a Dillons gift card. Instead, every time you use your existing Dillons Plus Shopper's Card, you can earn money for First UU Church. To get started, create an account that ties into your Plus card by going to www.dillons.com/communityrewards. Fill in your information including your email and a password you create. Towards the end of the process under Community Rewards select "First Unitarian Universalist Church" (no. 10162). That's it - your registration will last for the rest of the calendar year.

If you don't have access to a computer, talk to Anne Bailey.

DST Begins Sunday, 3/8

Set your clocks forward one hour. And be thankful no one took Ben Franklin's suggestion of ringing church bells and firing cannons as the sun rises to maximize the amount of time people would be awake when the sun is providing free light. His tongue-in-cheek suggestion in "An Economical Project" was published in 1784.

March Worship Schedule

3/1 Allison Celik - *Circles* Circles is a community driven solution to addressing the underlying causes of poverty and supporting families in a holistic, long-term pathway to economic stability. After the presentation, Allison will use the restorative practices employed by Circles to lead a group discussion on anti-poverty action. Allison is currently the coach of the College Hill site of the Wichita Circles Network.

3/8 Rev. David Carter - *Famous UUs Series: Ray Bradbury*

3/15 Rev. David Carter - **Plugged into What?**

3/22 Rev. Jill Jarvis - The dynamic spiritual leader of the Unitarian Fellowship of Lawrence, KS will be trading pulpits with Rev. Carter.

3/29 Louis Goseland - *Social Justice Update* Our Social Action Committee chair will bring us up to date on recent actions taken and supported by First Unitarian Universalists. What are the next steps? (This is an update of his January service, which few were able to attend due to inclement weather.)

"The General answers his own phone. Must be a Unitarian."

– Col. Sherman Potter, M.A.S.H. 4077

From the Caring Committee

-LaRilla Combs and Jana Rambo

We're the arm of the Church that acknowledges events in members' and friends' lives such as illness, surgeries and bereavements. We also acknowledge celebratory events such as Birthdays, Weddings, Births and Graduations.

Thought you'd like to know:

The Committee itself could use more members. However, you do not have to be a full-fledged committee member to help; we would like to have a pool of people who can help on a short-term basis when various needs arise. In the past we've had only a few responses when we attempted to do a survey. Even if you feel unable to help very much, we'd still appreciate your response. A difference this time is that Charles Merrifield set up the survey on Google, so you can complete it online. Here's the link:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1PqCFoSc0Xy9ZJ90BKM_zihiMG5T3PZux40XYd1A8s8g/viewform?usp=send_form

A note of thanks:

Thanks to Lara Pollock who organized Nona's Celebration of Life Reception. Thanks, also, to the many members and friends who contributed refreshments and helped with preparations, serving and clean-up.

FIRST UNITARIAN
UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

7202 E. 21st St. N.

Wichita, KS 67206

www.firstuu.net



From The Eclectic Readers Group

11:30 am, Friday, March 20. "Recipes, Romances, and Home Remedies" - all found in our selection for March, *Like Water for Chocolate*. There's a bit of magical realism in the story which revolves around young Tita who is caught by the tradition of the youngest daughter taking care of her mother. Tita turns to cooking in frustration over not marrying her lover, Pedro. Laura Esquivel's novel was made into a movie, which stayed true to the humorous and sensual nature of the book.

April. Alexandre Dumas' *The Three Musketeers* is thought of as an adventure and historical novel, but he works into the plot some political aspects. The setting is at a time when the debate in France between the republicans and the monarchists was raging. Read the book and get acquainted, or re-acquainted as the case may be, with D'Artagnan and the Musketeers, Athos, Porthos and Aramis, "all for one, one for all."

We welcome all at our brownbag lunches on the third Friday of every month. - Del Smith, 316-612-0826.

"You need not think alike to love alike." - Francis David