



In Touch

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF WICHITA

FOUNDED 1887

President's Report

- Charles Merrifield

The annual congregational meeting was held June 14th after the Sunday service. Corey Swertfager was elected by acclamation to be the president-elect, Kathleen McGee, George Rivera, and Bonnie Till were elected to the Board of Trustees, and Millie Cherryholmes, Doug Clayton, and Jennifer Hess were elected to the nominating committee. The budget included moving the minister to ¾ time from ½ time, creating a ½ time social action coordinator position, and adding a cost of living increase for other employees of the church.

The roof contractor did complete their work repairing the storm damage. Church Mutual Insurance paid one of two checks to cover the repairs. The church paid the amount of the first check to the contractor.

The General Assembly of the UUA will be held June 23-28 in Portland, OR. Rev. Carter and seven church members will be attending. It is hoped that we can gather useful

[Continued on page 4](#)

Annual Meeting Election Results

Corey Swertfager was elected President-Elect by acclamation. We chose three board members and three Nominating Committee members. As Charles Merrifield noted, all who agreed to run for office, whether elected or not, did a great service to their church.

Joining the board are: Kathleen McGee, George Rivera, and Bonnie Till. Board terms of Jamey Findling, DeeDee Jordan and Thomas Vitkus' were completed at the end of June.

New Nominating Committee members are: Millie Cherryholmes, Doug Clayton and Jennifer Hess.

Vivien Minshull-Ford was symbolically "handed the gavel" at the end of the meeting by outgoing Congregation President Charles Merrifield. We also passed the budget for 2015-16 at the meeting.

From the Treasurer

Marsha Diggs, Co-Treasurer

The end of our church fiscal year is June 30th. We practiced fiscal conservatism with our expenses, yet allowed the generosity of our spirits to overflow into the community. If you didn't quite get all your pledge payments made, don't worry! The church will still take them. And don't forget your sign pledge; many of us haven't established the habit of the sign pledge, yet. Again, it's never too late.

Do you want to make paying your pledge easier? To sign up for automatic payments, see Anne Bailey. And please join me in forming a new habit of bringing cash for the plate on the 1st and 3rd Sundays each month, when our plate is donated to the community. Let people say about our church: "Si, se pueden" (Yes, **they** can).

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

From the Caring Committee

LaRilla Combs

The Caring Committee is the arm of the Church that acknowledges events in our 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:

Ermalee Skillman has recently moved into the Assisted Living Section of Presbyterian Manor where she is continuing to gain strength. Cards and Visits are welcome although it is best to call before visiting. Ermalee's phone number is 943-3954 and her address is Room 2413, Presbyterian Manor, 4700 W. 13th St N., Wichita, KS 67212.

In collaboration with FUUW Food for Life Wichita, the Caring Committee has assisted several members with food this month.

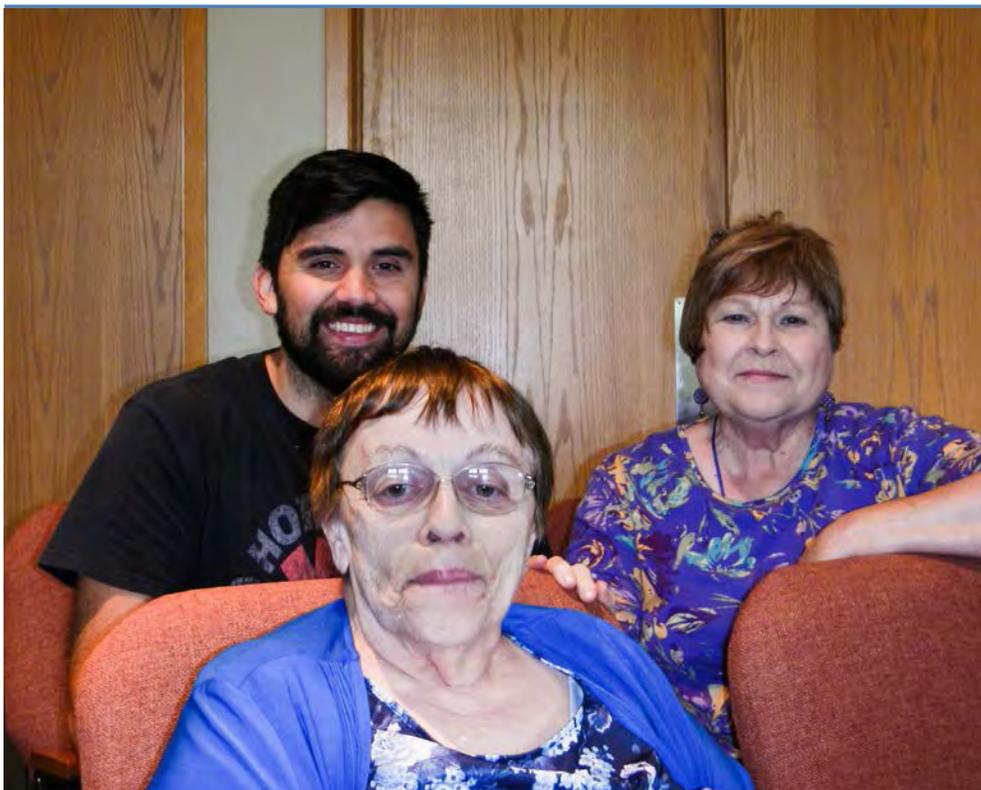
EcoFest 2015 Craft Challenge:

Recycled, Upcycled, Repurposed Creations

-Marcia Ellsworth

Calling all crafty UU's to create something upcycled or repurposed from recycled products to be sold for our Ecofest Craft booth. We want to show the community that it is possible to make something without buying something new, thus preserving our resources. Don't throw out your trash. Take some of the common items and make something useful or beautiful out of them. Ecofest would like to showcase some of your creative efforts on Oct 3. If you would like to be part of this project, just let us know, and we will save you a spot at our UU Craft table to display your project. If you need an idea, there are plenty on-line. Pinterest is just one place you might look. Come on Wichita UUs! Step up to our craft challenge and help us to raise funds for our liberal church while educating the public about the environment. Ecofest is on Saturday, Oct 3, from 10am to 4pm.

Are you wondering what the difference is between recycled, upcycled, and repurposed? Repurposed is the art of finding new uses for old items. Upcycling is taking something and making it better. Recycling is both of these. All three keep our possessions from going to the landfill which helps preserve our environment.



Kathleen McGee (front), George Rivera (left rear), and Bonnie Till (right rear). All three are new members of the Board of Directors.



"I know my humor is outrageous when it makes the Unitarians so mad they burn a question mark on my front lawn." – Lenny Bruce

Doug Clayton, new member of the Nominating Committee.

President's Report, continued

information that can be shared upon our return.

The fire marshal has informed the church that we cannot allow cars to park on the driveway from 21st Street.

July 1 Vivien Minshull-Ford assumes office as president of the congregation for the 2015-2016 church year. The current church year, 2014-2015, has been a good one. Thanks for your involvement.

Communications Team Meeting

In August members of the current Communications Team will meet with others who want to get in on the action of keeping the congregation informed and spreading the word about liberal religion. We haven't set the date, but it will likely be a Saturday late morning.

We're going to take a look at what we do and how we do it. We think we've done a good job, but know improvement is always possible. New hands and new ideas will be welcomed. Let Del Smith know if you are interested and want to know more. If you know someone in the congregation who has talent and skills in this area, but is shy to step forward, whisper their name to Del or email (wichitadel@aol.com). The Team will take it from there. Communications Team: Del Smith, Jack Regehr, Rolando Gomez, and Louis Goseland.

(From an episode of The Simpsons, set at the church ice cream social)

Lisa: "What flavours do you have?"

Rev. Lovejoy: "Well, chocolate, vanilla, strawberry, and our new Unitarian flavour ice cream."

Lisa: "I'll have that" (Rev hands her an empty bowl)

Lisa: "But there's nothing in there."

Rev: "Eeeexactly."

News Flash! Domestic Violence March/Rally July 12

First Unitarian Universalist of Wichita will participate in a March to Stop Violence Against Women on July 12 at 1 pm. Details will be announced in social media and Weekly Update. Planning is well underway, with Rev. David Carter, Louis Goseland, and Corey Swertfager from First UU working with Rev. Kent Little of College Hill United Methodist and Julie Burkhart of Trust Women.

Fourth of July Party at First UU

You are cordially invited to the UU Holiday Party Group "Fourth of July Party." Come help us celebrate the 239th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. We'll enjoy a potluck dinner, and then play games. Some of us may go watch fireworks at Bradley Fair afterward.

Saturday July 4

Gather at 5:30 pm

Eat at 6

First UU Church

July 2015

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			1 7:00p Full Moon Celebration 7:00p Committee on Ministry	2	3 Office Closed	4 5:30p Holiday Potluck
5 No Adult Relig Expor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p First Sunday Lunch 12:15p Leadership Council	6 6:00p Zen Friends	7 7:00p UU Craft Night	8	9 9:00a InterFaith Workers Justice Group	10	11
12 9:45a Adult Relig Expor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE	13 6:00p Zen Friends 6:30p Ethical Eating Vegan Potluck	14 7:00p Worship Committee	15 7:00p Board of Trustees 11:00p Newsletter and Calendar Deadline	16	17 11:30a Eclectic Readers Group	18 9:00a New Members Class
19 9:30a Seeking Circle 9:45a Adult Relig Expor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Call to Action Group	20 6:00p Zen Friends	21	22 1:00p Newsletter Mailing	23	24 6:00p Climate Book Discussion Group	25 10:00a Caring Committee
26 9:45a Adult Relig Expor 11:00a Worship Service 11:00a Children's RE 12:15p Music Committee	27 6:00p Zen Friends	28	29	30	31 7:00p Full Moon Celebration	

Unitarian Universalist Association Principles

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

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

(Adopted by the 1984 and 1985 General Assemblies)

Who’s Who @ First UU

OFFICERS & BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President – Vivien Minshull-Ford
 President-Elect – Corey Swertfager
 Board of Trustees
 Mike Diggs
 Elaine Edens
 Magda Garrett
 Kathleen McGee
 Nancy Milner
 George Rivera
 Bonnie Till

Co-Treasurers – Anne Bailey & Marsha Diggs

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

Adult RE - Frank Ruf
 Buildings/Grounds - Tom Moore
 Caring - Jana Rambo and LaRilla Combs
 Chalice Lighters Ambassador – Bonnie Till
 Children’s RE – Wendy Haynie-Coxby
 Communications - Del Smith
 Denominational Affairs - Mike Diggs
 EcoFest 2015-Marcia Ellsworth & Vivien Minshull-Ford
 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 – Marcia Diggs

COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

David Brewer, Chair
 Marcia Ellsworth
 Kathy Hull
 Bonnie Till
 Doug Wilson

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

Millie Cherryholmes
 Doug Clayton
 Susan Hund-Milne

GROUP CONTACTS

Craft Night – Anita Culp
 Eclectic Readers – Del Smith
 Meatless Monday – Dianne Waltner
 Pagan Group – Anne Bailey and Kathy Hull
 Garden Group – Anita Culp
 Zen Friends of Wichita – Bob Feleppa/Vivien Minshull-Ford



UU United Nations Office: An Opportunity for First UU

- Del Smith

Vivien Minshull-Ford reported during a recent Sunday Service about her visit to the Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office (UU-UNO). The congregational response encouraged her and Charles Merrifield about the possibility of forming a local UN Group, with an Envoy to the UU United Nations Office.

But wait, you say! What does the UU-UNO office actually do? And what is an Envoy? The purpose of the office is to advocate for UU values at the United Nations and to inform UUs about the issues that are being addressed at the UN and in the world. Envoys are the links that tie the UU-UNO office to local congregations on key news and events at the UN and action that can be taken in the community for global social justice. The Envoy keeps the UU-UNO office informed about what we are working on and the issues our congregation is passionate about.

Vivien, President as of July 1st, is out of town as In Touch is published. But she'll be back, hitting the ground running on July 7th. If you have interest or want to know more about the UU United Nations Office, let her know.



Say "Hello" and welcome to...

New Members: April Fazzini, Carol Leonard, Dawn and Andrew Beers.

April introduces herself: "I'm a mother of two beautiful children, Clover, 5 and Beau, 1. My passions are raising my children in a conscious way, growing/creating delicious and nutritious meals and being outside. I try to live closely to nature and tread lightly on Mother Earth. I'm excited to be a member of this church and helping with humanitarian efforts going forward."

"Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human." - James Luther Adams

New Member Classes

If you recently signed the membership book at First UU, please plan to attend the New Member classes on Saturday, July 18. There will be two classes given on this day:

-First UU 101 (Introduction) offers an overview of our church and denomination

-First UU 102 (Joining)* a session on the meaning of membership

First UU 101 will begin at 9:00am. There will be a break for lunch (provided by the church). First UU 102 will begin at 12:30pm.

Please contact Bonnie Till to register for classes
722 8208 or bect@cox.net

If needed, child care will be provided. Please let Bonnie know *at least 72 hours prior to class if you require child care.*

*Note: First UU 102 will be launched on July 18. If you are an "old member" and wish to attend this session, you are very welcome.



Religious Exploration Corner:

Denise Jackson-Simon

Put the "YOU" in UU and join us for summer fun as congregation members share their interests and talents with our children and youth. June topics included: "Fun with Food," cooking with Wendy; Theatre games with Denise; a tour of the Humane Society with Elaine Edens, and more!!! Looking ahead to July, we'll be participating in origami, writing, and handstands (sounds intriguing). Be sure and make Sundays at UU a part of your summer. They're informative, interesting, and so much more fun when you are here! Hope to see you!

New Moon

- Anne Bailey

There will be two Full Moon Celebrations in July:

July 1 - 7:00 and

July 31 - also at 7:00

Please join us for drumming, chanting, trancing and dancing.



Vivian Minshull-Ford (left) incoming President and Charles Merrifield (right) outgoing President.

FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

7202 E. 21st St. N.

Wichita, KS 67206

www.firstuu.net



From Our Book Reading Groups

Eclectic Readers Group: 11:30 am, Friday, July 17. We had no meeting in June, due to vacation schedules. We'll get back together in July to discuss *My Ruby Slippers: The Road Back to Kansas* by Tracy Seeley. Seeley's story of moving back to Kansas after living a charmed life (until it wasn't) in San Francisco to find the meaning of "home" is filled with nuggets of Kansas history, as well as being a moving memoir. Bring your brown bag lunch and be ready for a lively discussion. Del Smith, 316-612-0826

Occasional Book Group: 6 pm, Monday, August 6, at the church. We will meet to discuss the biography *Murder of a Medici Princess*. Everyone is invited, and you are welcome to bring a sack dinner.

In *Murder of a Medici Princess*, Caroline Murphy illuminates the brilliant life and tragic death of Isabella de Medici, one of the brightest stars in the dazzling world of Renaissance Italy. Murphy is a superb storyteller, and her fast-paced narrative captures the intrigue, the scandal, the romantic affairs, and the violence that were commonplace in the Florentine court. She brings to life an extraordinary woman, fluent in five languages, a free-spirited patron of the arts, a daredevil, a practical joker, and a passionate lover.