

The Discoverer

The monthly newsletter of the
First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus
93 W. Weisheimer Road, Columbus Ohio 43214

February 2016

Our Mission Statement

We are here:

To learn and practice true hospitality
To revere the reasoning mind and the generous heart
To claim our diversity as a source of our strength, and
To relinquish the safety of our unexamined privilege
for the freedom to engage in transforming justice.

BEYOND APPEARANCES

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Senior Minister

Once in the middle of a starry night, I turned my face upwards to that beauty and mystery and felt my own longing. I couldn't then articulate what it was I longed for, but I knew there was something—something I should do or be—that wasn't yet part of my life.

That moment changed my future. I had been happy with my life and continued to be happy with my life. But in that moment of conscious longing, I planted a seed of desire that gradually sprouted and blossomed.

I began to be more mindful of what I was doing. I'd ask myself, "Is this what I long for?" I began to look attentively at new possibilities. "Is this what's missing?" Somehow this awareness of my inarticulate longing opened the door to discovery. I finally figured it out. I became a Unitarian Universalist minister.

What do we desire? In this February, when "desire" is both the worship theme and a Valentine's Day message, each of us might take a moment to consider what we want. What we desire. What we long for.



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Spring Fever – Going for the Green

Our Annual Auction is February 20, and is just around the corner. We want you to join us for the best party of the year—food, fun, fellowship, and generating funds for our beloved church community. Tickets are available every Sunday in Fellowship Hall for only \$12, \$15 the night of the Auction. We still need lots of donations, just go to the Auction website <http://togetherauction.com/firstuu> to submit your items, such as dinners, services, collectibles, fellowship events, and more. We also need lots of volunteers for such a big event; you can sign up at the Auction table for that, as well.

Thanks. We'll see you on the 20th of February.

Jo Anne St. Clair
2016 Auction Chair



LINKS

Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister

Wants and Needs

There are times when not being raised learning the Bible brings me up short.

Yes, there was a class in Bible studies in the Unitarian Fellowship my family attended when I was young, and I was given a red-letter King James leather-bound Bible for a confirmation present (this was long before Coming of Age classes were the norm). Which was a sweet, but odd, gift. Beyond that one class, we never talked about the Bible.



So, when one of the religious education classes in a previous congregation I served took a look at Matthew 6:21, “For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also,” I mistakenly thought they had the quote wrong. But the teacher was correct. And maybe because I was wrong, that passage has stayed with me ever since. It helps keep me both humble and honest.

“Where you treasure is, your heart will be also.”

The psychologist Mihaly Csikszentmihalyi writes that all creatures, from insects to mammals, seem to be hardwired to want. This fits with my sense of things. Just look at how much attention the billion-dollar lottery jackpot garnered last month. And whenever my dogs aren’t fast asleep, they always seem to be wanting one thing or another.

Still, it is sobering. Despite what we have, there is an almost constant desire for more. Beyond the few Bodhisattvas among us, in the morning as we are getting up, we often, if not usually, want an extra ten or even five minutes more sleep. When we are alone, we often long for the company of others. Then when we are around people, we often long for solitude. Yet our wants can point to things other than short-term desires. We often call these longings of the heart rather than just wants, but perhaps the underlying yearning is not all that different.

I once knew a man who, with utter sincerity, said that it was the problems he faced that got him up and out of bed every morning. What he longed for was the satisfaction that came from reducing both the hurdles he faced day in and day out, and feeling part of efforts to take on the bigger issues of our time. To be blunt, this seemed too good to be true. I didn’t quite believe him. Yet over time, I watched him do just what he said he was doing. He genuinely seemed happy and at ease with himself.

While I can’t say that I am following in his footsteps exactly, I do take inspiration from his example.

His treasure, to return to the quote from Matthew above, was in how it felt for him to take on the challenges of the day, no matter how large or small. And his heart was certainly in it. If we forget to aim high in our desires, we’ve missed the mark.

in peace,

Eric

The deadline for articles for the March issue of the newsletter is Sunday, February 21.

Please send articles to office@firstuucolumbus.org

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Sr. Minister
Rev. Eric Meter, Associate Minister
Rev. Carol Brody, Minister Emerita
Rev. Wendy Fish, Minister Emerita
Rev. Mark Belletini, Minister Emeritus
Rev. Kathleen Fowler, Minister Affiliated
Rev. Suzan McCrystal, Minister Affiliated

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister, Religious Education
Deb McGuire, RE Assistant/Staff Secretary
Tony McDonald, Music Director
Minji Kim, Chalice Choir Director
Nathan Hamm, Accompanist/Pianist
Karen Madden, Choir Director
Leigh Mamlin, Children/Youth Choir Director
Cath Saveson, Children/Youth Choir Director

Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator
Marian Garcia, Office Manager
Joe Voltolini, Bookkeeper
Naoko Kobayashi, Facilities Assistant
Cathy Hausmann, Facilities Assistant
Susan Roscigno, SYC Co-Associate Director
Amy Rudawsky, SYC Co-Associate Director

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GROWING AS WE GO

Rev. Lane Campbell, Minister of Religious Education

As I read about this month's theme, Desire, I have to admit I got a bit squirmy. Desire? Really?! It seems that in having grown up in New England, I have developed an aversion to desire that probably has its roots in some sort of Puritan values. I received the message that desire was wrong—that wanting something for yourself or for others was being greedy or selfish. And I wonder if others in this community grew up with similar messages. I wonder what messages you have received about desire throughout your life, and how these learnings have shaped you.



This month, I will be spending some time contemplating desire and developing a more positive relationship towards it. Perhaps this will look like meditating to focus on desires. Perhaps it is honoring the act of wanting something or yearning for something as a sacred act. Desire is a human instinct, after all. And I hope this exploration will also include listening to what others are saying about desire, because I know that in listening to multiple perspectives, my own perspective is broadened.

At the very least, each one of us desires to be seen and heard in some fashion. Each one of us desires some sort of companionship through our lives, whether it comes in the form of family or friendship or partnership or any other venue. My hope is that we also want what we know to be best for our neighbors and for our world. Desire is inherent in all of us and deserves to be owned, claimed, cherished.

As it is February, a month where we are celebrating love as Valentine's Day comes up on the 14th, I also have to share with you all my gratitude for the healthy Our Whole Lives program we have in this congregation. Our Whole Lives is a values-based, comprehensive sexuality education class that teaches our children and youth that their sexual desires and relationship desires are completely normal. This is a class that honors human beings as relational beings. This is also a class that encourages communication and consent in all relationships, inviting us all to be healthy in expressing our desires. What an antidote to many of the shame-based messages present in our information-overdrive world. The teachers who lead this class are excellent.

As you consider desire in your life, I would love to hear about messages you received and what your current relationship is to desire. As we explore this theme as a church, I am excited to broaden the conversation and begin to go deep about what exactly desire means in all of our lives.

Lane

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Family Small Group Ministry Starting Up

First UU is looking to increase the support we provide for families. Starting February 11, join Rev. Lane Campbell for a new Family Small Group Ministry. Small Group Ministry is similar to a Covenant Group. There will be time for readings, for sharing, and for reflection. We will be considering the spiritual lives of our children and the spiritual aspects of parenting. This will also be an opportunity to connect with other parents and caregivers at First UU.

Family Small Group Ministry begins February 11, at 6:00-7:30pm, and continues on the second and fourth Thursday of every month. Childcare will be provided. Please contact Rev. Lane Campbell at lane@firstuucolumbus to sign up.

Youth Raising Funds to Attend General Assembly

First UU's Youth Group has decided to raise funds to create scholarships to attend General Assembly 2016 in Columbus. These fundraisers come out of a commitment to get everyone who would like to, to attend General Assembly. The youth community at GA is a strong one, and it would benefit each youth who attends to meet UU youth from all over the country. Earlier this year, the Youth Group held a childcare and gift-wrapping session for parents and caregivers during the holiday season.

In February, you have another opportunity to contribute to this worthy cause. The Youth Group will be holding a spaghetti dinner on Saturday, February 6, from 6:00pm-9:00pm. This is a Valentine's Day event and childcare will be provided during the evening. Come have a date night at First UU and support a worthy cause. Tickets will be sold in Fellowship Hall following Sunday services and at the event. See you there!

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Carlos Hoyt, Board Chair

Ministerial Candidate Sponsorship First UU members Faith Van Horne and Wesley Thompson are both requesting sponsorship from First UU as part of the process of becoming a UU minister. Our policy is that the Board of Trustees grants sponsorship after seeking feedback from the congregation. You can read more about congregational sponsorship on the UUA website: <http://www.uua.org/careers/ministers/becoming/sponsorship-by-congregation>

If you have questions or comments regarding either Faith's or Wesley's request, please contact Board Chair Carlos Hoyt, carloshoyt@gmail.com. Below are short bios by Faith and Wesley:

Faith Van Horne has been a member of First UU for five years. She has participated in BREAD and the Justice Action Ministry. Covenant groups have provided a strong part of her journey here, both as a participant and facilitator. She also helps organize the Soulful Sundown Service each month. Faith sees small-group ministry and participatory worship as vital tools for establishing meaningful relationships and inspiring growth in our religious community.

She has been accepted into the M.Div. program at the Methodist Theological School of Ohio. She hopes to serve Unitarian Universalism through parish ministry, engaging in broader outreach, encouraging acceptance of many religious voices, and helping existing UUs develop meaning and depth in their communal faith.

Wesley Thompson: I grew up unchurched and embraced free thinking and progressiveness from a very young age. The experiences of growth while working on the issues of my life always came with an echo telling me that those experiences gave me something to give back. The word that always came to mind to describe this echo was "calling" even before I knew the full meaning of the word. Though I am a believer of a sort, I have more in common with agnostics and skeptics than with most believers. When I met First UU's Reverend Pat Shelden (then Pat Shelden-Ward), an agnostic minister, the calling changed from theoretical to real. I joined the church shortly thereafter and began seeking the guidance of Reverends Mark Belletini, Wendy Fish and all the ministers associated with First UU, as well as Reverend Susan Ritchie of the North Church. I have completed my Master's of Divinity at The Methodist Theological School in Ohio and submitted most of the documentation to begin the fellowship process with the Unitarian Universalist Association. I now seek the sponsorship of First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus in pursuit of a career in ministry in our denomination. I thank you for your consideration.

STEWARDSHIP

Patricia Boughton, Chair

New Year's Resolution Idea – Generosity Fitness

Now that the busy-ness and indulgence of the holiday season has passed and the page of the calendar has turned to 2016, we turn our thoughts to the fresh new year before us. There are so many possibilities to consider, so much we can do.

Some people have added Generosity Fitness to their list of New Year resolutions. The spirit and expression of generosity enhances and deepens all the other aspects of life. Generosity matters. It inspires giving and brings happiness to our lives.

A good deal of research has been conducted about the correlation between altruistic behavior and happiness. Experiments have been done including the use of brain scans that track the various pain and pleasure centers affected by altruistic behavior, such as charitable giving, helping others, and volunteer service. Pleasure centers light up when we give money away or help another out of compassion.

Generosity can be expressed every day using our time, talent and treasure. In fact, the reason First UU exists is due to people's generosity.

Stewardship - adapted from *Giving Speaks* by Laurel Amabile

SCHOOL FOR YOUNG CHILDREN

Amy Rudawsky, Co-Director

"In times of conflict, increase communication."

This is a phrase often heard among our teaching staff. If we witness conflicts in our classrooms, we encourage the children to communicate their wants/needs to express their limits. If we wonder why a co-worker handled a situation in a certain way, we ask them to tell us more. "Why did you do it this way?" Confusion about staff policy? "Let's talk about it."

Jan Waters, our Director Emeritus, and Stephanie Rottmayer, Program Consultant and previous Director for nine years, have ingrained this phrase into our minds and into the legacy of SYC. It applies to all relationships, really. Not just in the confines of SYC. It applies to relationships with spouses or partners, children, friends, family members, co-workers or any person that we come in contact with. Thank you to Jan and Stephanie for this simple piece of wisdom that is so crucial and beneficial to our relationships.

During the winter break, we had an artist paint this quote down the main hallway of SYC as a tribute to Jan and Stephanie. Stop by and see it sometime!



Grief Recovery Class

If you have experienced a significant loss in your life of any kind, perhaps you have received much advice on how to deal with it. But if you continue to feel you need support, why not come to an overview on how our Grief Recovery Class could help you?

On **Sunday, February 7, from 1:00 to 2:00**, we will be offering a conversation on how these classes have helped others and how they can help you, too. We will start our next series of Grief Recovery Classes in the spring. We welcome everyone to the February 7 discussion so that we can talk about how we might help you grow into healing.

Contact Rev. Eric Meter, 614-267-4946, ext. 23 or ericm@firstuucolumbus.org for information.

CARING CORNER

Rev Eric Meter was called to be our Associate Minister on December 6, 2009.

Rev. Carol Brody became Minister Emerita at First UU on January 17, 1999.

Rev. Suzan McCrystal was ordained into the UU ministry on December 5, 2009.

David and Susan Carr, became grandparents on November 29. Julia Jean Bumbico was born to their daughter, Whitney Carr, and her husband, Jason Bumbico.

Jo-E. Miller celebrated her 80th birthday December 30.

Lauren McCrystal and **Sam Papadakis** became engaged over the holiday break.

Gus Roussi was accepted to OSU and has been offered the Morrill Scholarship, for full tuition for eight years, for excellence in academics and work in promoting diversity (which Gus has done for years through his commitments at First UU).

Paul Brody, husband of **Rev. Carol Brody**, died on January 19, after being under hospice care at the Wesley Glen Health Center.

Laura Adams is in the healthcare section of Wesley Glen following a short hospital stay in January.

Tony Rice's mother suffered a stroke at her home in Springfield and was transferred to OSU.

Barrie Richardson, brother of **Laurel Richardson**, died of aplastic anemia in November.

Bob Graffagnino had a mild stroke and was hospitalized from December 19-21.

Margie Starbuck is recovering from surgery to repair her kneecap following a fall in the church parking lot.

Mary Vietmeier broke her wrist a few days after Christmas.

Doris Cornell had back surgery on January 11.

Caring Team Workshop April 3, 1pm. Title: Addiction in Your Backyard. Light lunch offered before the workshop. Childcare provided. Contact Vanda Hughes, vandaoriana@att.net, [614-423-7242](tel:614-423-7242), with questions.

FIRST UU MUSIC

Tony McDonald, Music Director

The annual **All-church Talent Show** is coming on Saturday, **February 27 at 7:30 pm**. This is where members of the congregation get to show off their various talents, whether we have seen you before or not. There are always some surprises, where we say to a familiar face, "I didn't know you could do that."

The show has grown to quite an event in recent years, going over an hour and a half. That means there were a lot of great acts, and this year we hope will be no exception. We are looking for all types of talent, from singing and playing instruments to reciting poetry, acting, dancing, standup comedy, even martial arts displays and more. All ages are welcome to participate (that's why it is called the "All-church" talent show), but generally we ask for no beginners, since we want it to be fun for the audience too.

So if you think you would like to be in the show, just send me an email and give a brief description of what you want to do at: musicdirector@firstuucolumbus.org. First timers and veterans alike are all welcome. And if you (think you) have no talent, please come and support your fellow members.

Saturday, March 19, 7:30 pm: Folk Music Sing-along. Live music to accompany you singing your favorites from Peter, Paul and Mary, the Kingston Trio, Bob Dylan, Joan Baez and many more.

Saturday, April 2, 7:30 pm: An Evening with Rain.* Our own highly talented young singer/guitarist Rain Maxwell will present an evening of her music, assisted by friends and fellow musicians.

Sunday, April 10, 7pm: Cello Quartet.* Mark Rudoff, Professor of Cello at OSU, brings his quartet of cellos to present a unique style of chamber music.

Sunday, May 15, 4pm: The Choirs Spring Concert. All choirs will perform, program TBD.

(* donations accepted)

WhaleCoast Alaska 2016 See Alaska through the eyes of local UUs in Anchorage, Fairbanks, Juneau, Seward, and Sitka with friendly homestays and unique tour activities. See wildlife, including moose, bears, caribou, whales, bald eagles, seals, and otters. Visit Denali National Park. Experience Native Alaskan culture. Visit www.WhaleCoastAK.org, call [907-322-4966](tel:907-322-4966), or email dfrey@whalecoastak.org.

CONGREGATIONAL NEWS

There will be no more Coffee Hour...if we don't increase our coffee hour volunteers! Be a part of one of the most enjoyed parts of Sunday: Coffee Hour. Guaranteed to bring big smiles and sincere thanks. Contact Denni Hale, rayneblueoh@gmail.com or (text) [614.633.8082](tel:614.633.8082). We put the "hot" in Coffee Hour!

We're starting First Friday up again! First potluck will be Friday, March 4, at 6:30pm. All ages encouraged to attend. Kids' movie or Miyazake anime at 7:30. Contact Laurie Brown, [614-246-0170](tel:614-246-0170), with questions.

Caring Team Workshop April 3, 1pm. Title: Addiction in Your Backyard. Light lunch offered before the workshop. Childcare provided. Contact Vanda Hughes, vandaoriana@att.net, 614-423-7242, with questions.

Bookbites will meet February 16 in Slowter Lounge from 7 to 9pm. Topic is "Nature." Kathleen, 262-4025.

Free book exchange February 14, bring your pre-read books, take home others, maybe one for your Valentine!

All UU Artists: We will have a May-June member show entitled "Mystery!" This can mean a mystery (wonder, awe, nature, social issue, etc.); The Mystery (spiritual); or mystery, as in to solve a mystery (Agatha Christie, where are you?). Your work can be serious, playful, deep, or beautiful. It is an open field for expression related to mystery. Take-in will be April 24. Show will hang May 1-June 28. **Yes, this will be up during the UUA General Assembly!** Please let me know if you will participate. Deb Baillieul [614-447-1223](tel:614-447-1223)

Rummage Sale Thinking of spring cleaning? Think of First UU! We will be holding a rummage sale on **Saturday, April 30**. Save the date and save all those good items you want to clean out for the sale. If you have any questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Carlos Hoyt at carloshoyt@gmail.com

Partner Church Thank you to all who attended or supported our Hungarian dinner and dance fundraiser on November 14 to bring Rev. Albert Kosma to Columbus from our partner church in B6l6n, Romania. We raised about \$2,000. Rev. Kosma will be visiting us in June. Prior to his visit, the Partner Church Team will be hosting a "Refresh Weekend" in mid-April for the congregation to learn more about the Partner Church program and cultural exchange opportunities. Watch for notices in the Sunday order of service and *The Discoverer* in the weeks to come.

Four Congregational Study Action Issues Proposed for 2016 General Assembly UU congregations determine which proposed CSAIs (Congregational Study Action Issues) are introduced at General Assembly (GA), which will be held this June right here in Columbus. By the time you read this, our Justice Action Ministry, following a request for comments, will have sent our choices to UUA, as they must be submitted by February 1. We can propose none, any or all of them.

A CSAI, once approved, initiates a three-year process of study and action by congregations around the nation, usually leading to the UUA taking a formal position on the topic and a fourth year of "focused implementation".

This year's four candidates all include critical issues, so it's important that those attending GA have a good grasp of their relevance. They are:

1. A National Conversation on Race
2. Climate Change and Environmental Justice
3. The Corruption of Our Democracy
4. Ending Gun Violence in America

To review the CSAIs and to learn of past CSAIs approved, go to: <http://www.uua.org/statements/current>

If you have questions about the CSAIs or the selection process, contact JAM member Michael Greenman, 898-5825 or mgreenmanoh@gmail.com.

Soulful Sundown Service Saturday, February 13, 5:30pm, Worship Center. Do you crave a worship experience that connects our community, engages the senses, and invites all ages? Please join. We're an experiential and playful worship community for all, from our youngest members to our elders. Contact Rev. Lane Campbell, lane@firstuucolumbus.org.

General Assembly is coming to Columbus **June 22-26** and there will be lots of folks looking for reasonably-priced housing.

With North UU, we're coordinating home hospitality for GA and will earn some good money in the process.

We're looking for **home hospitality hosts to volunteer** to open up their homes, provide a clean, comfortable bed, breakfast (can be as simple as juice, cold cereal, and coffee), and directions to the Convention Center. You will meet interesting UUs from across the country. As all of the money we collect goes to our operating budget, you will be supporting our church financially.
Win/win!

To apply, go to <http://goo.gl/forms/1rbmZeT2Zd>

For questions and/or a paper application, please contact Andrea Smith at smithandrea711@gmail.com.

School for Young Children Registration Info SYC will be processing priority applications (currently enrolled children, siblings of children who have attended SYC, children of SYC alumni, and children of First UU members) for the 2016-17 school year on Friday, February 12. Children of MEMBERS of First UU, as of September 1, 2015, receive priority consideration only if their applications are received by 12pm on that date. Non-priority applications (families new to SYC) will be processed on Friday, February 19 at 12pm.

SYC is a social outreach program of First UU, offering 2½ hour classes 2-3 days a week for children aged 2½-5. For more information, call 267-0254 or go to <http://www.sycolumbus.org/our-classes/enrollment/>

Labyrinth use likely over 100 this year!

Once again, the placement of the “Chartres 11-Circle Labyrinth” in our Worship Center over the winter holidays led to many notable experiences by over 100 individuals who walked its winding path in search of many things: peace, insight, relaxation, inspiration, celebrating endings and beginnings, and much more.

Our thanks to the many volunteers who “hosted” the site every day and to the musicians who played meditative music during many of its available hours!

Some comments left in the journal placed on the table: “wonderful centering experience to begin the new year,” “thought this may be a good activity after getting a tattoo,” “silence is good for the soul,” “so peaceful and lovely live music,” “walking through a fabulous year 2015, toward an even more life-affirming 2016,” “wish we had this more often.”

The labyrinth lies in storage at Indianola Presbyterian Church for most of the year, and costs only \$25 to rent, so, if we wish to avail ourselves of it more often, we certainly could! Would you like to help organize future dates? Contact Michael Greenman, 614-898-5825.

ARCHIVES TEAM

Linda Thompson, Historian

The Archives Team is ready to work again as soon as the files and records are moved to the storage area. We have several research questions to work on. We will be considering how we can work and how we can serve the church. There'll be no display at the Mid-Year Meeting because our materials are not available, but we will soon have displays up for you to review our history and our future. Thanks for keeping us in your thoughts and bringing materials for the church records.

The Archives Team, 11 strong
Linda Thompson, Historian

Here's a letter from Rev. Patricia Shelden, a former minister of First UU:

My Dear Columbus Family and Friends,

I was a member of First UU nearly 20 years. During that time I served as DRE for four years and as Community Minister Affiliated for seven...

On my first visit, this congregation assured me that I still had a functioning brain without atrophy after several years as a full-time, at-home mother with small children. That first Sunday I was thrilled to spend 90 minutes hearing and speaking “adult.” Later, committee work allowed me to stretch myself and keep some skills sharp.

The choir...embraced me and held me through some of the best and worst times of my life. The choir was my chosen family and I learned from them what it feels like to receive unconditional love and support... From the congregation... I have more wonderful memories than I know you have time for me to share...

1. The Sunday morning I told the congregation that I would leave as DRE to enter seminary...I was so anxious that when I stood at the pulpit before 400 people intending to say that I'd be leaving to pursue my ministerial studies, I actually said, “...I'll be leaving as your DRE to pursue the minister.”
2. The congregational meeting when you were to vote on my ordination, I was deeply touched and in shock that the vote was unanimous. I later learned that most people receive a unanimous vote, but ignorance was bliss.
3. ...I was shocked by how many people attended [my ordination]...I requested the choir to sing two songs; “I Will Sing With the Spirit” by John Rutter and “If I Flew to the Point of Sunrise” by Jean Berger. I cried through both and I cried through them again as I listened while I write this. What a gift!

The choir also gifted me with my stole. I was asked to meditate on the meaning of my ministry and my life and share the result with Kate Gorman and Gwen Surrat, two fabric artists in the congregation...It took my breath away... Every time I preach I wear this stole... As I wear this stole I remember and give thanks for First UU, and the loving people who ordained me, again and again in more ways than you will ever know...

Thank you many times over to the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Columbus and from my heart and soul. My ordination stole may have been the one tangible gift I received that night, but the most palpable gift I remember was the love and support of *my home church*!! You have been with me in every step of my ministry and you always will be with me.

Congratulations and Blessings for another 75 years!
Rev. Patricia Shelden

CONSTRUCTION UPDATE

Dave Richter, Chair, Construction Team; Brian Hagemann, Church Administrator

It's done! (Almost.) By the time you read this, the renovations and classroom addition to First UU will be essentially complete. The four new rooms will be put to use soon, while renovated Rooms 7 and 8 will be reopened in late January.

The new restrooms and hallways were completed in mid December, as well as the rebuilt courtyard garden. The new hallways and lighting have been a big hit with folks so far, and we are very happy to see how much light and openness this has brought into the center of our facility. We expect to finish planting the courtyard and other landscaping in the spring. Check the landscape drawing posted on the courtyard window to get an idea of the design planned for the space.

A few remaining projects, such as installation of solar panels, will take place in the next few months. The solar array will be installed along the front Gallery roof of the church and is now awaiting permitting. This will supply about 5-10% of the church's electrical usage, which along with the energy efficiency of our new construction and remodeling, makes this truly a "green" construction campaign.

Other parts of this two-year long project included a new roof on the Worship Center, Slowter Lounge and the Gallery, partially paid for with an insurance settlement, and new doors in the Worship Center and Gallery.

Planning for all this work began in 2012, as we explored the need to renovate restrooms and other facility and space issues we were facing. Early on, we engaged a local environmental engineering firm (Go Sustainable Energy here in Clintonville) to help us plan for an efficient and green construction project by design. This project was funded by your donations to the Green and Growing Capital Campaign, which started in 2013. The new roof was installed in the summer of 2014, with the new doors installed that fall. Work on the restrooms, hallways, courtyard and Rooms 7 and 8 began in 2015. And so, here we are at the end of a four-year journey with a lot to be proud about!

Thank you to all who generously donated almost \$1.6 million to the Green and Growing Campaign that made this all possible.

And thank you to church members, staff, visitors and others who put up with portable restrooms, lack of class and meeting space, restricted parking, awkward access, and dust and dirt of construction. Relax and enjoy what you've accomplished.

Dave R. and Brian H.

THE GIFT OF PRINCIPLE, *continued from page 1*

Rev. Jennifer Brooks, Interim Senior Minister

In our lifelong journey to find meaning and purpose, our faith tradition invites us to discover and become our authentic selves—in the best sense. As my own life has evolved, I've learned that being able to see beyond appearances is a tremendous gift. It's not some x-ray vision or some magical ability to read minds. It's not that a human being can actually "see" beyond the surface. But what we *can* do is create space for new insights to emerge.

What do I desire? To see beyond appearances. I'd like to pause before slotting and filing each new encounter into a pre-set category. I'd like to suspend my assumptions and, yes, *judgment* long enough to learn more about what someone else intends. I'd like to engage my imagination and curiosity as often as I can, so that I don't miss the unique message of someone else's personality and culture.

It's a wide world. There's so much to learn, if we open ourselves up to new insights. And, in the process, we can open up to new insights about the inner mysteries of our longing and being. Desire. Feel it.

Jennifer



Liberian stilts-dancer

JUSTICE ACTION MINISTRY (JAM)

Steve Palm-Houser, Chair

CIW Workers' Voice Tour in Columbus! Join us on March 6, at OSU. To let us know you'll be there, call Sue at 459-0017 or email ohiofairfood@gmail.com. Workers and consumers take the Fair Food message to Wendy's corporate leadership in New York, Ohio, and Palm Beach to demand real, worker-driven social responsibility from this fast-food holdout. From March 2-13, farmworkers and thousands of allies will be mobilizing to bring Wendy's—the lone holdout among the big five fast-food companies of Yum Brands, McDonald's, Burger King, Subway, and Wendy's—into the Fair Food Program! Despite the growing and undeniable success of the Fair Food Program, Wendy's has repeatedly turned its back on workers and consumers calling for the fast-food giant to join the FFP, ignoring their letters, phone calls and protests. Also, Wendy's has turned its back on the Florida tomato industry itself. Inexplicably, just as the industry was being called “the best working environment in American agriculture” on the front page of the *New York Times* for its commitment to the human rights standards of the Fair Food Program, Wendy's moved its substantial purchases of fresh tomatoes away from Florida in early 2015. That's right. They decided to buy their tomatoes from farms offering workers fewer protections. **Join the Coalition of Immokalee Workers and allies on Sunday, March 6, to bring justice to farmworkers.**



Protests outside of Wendy's shareholder meeting in 2013

The Workers' Voice Tour will build on the three-year-old Wendy's campaign, partnering with students and consumers across the country to amplify the call for farm labor justice. The first stop will be New York City, at the sleek Park Avenue offices of Wendy's Board Chairman Nelson Peltz. From there, farmworkers and their allies will ride a bus to Columbus, Ohio, to join students for a massive mobilization at OSU, and then go to Louisville, Kentucky and Gainesville, Florida — all major hubs in the growing student-led boycott against the fast food giant. Finally, the caravan will arrive in Palm Beach, Florida, for the big closing march in Mr. Peltz's glitzy hometown. Ready to join us? Stay tuned for more details in the weeks ahead, and email us at organize@allianceforfairfood.org.

Guest at Your Table We'll have *GAYT* boxes and *Stories of Hope* booklets available in Sunday School classes and in Fellowship Hall after each service. This campaign is an opportunity to join or to renew your membership in our UU Service Committee. You can also join or renew online any time at www.uusc.org/donate.

While we have celebrated First UU's 75th anniversary here, it's also the year of UUSC's 75th anniversary. UUSC came into being in Europe during World War II to help Jews and others escape the Holocaust. Now, it's working again in Europe to help with the refugee crisis, as thousands are driven from their homes in Syria, a crisis made even worse by the Paris bombings. And of course, UUSC continues to work in Asia, Africa, Latin America, and in the U.S. to protect human rights, and to work for economic and environmental justice, including the recognition of access to water as a basic human right. Be sure to watch for *Stories of Hope* and your own *Guest at Your Table* box right after the new year begins. This is a great opportunity to help your children begin to understand the world's problems in accessible ways.

Marge Lynd for UUSC

First UU was a founding member of BREAD (Building Responsibility, Equality, and Dignity), Central Ohio's congregation-based community organization that holds local officials accountable for serious community problems. Recent results of BREAD's work and continuing efforts to make systemic change:



- *Care, Not Crisis*: Grand opening of Pathways Clubhouse, accredited by Clubhouse International, planned for this summer to provide support for people whose lives have been severely disrupted because of their mental illness. Three additional Assertive Community Treatment Teams to provide 24/7 treatment and support for people with mental illness.
- *Keeping Kids in School*: Continuing quarterly meetings with Columbus Schools to review both student discipline and attendance data. Suspensions out of school for truancy now essentially zero.
- *Welcome Columbus*: Have recruited six other organizations to work with BREAD to get an accepted municipal ID for all residents without an ID.
- *Violence Must Stop!* Safety Director George Speaks working with BREAD to implement Community Initiative to Reduce Violence, a multi-agency and community collaborative effort designed to quickly and dramatically reduce group gun violence and associated homicides.
- *Restorative Justice*: Implemented in nine neighborhoods, four more planned by January 2017. Working with Judge Gill to get more first-time, non-

violent youth offenders referred, more RJ Circle representatives from the affected neighborhoods.

- *Right Time, Right Place Health Care*: Approximately 10,000 people assigned to Lower Lights Health Center for primary health care. Committee meeting quarterly with stakeholders to work on obstacles to getting low-income people into primary health care.
- *Jobs and Economic Opportunity*: Research Committee has had 10 meetings with stakeholders, 30 planned. Possible focus: unemployment or underemployment. **Personal stories needed; anonymous if preferred.** Call Alice Rathburn, 895-2109 or Chris Johnson, 946-1287.

First UU's December 2015 investors in BREAD's work for justice in Central Ohio were Stephen Lovejoy, Jane and Bill Miller, Alice Rathburn and Linda Thompson. Thank you for helping to pay our three hard-working organizers and all of the other costs needed to make BREAD's work for justice successful.

For further information about BREAD, contact Alice Rathburn (eulala1905@me.com, 895-2109 or 563-0536), First UU's BREAD Team Captain, go to www.breadcolumbus.com, call 220-9363, or go to www.facebook.com/breadorganization.

April 11 - BREAD Rally; May 9 - BREAD Nehemiah Action (the BIG one) Further information, contact : First UU BREAD Team Captain Alice Rathburn, eulala1905@me.com, 614-895-2109, or the BREAD office, 614-220-9363, www.breadcolumbus.com, www.facebook.com/breadorganization.



The Feed My Sheep food pantry needs items such as: peanut butter, feminine hygiene products, chunky soup, dog food, cat food, canned meat, and children's books. Bring these on Sunday morning, to our table in Fellowship Hall.

CALENDAR

- Adult Programs Team: 1st Thursday, 7-9pm
- All Soles Contra Dance: 2nd Friday, 7:30pm
- Atheists/Skeptics/Humanists: 4th Tuesdays, 7pm
- Book Bites: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- Board Executive Committee: 2nd Wednesday, 7pm
- Board of Trustees: 4th Wednesday, 7pm
- BREAD Team: 3rd Monday, 7pm
- Bridge Group (call 499-2434): 4th Sunday, 6pm
- Care and Share Time Bank: 3rd Saturday, 6:30pm
- Caring Team: 1st Tuesday, 7pm
- Cooking for Faith Mission: 1st & 3rd Friday, 12pm
- Covenant Group Facilitators: 1st Wednesday, 7pm
- Creative Open Studio: Monday, 3-5pm
- Defense Within Our Values: Sundays, 4pm; Wednesdays, 7pm
- Family Small Group Ministry: 2nd & 4th Thursday, 6pm
- Finance Committee: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- Getting to Know UU: Sundays, after each service
- Improvisational Dance: Thursday, 9:30am
- Intergenerational Book Group: 3rd Wednesday, 7pm
- Job Seekers Support Group: 4th Mondays, 7pm
- Justice Action Ministry: 4th Monday, 7pm
- Memoir Writing: Wednesday, 7pm, until 3/8/16
- Move to Amend: 3rd Saturday, 12pm
- PFLAG: 4th Sunday, 2pm
- RE Team: 3rd Wednesday, 6:30pm
- Soulful Sundown Service: normally 3rd Saturday, but 2nd Saturday in February, 5:30pm
- Stewardship Committee: 3rd Tuesday, 7pm
- This Month in Science: 2nd Tuesday, 7pm
- UU Dance Fellowship: Monday, 7pm
- Worship Team: 1st Tuesday, 7:30pm
- Youth Group: every two weeks on Sunday, 12:30pm
- Zen Meditation: Saturday, 8:30am; Tuesday, 7pm

Saturday, February 6

- 11:00am Partner Church Team
- 6:00pm Youth GA Fundraiser

Monday, February 8

- 7:00pm Care and Share Time Bank Orientation

Saturday, February 13

- 5:30pm Soulful Sundown Worship Service

Sunday, February, February 14

- 12:30pm Funeral Consumers Alliance Info Mtg

Saturday, February 20

- 5:00pm First UU Auction: Spring Fever

Sunday, February 21

- 12:45pm Pastoral Team Meeting

Sunday, February 28

- 1:00pm BREAD Justice Ministry Organizing

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February 2016

WORSHIP SERVICES

February's Theme: *Desire*

Sunday, February 7, 9:15am/11am
Passion and Reason, Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Sunday, February 14, 9:15am/11am
Love and Desire, Rev. Jennifer Brooks

Sunday, February 21, 9:15am/11am
Joy, of Our Desiring, Rev. Eric Meter

Sunday, February 28, 9:15am/11am
Desire, Bill Hurley, Wes Thompson, Lisa Brandt