

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
3400 DUPONT AVENUE SOUTH
MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA 55408



liberal

THE

September's Sermon Theme:

Listening

Upcoming Sunday Services

September 6

One 10 a.m. Service

"Always Beginning"

Led by Kate Tucker

September 13

One 10 a.m. Service

Annual Water Communion, FFI: p. 4

"Our Blue Boat Home"

Led by Justin Schroeder

September 20

Start of Two Services: 9 & 11 a.m.

"Listening to Wholeness"

Led by Justin Schroeder

September 27

Services at 9 & 11 a.m.

"Listen, Let Go, Love"

Led by Justin Schroeder

Words from Justin

One of my favorite sayings is "lead with the listen."

In fact, during these start up weeks, it's become a mantra of mine. At a recently held Worship Associates retreat, I listened to the hopes and dreams of a dozen Worship Associates. We spoke about creating powerful, healing, and transformative worship, Sunday after Sunday.

When we held our staff retreat, I listened to staff members who openly and honestly spoke of their strengths, growing edges, and the gifts that they bring to the team. And on Sundays, I've enjoyed connecting with many of you, listening to your stories, and learning what you love about First Universalist and why it's your spiritual home.

Whether it's social justice work, raising our children, connecting with our partner, or talking to someone whose beliefs differ from ours, listening can be a deeply spiritual practice.

In fact, the theme of "Listening" is the monthly theme for September and we'll be examining it in our Sunday Worship Services. This leads me to share two things I'm particularly excited about this year:

FIRST: *The Monthly Themes.*

Each month, beginning in September, we will explore a religious and spiritual theme in our Sunday worship. September's theme is "Listening," October's is "Money," November's is "Gratitude," and December's is "God." I believe that following this

monthly theme-based model will allow the worshipping community to engage with these themes in greater depth.

SECOND: *Sermon-Based Small Groups.* After a very successful pilot program last year, we are ready to launch six new groups this October. *Sermon-Based Small Groups* will meet through early December, for a total of six meetings. Each meeting is an hour and a half long. *Sermon-Based Small Groups* are made up of 10 people from the church. Each group uses the same content, based on the monthly themes. If you're looking for the next step to grow your spirit and connect with others in the First Universalist community, join a Sermon-Based Small Group. (See Heidi Mastrud's article on pages 5-6 for more information.)

In these times of economic uncertainty and instability, I hope you have had a good summer, with time for silence. I hope you have had time to listen to your life, to let your life speak to you about its hopes and dreams and deepest truths. As we turn toward the changing of the seasons, may we embrace all that is new, all that is just beginning, and all that is yet to be.

May you be a blessing,

Justin Schroeder

Senior Minister

September 1-30, 2009
ISSUE NO. 3

Leadership Spotlight

We Will Grow

By Barry Johnson
President of the Congregation

As we head into a new church year I'm willing to make one prediction with absolute certainty: We will grow.

First, we will grow in the practices, processes, and structures that will enable us to live our vision of what we want our church to be. We will continue to learn what it means to live under policy governance. This is something I think we would all admit is not presently clear. We have made a start, however, by adopting clear strategic outcomes linked to measurable indicators of success and the staff has developed a work plan to implement those strategic priorities.

We will also grow in our ability to realize our mission of bringing the Universalist message of love and hope to the world. The Sermon-Based Small Groups that will start this fall will give us an opportunity to consider how our actions in the world connect with the principles of our faith and what it means to be a mature person of UU faith in our society today.

Finally, in the words of Loren Mead, we will grow our ability as a church to "challenge, support, and encourage each one of [our] members to grow in the maturity of their faith, to deepen their

spiritual roots, and to broaden their religious imagination." This will be a special year for deepening our roots, with the celebration of our 150th Anniversary and Justin's ordination/installation. The gifts of a new Senior Minister and opportunities like the Sermon-Based Small Groups, Foundations of Our Faith, Faithful Conversations, and General Assembly will also give us many other ways to grow.

But we also plan to grow in fun! It was great to be together at the All-Community Picnic and we have the Valentine's Dance to look forward to. There are plans to explore additional ways to get together informally and have a good time.

When you read the title of this column did you think I was going to talk about numerical growth? Gotcha! Seriously, if we grow in membership, that will be terrific because it will mean more people have found a church home that meets their spiritual needs. But it is the other forms of growth that are really important.

I've mentioned only a few of the many issues we're examining for the coming year, but it's clear that our future holds growth for us all as a church community and as individuals.

It's going to be a wonderful year!
Grace and peace to us all.

Mission Statement

We join together at First Universalist Church in a welcoming, spiritual community that affirms our liberal religious heritage. Our ministry is to bring the Universalist message of love and hope to one another, to our children, and to the work of social justice.

All Church News

Sign-Up Sunday September 27

Have you ever wondered how to join the choir? Sermon-Based Small Groups? The drumming circle? Come investigate numerous opportunities to engage with others through church activities, groups, learning opportunities, and volunteer service. Tables with information and sign-ups will be set up in the Social Hall and Chalice Room after both services. FFI: Heidi Mastrud, heidi@firstuniv.org or x124

*Be curious! Get connected!
Have fun!*

Member-to-Member Gift Fund

The Membership Committee is initiating a new concept called the Member-to-Member Gift Fund. The purpose is to provide every new member of First Universalist Church with a gift, the *Unitarian Universalist Pocket Guide*. This engaging and concise book contains articles about our faith, ministry, social justice, religious education and history, each written by different authors.

For each \$6 contribution we will inscribe a *UU Pocket Guide* with your name on a book plate inside the cover, and present it to a new member during the New Member Welcome Ceremony. Please make your check out for a multiple of \$6

(i.e. \$12, \$18, \$24, \$30, etc.) to First Universalist Church and write "Member-to-Member Gift Fund" on the memo line. This new idea comes from long-time member Jerry Machalek; he has pledged the first \$200. Thank you, Jerry! We expect about 80-100 new members this year, so please give generously. It is our hope that your gift will touch, move and inspire our new members to share their time, talent, and treasure with our First U community.

Thank you!

A Day of Celebration and Service

October 25 will be a big day for us all. In the morning we will gather for an intergenerational Homecoming Service at 10:00 a.m., which will mark our sesquicentennial anniversary. Birthday cake and other treats will be offered after service. Then, in the afternoon, we will celebrate the beginning of our second 150 years with the ordination of Justin Schroeder into the Unitarian Universalist ministry, combined with a Ceremony of Covenant, as we complete our call to Justin as our senior minister. A reception will follow with light refreshments — and more cake. Formal invitations were mailed in late August.

This will be a day full of joy — and of volunteer opportunities! We will need ushers, greeters, cooks, servers, help to set up, and help to clean up. Throughout the month of September and into October, we will have a table in the Social Hall with sign-up sheets. You may also indicate your interest with an email to ginny.mc1947@gmail.com or andreajohnson55409@yahoo.com

This may seem early to commit but we need to know we have it all covered. So please, set aside the day to participate in these momentous events and to commit to a bit of service to your beloved religious community. We trust we will have an abundance of volunteers because we see such high energy and enthusiasm in the congregation. Thank you, thank you.

SESQUICENTENNIAL NEWS

BY KARIN WILLE

First Universalist Church will be 150 years old on October 24, 2009. During the past church year, the Sesquicentennial Steering Committee — with assistance from more than one hundred volunteers — has sponsored events and activities designed to illuminate our past, celebrate our present and inspire our future. Here's a recap of what has taken place and what is yet to come.

ILLUMINATE THE PAST

Last October we kicked off our sesquicentennial celebration with the "Faithful Founders and Free Thinking Liberals" weekend. On Saturday we learned about Universalist and First Universalist history from noted theologians and historians Rev. Dr. Paul Rasor, Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Strong, and John Hurley. Dr. Rasor preached at both services on Sunday. Following the second service, Dr. Strong shared her perspectives on the evolution sermon series preached by our own Dr. Shutter in the early 1900s.

In February we celebrated the 200th birthday of Charles Darwin and the 150th anniversary of the publication of *On the Origin of Species*. Six hundred and fifty adults and children shared birthday cake in the Social Hall following both services, along with Lynn Felman's amazing art exhibit "Your DNA Portrait Show." While the kids painted Chuck, the Galapagos Turtle (still on display in the Social Hall), adults enjoyed a fascinating discussion about science and religion with panelists Rev. Dr. John Cummins, David Rhees, Kim Stelson, and Ken Waters.

Each *Liberal* issue last year contained one or two history articles, researched and written by dedicated volunteers. We've had the opportunity to learn about topics from the theology of our early ministers to the history of social justice. For those of you who want to learn more, the sesquicentennial web site, www.firstuniv150.org, is another wonderful source of historical information.

CELEBRATE THE PRESENT

Our congregation celebrated its present in a big way when nearly 450 congregants gathered at the McNamara Center in April for the Sesquicentennial Soiree. We listened to the Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, a "native son" of our congregation; we sang (along with Ann Reed) our sesquicentennial song "We Will," and we watched a short video with images of our history. Most of all, though, we reveled in being together in community as we laughed, ate, sang, and visited together.

In May, a smaller group of congregants — those who had been members for 25 years or

more — celebrated together at the long time members' luncheon at our former church site at 5000 Girard.

We were treated to reminiscences by Minister Emeritus John Cummins and a chance to see how wonderfully our former "home" has been cared for.

Most of you will be reading this right after our big celebration — the intergenerational picnic at Beard's Plaisance, following the Lake Harriet service. We celebrated the importance of children in our congregation with the Maypole dance, bubbles, old fashioned games and ice cream cones.

INSPIRE THE FUTURE

Mark your calendars now for the Homecoming Service on Sunday, October 25. This very special intergenerational service will mark the 150th birthday of our congregation — and will, of course, be followed by birthday cake and other refreshments. That afternoon we'll mark the beginning of our second 150 years with the ordination of Justin Schroeder and the Ceremony of Covenant.

Don't stop reading yet — there's more! The Sesquicentennial All Church Art Show opens on October 18, with a reception for the artists on Sunday, November 2. During the fall, two VERY important items will be available for purchase by church members and friends. The first is a history book, loosely based on *The Liberal* history articles, but with more of everything — new articles, pictures, sermon excerpts. The second item is a 20 minute history video, which will tell our

congregation's story in oral interviews, music and images.

The Sesquicentennial Table, a now familiar sight in the Social Hall, will be up and running again after Labor Day. Come to the table in September and October to sign-up to volunteer for our day of celebration October 25 (see details in the article "A Day of Celebration and Service, p. 3). The table will be the "go-to" place this fall to get your copy of the book, the video and any of our fabulous commemoratives you haven't yet purchased. Stay tuned as we move into inspiring our future and our next 150 years!

Save the Dates: Faithful Conversations for Unitarian Universalists: "What Saves Us?"

We invite you to set aside several of next year's Monday evenings for FAITHFUL CONVERSATIONS gatherings. Faithful Conversations is a unique collaboration in lay theological education involving four Twin Cities UU congregations and the six ministers who serve them. The series is offered as a movable feast, with programs moving to each of the four churches in turn. The 2009-10 series will comprise eight 2-hour sessions under the theme of exploring our theological diversity. Each session will include a minister's presentation, spiritual practices, facilitated small group conversation, and Q & A with all six ministers. Please contact the church office for registration information.

September 28: First Unitarian Society
October 12: White Bear UU Church
November 9: First Universalist
December 7: Unity Church-Unitarian
March 8: First Unitarian Society
March 15: Unity Church-Unitarian
April 5: First Universalist
May 3: White Bear UU Church

Reminder:
Collect Water this summer
for the Water Communion
Service in September!



The Welcome Table

A Mandatory All-Church Training in Service Ministry

Please save Saturday, October 10, 9-11 a.m. OR Tuesday, October 13, 7-9 p.m. for a mandatory training session at church for all ushers, greeters, coffee servers, visitor welcomers, and sound techs. You will learn about safety procedures, emergency management, and the ministry of radical hospitality, as well as information specific to your volunteer position. Questions? Would you like to volunteer? Contact Heidi, x124 in the church office.

Steps to Membership

(for anyone age 14 or older)

1. **What We're About**— overview of what UUs believe and what makes us different from other denominations. Especially for visitors. Third Sunday of every month following each service (30-45 min).
2. **Pathways to Membership**— potential members are expected to take this class. Childcare is available at no cost. Autumn Pathways dates: Saturday, October 3, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m. OR Wednesdays, November 4 & 11, 7-9 p.m.
3. **Application for Membership** - submitted to the Board for approval.
4. **New Member Welcome Ceremony**—individuals and families are welcomed during a special

ceremony. Next ceremony will be held November 1.

5. **Foundations of Our Faith**— a new monthly class with lunch for new members. Childcare is available at no cost. See below for more information.

Foundations of Our Faith

New members are invited to join the Foundations of Our Faith group for one year. This group meets monthly for lunch and topical conversation, meant to deepen your understanding of UUism and your membership at First Universalist. You must sign up to participate in this class; please call Sandy in the church office, 612-825-1701 x125 or email, sandy@firstuniv.org.

**Dates and topics for 2009-2010:
Conversation begins at 12:30 p.m. except where noted.**

September 13 (11:30 a.m. – 1 p.m.)

What is Spirituality for UUs

October 11

Principles, Purposes, Sources

November 8

Writing Our Elevator Speeches

December 13

Holidays, Rites, & Rituals of UU

January 10

Unitarian, Universalist, & UU History

February 14 Pastoral Care

March 14 Ask the Ministers

April 11 Faith in Action & Lifespan Faith Development

May 2

History of First Universalist Church

Lifespan Faith Development

UU Identity, Ethical Development, and Spiritual Practice for All Ages

RE Registration for 2009-2010

Have you registered for Religious Education classes and signed up to volunteer? You may have missed the early bird discount, but it's not too late to register for our excellent programming. Secure your spot and help us plan for the year. Register today; classes begin September 20! Call Lily in the church office (x 107) for a registration form, or find one online at:

www.firstuniv.org/docs/re/FallRegistration0910.pdf.

Adult Faith Development Opportunities

Information about our Adult Faith Development Opportunity: "Foundations of Our Faith" can be found under The Welcome Table section of this *Liberal*.

Sermon-Based Small Groups

Starting this fall groups of 8-10 people will meet every other week, September 28-December 13. We'll explore content related to sermons, spirituality, and UU theology through telling about our own life experiences. This is a deeply satisfying way to expand your connections to other church

members, and to your own religious impulse. At the end of the session, the group will say good-bye to its members and will re-form before the next semester. You'll be invited to sign up for a group that works for your schedule – weekday, weekend, day or night, and childcare will be available at no cost (with advance notice).

There are three ways to sign up:

1. Visit the Sermon-Based Small Groups table in the Social Hall on September 13, 20, and 27.
2. Call or email Heidi x124 in the church office.
3. Sign up online on or after September 15. Go to firstuniv.org/smallgroups

Space is limited, so sign up early!

A Sermon-Based Small Group is different from other small groups at First Universalist. It is a group where you can engage in the spiritual practice of deep listening, get to know a small number of people you might not normally meet, reflect on how your life experience informs your faith (and vice-versa), and act together to serve the larger community. It is not a forum for debate or a therapy group. This fall our groups will center their discussions around four themes:

- Listening
- Money
- Gratitude
- God

Questions?

Call or email Heidi Mastrud, x124 / heidi@firstuniv.org.

Chi-Gung with Pat Gottschalk

You are invited to join our Lifespan Chi-Gung Group, 11th year at First Universalist, for Health, Fellowship and Peace of Mind

Six sessions: September 30, October 7, 14, (skip 21), 28, November 4 & 11.

10:00-11:30 a.m., Narthex (upstairs, outside the Sanctuary)

Chi-Gung is a centuries-old form of meditative exercise, originating in China, that helps people increase self-awareness, build internal energy, and develop a healthy, flexible body physically and spiritually. Chi-Gung techniques include sustained breathing, body postures, focusing the mind and vowel sounds. Pat will lead you through warm-up, stretching, centering, and filling with energy and affirmation. You may stand or sit as needed, so the class is suitable for people with physical limitations.

Come as you are—stiff, limber, happy, sad, clumsy, or nimble.

Children's Program (ages 0 – 6th Grade)

Volunteers Needed to Teach RE in the Fall

Join our ministry to children and youth! Serve our children while learning more about UUism and the sources of our faith. As of the printing of this issue of *The Liberal*, we still need teachers on the following teams:

9 a.m. Classes

Nursery

2 & 3 year-olds – Growing Together

4 & 5 year-olds – Chalice Children

1st Grade – The Rainbow Path
3rd/4th Grade – World Religions
5th/6th Grade – World Religions

11 a.m. Classes

Nursery

2 & 3 year-olds – Growing Together

4 & 5 year-olds – Chalice Children

2nd Grade – We Believe: Learning & Living Our UU Principles

3rd Grade – World Religions

6th Grade – World Religions

For more information, or to sign up to volunteer, contact Marsha (ages 0-6th grade) or Katie (grades 7-12) in the main office.

Save the Date!

Teacher Trainings Scheduled

Lead and Assistant Religious Education teachers are expected to attend one of the following training sessions. You'll learn about managing classroom dynamics, ritual in the RE classroom, the lessons specific to your grade level, and then have time to plan your teaching schedule with other teachers on your team.

2 & 3 AND 4 & 5 year-olds – Monday, September 14, 5:30-7:00 p.m., rooms 100/104

Kindergarten & 1st Grade – Monday, September 14, 7:15-8:45 p.m., rooms 102/107

2nd Grade – Tuesday, September 15, 6:30-8:00 p.m., rooms 105/201

3rd, 4th, 5th, & 6th Grade – Wednesday, September 9, 6:30-8:30 p.m., Cummins Room

Teachers, watch your mail and/or email for more information.

LAKWOOD CEMETERY AND CHAPEL

by Mary Junge

(photos by Jessica Wicks)

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Article #20 in a special 150th anniversary series

www.firstuniv150.org



Lakewood Cemetery was founded in 1871, four years after Minneapolis was incorporated as a city. In July 1871, Colonel William S. King, a local businessman, newspaper

publisher, and member of our church, proposed to community leaders of the city that they work together to establish a cemetery in Minneapolis where “the encroachments of the city would never seriously interfere.” Among the founders were William D. Washburn and Dorilus Morrison. Washburn served on our church’s Board of Trustees for the first 50 years, and Morrison, the board’s president from 1859 to 1897, was the first mayor of Minneapolis.



It was Morrison who called the first meeting to organize a cemetery association. On August 7, 1871, about 14 men met to form the Lyndale Cemetery Association. In addition to Morrison, Washburn and King, other Universalist members present were Thomas Lowry (Lowry Hill) and Charles Loring (Loring Park). At a time when a house in Minneapolis cost \$500, the trustees voted to raise \$25,000 to purchase and improve land owned by Colonel King located between Lakes Harriet and Calhoun. A.B. Barton took over as superintendent of the Lyndale Cemetery Association. (The name was later changed to “Lakewood.”) C. W. Folsom, Superintendent of Mount Auburn Cemetery in Cambridge, Massachusetts, was hired to develop plans for the grounds.



While the land on which the Lakewood Cemetery rests was not the first choice of the founders, it turned out to be a most fitting location. Now only a few blocks from our present church at 34th and Dupont, its gates lead directly to Hennepin Avenue, once an ancient Dakota trail linking the lakes with the Mississippi River. At the time of its founding, however, the land was not central at all. It was on the south edge of the city.

The public dedication was held on September 16, 1872. It was surely an event to behold, with dozens of carriages converging at the cemetery. Women and girls wore their best long skirts or dresses, and their hands, covered in white gloves, gripped their sun parasols. The boys wore their best shirts and pants, and the men wore suits and silk top hats. At 2:00 p.m. the ceremony began with an address by the Rev. James Tuttle, minister of our church. He must have been bursting with pride as he said these words: *“No ancient necropolis of Babylonia, Egypt, or Rome excelled the Pere-Lachaise of Paris, Mount Auburn of Boston, or Green-Wood of New York; none of the ancient monuments,*

shady groves, and winding walks seen in those bygone ages were more skillfully and tastefully wrought than those which meet our eye to-day....Our affection for our friends when living is understood most by the care we take of their graves when they have passed away."

The Memorial Chapel at Lakewood is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and serves as the architectural focal point of the cemetery. The building was designed by prominent Minneapolis architect Harry Wild Jones and was modeled after the Hagia Sophia in Istanbul, Turkey. The chapel interior was created by New York designer Charles Lamb. In 1909, Lamb traveled to Rome to enlist the services of six highly accomplished mosaic artists who had just recently completed a project in the Vatican. The artists created more than 10 million mosaic pieces, called tessellae, from marble, colored stone, and glass fused with gold and silver. Lamb's design was inspired by the interior of the San Marco Cathedral in Venice.

The chapel is breathtakingly beautiful, with its Byzantine mosaics and religious symbolism. When the sun is just right, it lights up the stained-glass windows, which serve as a sundial telling the time of day and the season, and these words: "Until the day spring breaks and the shadows flee away."

The walls are adorned with mosaic figures representing Faith, Hope, Memory, and Love, based on drawings by Ella Condie Lamb, a portrait artist and the wife of Charles Lamb. The chapel was the only building with an authentic mosaic interior in the United States, and it remains the most perfect example of Byzantine mosaic art in the United States.

The chapel was completed in 1910. The cost of the mosaic work amounted to \$150,000, a very large sum at the time. The chapel was dedicated on November 22, 1910, with five of Lakewood's original trustees still on the board. W.D. Washburn, its president, addressed the crowd with great pride. Charles Lamb spoke of the religious symbolism: *"Religion, if it means anything, is not a hopeless form. Religion means a spiritual uplifting, and if we place faith on one side and hope before us, and follow with love, we add a fourth dimension of memory, because enshrined in your hearts and mind must always be the memory of those we have lost."*

Through the vision and generosity of its founders and ours, Lakewood continues to exist as a public, non-profit, non-denominational cemetery, considered one of the most beautiful cemeteries in the country.

A Cummins Bus Tour

At 9:00 a.m. on September 8, 2007, a group of members and friends from First Universalist gathered inside the Lakewood Chapel and sang Happy Birthday to John Cummins on his 80th birthday. The group was about to begin a historical bus tour with the Rev. Cummins providing the commentary. After leaving the chapel at Lakewood, it would proceed south on Dupont Avenue (King's Highway), past the Lyndale Park Rose Garden and the house at 4600 Dupont that housed the church during WWII, past our former church home on 50th and Girard, north to 27th and Blaisdell Avenue, where the Tuttle Church was once located, before driving by the St. Olaf Catholic Church downtown (215 S. 8th St.), and finally stopping at Our Lady of Lourdes (1 Lourdes Pl.) to look at the baptismal font, before returning to the Lakewood Cemetery. After receiving good wishes for his birthday, John thanked us and insisted that there was no other place he'd rather be on his 80th birthday than in the Lakewood Chapel, which was founded by our Universalist forefathers.



Youth Program (for Grades 7-12)

Teens: Make Money and Help First U!

Youth ages 13 and up are invited to apply to be one of our church's paid babysitters. We are hiring youth to provide childcare for church members during night and weekend meetings (no later than 9:00 p.m.). Call or email Lily in the church office for information or to apply, x107 Lily@firstuniv.org. You will receive training and be put on our list of on-call babysitters. Babysitters can choose to (but don't need to) put their pay towards a church program (e.g. YCE, Boston Trip).

Coming of Agers to Camp Friendship

From September 25 - 27, the 9th graders from First Universalist will attend a special retreat at Camp Friendship in Annandale, Minnesota. They'll begin to explore what "Coming of Age" is all about through workshops, high ropes course adventure, s'mores over the campfire and more!

Young Adult Program (for 18-35 year-olds)

The First Universalist Young Adult Group (FUYAG) gathers on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays of every month from 7:00-9:00 p.m. for various activities, discussions, snacks and more! All young adults ages 18-35 are welcome and you don't have to sign up in advance to attend. We meet in the Arches Room (unless otherwise specified). Please contact Katie Heaton, x109 or Katie@firstuniv.org in the church office with questions.

Meet our new Program Staff

We are pleased to welcome two new staff members to our team this fall!

Lily Franz is joining the church staff as Program Assistant and Sunday Morning Childcare Provider. Lily comes to us with a rich background working with non-profit community organizations, childcare, and volunteer management. Lily will be acting as a support person for all church program areas, as well as coordinating our teen babysitter corps, and working in the nursery on Sunday mornings.

Marsha Partington is thrilled to be joining the staff at First Universalist Church as Children's Program Coordinator. She comes to us with 17 years of experience working with and on behalf of children. As Support Services Coordinator for St. Louis Park Schools, her role included working with families, staff and children to help students be successful in out-of-school settings. She presents workshops regionally and nationally on topics dealing with child development, curriculum and discipline issues.

As a past congregant of Unitarian Universalist Church of Minnetonka and Buxmont Unitarian Fellowship in Warrington, PA, she has a solid background in the seven principles of Unitarian Universalism, and supports the mission of First Universalist Church. Marsha lives in nearby Hopkins with her golden retriever, Tessa. She has a college age daughter who is entering her freshman year at MSU Moorhead, majoring in film production. When

not working or walking her dog, she enjoys reading and is a freelance writer.

Please give Lily and Marsha a warm welcome to our congregation!

Marsha – 612-825-1701 x111 / marsha@firstuniv.org

Lily – 612-825-1701 x107 / lily@firstuniv.org



MUUSJA Walk for Justice

Support the work of the Minnesota UU Social Justice Alliance (MUUSJA) by participating in our pledge walk! Contributions will be used to support our programs including environmental justice and sustainability, LGBT equality, reproductive justice, and free and fair elections.

The Walk will be on Sunday, September 20 at 12:30 p.m. Rain or shine. There will be a moderate two-mile course to the Peace Garden by Lake Harriet, or a vigorous/fitness option around Lake Harriet of five miles. Meet in the Chalice Room at noon for pledge form turn-in and a light lunch to fuel up for the walk.

Teams are encouraged! Prizes will be awarded to teams with the most walkers, most numeric pledges, and most funds raised. Individual prize categories will include youngest and oldest participant, most pledges, etc. If

you'd rather run, bike, skate the course ...feel free! This event welcomes folks of all abilities — wheelchair and limited mobility entry is encouraged.

Registration, pledge forms, and walk information will be available at www.muusja.org, and look for a MUUSJA Walk table at coffee hours this month. Contact Ralph Wyman at rwmuusja@gmail.com (612) 998-6624.

A Unifying Summer

By Briaunna Minor,
Unity Summer Intern

When I opened up the only piece of mail for me and I saw all of what I would be doing, as the first intern of Unity Leadership Programs, I smiled. I would be helping with building up the program by connecting it to its past. Throughout the summer I used my most natural instinct, thinking. I thought about how the workshops and knowledge I had become subject to were changing me. As I was assisting in the building up of the program, there was something building up inside of me, power. One could draw the parallel between my life and the program by saying that, as the past was brought forth, we were growing stronger. Our power realized and our legacy recognized.

Update on the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC)

You may already know that UUSC works in the U.S. and around the world to advance human rights in the areas of economic justice, environmental justice, civil

liberties, and rights in humanitarian crises. First Universalist has shown an increasing commitment to UUSC this past year, with over \$5000 raised during the fall *Guest At Your Table* campaign. What a show of generosity and caring in these challenging times!

After some time without an assigned First Universalist representative, Pat Gottschalk has taken on this important leadership role. Pat has many talents, and it is a great gift to have her working on behalf of UUSC. As the volunteer Local Representative for UUSC, Pat will be working together with other interested congregants to engage First Universalist members and friends in the work of human rights. Please check out the UUSC website at www.uusc.org, FFI: pat.gottschalk@yahoo.com if you are interested in being part of the team.

Warm Hands, Warm Hearts

Each fall Person to Person, a non-profit organization located in Minneapolis, sponsors the Warm Hands/Warm Hearts Project. This program is aimed at keeping low-income children warm, with the purchase of a new winter coat, hat and mittens/gloves. First Universalist adopted the WHWH project in 1997 and has supported it ever since. Last year members of our congregation purchased 301 coats, along with hats, gloves, and mittens. The collection and organization of coats for Warm Hands/Warm Hearts is a marvelous way to get involved in First Universalist's Faith in Action

program. It's straightforward, fun and unbelievably rewarding.

If you'd like to be more involved in Warm Hands/Warm Hearts, please call Sherrilee Carter (612-822-2996) or Doug Erickson (612-922-6015) to talk about the possibilities or see the sign-up sheet on the Faith in Action Bulletin Board in the Social Hall!

Beginning September 20, stop by the table in the Social Hall to pick up a card for a child in need if you haven't already done so.



Shared Interest Groups

Wheel of the Year: Autumnal Equinox

*Equal dark, and equal light,
Circle round and give insight.
From thought and toil, vine & root,
'Tis time to harvest labor's fruits!*

Autumnal Equinox Celebration
Sunday, September 20
6:30-7:30 p.m. on the Labyrinth
First Universalist Church

All are welcome, from infants to elders! Please bring a bit of harvest to share after the ritual. Contact Amy Cortright: amyc@usiwireless.com

AUW Kick-Off Party: Not Your Mother's Church Ladies! Friday, September 11, 6:30-9:00 p.m.

Come celebrate the start of another season of enriching programs and events and connect with a community of unforgettable

women! The Association of Universalist Women (AUW) sponsors and organizes some of the best activities around, with the goal of fostering relationships that serve women, our community, and the wider world.

At the Kick-off, find out about and sign up for AUW's Friendship Groups, "Friday Get Connected" monthly series, Reproductive and Voting Rights action groups, holiday events, the annual women's retreat and lots more. All Friendship Group alumni are invited!

Delicious appetizers and non-alcoholic beverages provided. The chocolate fountain returns! To volunteer, please contact tracyksyue@yahoo.com; 612-770-4488.

More info: www.firstuniv.org/auw.

Ralph Nader Book Reading

"Only the Super-rich Can Save Us"

7:00 p.m. First Universalist Sanc.
Wednesday, September 30

A vivid fictional account by political activist and bestselling author Ralph Nader that answers the question, "What if?" What if a cadre of super-rich individuals tried to become a driving force in America to organize and institutionalize the interests of the citizens of this troubled nation? What if they focused their power on unionizing Wal-Mart? What if these seventeen super-rich individuals decided to galvanize a movement for alternative forms of energy that will effectively clean up the environment? What could happen?

Women Who Read

Women Who Read meet in members' homes or at church the fourth Monday of the month at 6:30 p.m. We eat potluck contributions, socialize, and THEN discuss, in a casual manner, books written by women! New members *always* welcome. PLEASE contact the host in advance to RSVP.

September 28, The Zookeeper's Wife, by Diane Ackerman
HOST: Jeni Klotz, 3345 23rd Ave. S., Mpls, 612-721-1483, co-host Sue Braum.

Training Opportunity Home Visiting as Lay Ministry

Later this fall, the Pastoral Care Coordinating Team will formally recognize those who provide home visiting ministry through the Pastoral Care Program. Many of you do this informally as well. There will be an opportunity for visitors to discuss the purposes of these visits and further hone visiting/listening skills at a workshop on Sunday, October 18 at 12:15 (lunch will be served). The workshop will be put on by the Pastoral Care Coordinating Team that includes Rev. Kate Tucker and minister-in-training Steve Protzman, TRUST parish nurse Pat McLaughlin, and church members Julie Howard and Margit Berg. If the workshop or becoming a formal visitor interests you, give Julie Howard, 952-926-2843, or Margit Berg, 612-377-4776, a call. In the meantime, if you ever find yourself challenged by the situations that you encounter, you can find resources in the church library to assist you or the person whom you are visiting. A casual

scan of book titles shows a breadth of topics: "Growing Older Together," "The Caregiver's Journey," "The Moral Child," "The Grieving Teen," "Finding Work Without Losing Heart," among others.

Art Exhibit: *The Dolls*

Women who are homeless telling their own stories through art... an opportunity for a unique diversity experience.

In our society, homeless people don't have—aren't allowed to have—individual identities. They are "the homeless"—as if their housing situation was all you needed to know about them. Identity theft is not losing your checkbook and credit cards. It is being denied your humanity. Far more than lack of money is the lack of connection with others that distinguishes homeless people. Middle-class persons are as cut off from their homeless neighbors as homeless people are from the rest of society. *I Love a Parade* uses artistic experience to cut through prevailing stereotypes of "the homeless" in order to accurately depict people who are homeless as complex human beings, artists, and citizens. *The Dolls* will decrease the social distance between mainly middle-class viewers and homeless individuals.

The Sounding Board

By John Jensen,
Music Director

It has been moving and motivating to engage with staff and Justin these past days. I feel the wheel has been greased and we are definitely in drive gear. I look forward to a truly productive and joy-filled new year. As always, the invitation is open for those of you who would enjoy participating in our various groups: First Universalist Choir, which meets each Wednesday; the Universal Jazz Big Band, which meets on alternate Mondays; and Universal Folk Band, also on alternate Mondays. We have not decided on music for September services as of yet, save for September 6—so just know that something significant will transpire in our talented musical groups.

Sundays:

September 6: Ben Cooper, vocalist and John Jensen, piano

About Our People

Please Note: announcements written August 16 or earlier:

Susan Bidwell had hip replacement surgery. She is recovering well and is home now.

Sally Cowell continues to work on regaining both physical and mental strength. Sally, her son and daughter, and her partner, **Roxanne Beasley**, appreciate being held in our thoughts and prayers. She is delighted to get cards; they make her smile. You can follow Sally's progress, as reported by her partner, Roxanne Beasley, at <http://www.caringbridge.org/visit/sallycowell/journal>

Mary Guzowski had a surgical procedure. We hold Mary in our thoughts and send love and healing energy her way.

Patti Frazee, our Director of Administration had surgery on July 27 to repair a herniated disc in her back. Please send healing thoughts and hope for a smooth recovery.

We hold in our thoughts **Lyle and Corky Johnson**, who moved to assisted living in Minneapolis, and their son, **Waid**, who moved to an apartment next to theirs. You can follow Waid's treatment for a brain tumor on www.caringbridge.org/visit/waid

We continue to hold **Sara Smalley, her family Doug, Ike, Bennett, Sara's sisters, and Sara's father Virgil** in our thoughts and prayers as Virgil struggles with terminal cancer.

We are grateful to minister-in-training **Steven Protzman** for serving us as summer minister. His last day with us was Sunday, August 16.

Calendar of Events September 1-30

available online at:
www.firstuniv.org

~Denotes an event to which more info
can be found in this issue of *The Liberal*

*Event is closed.

Tuesday, September 1

4:30 p.m. Support Group
6:30 p.m. Open Labyrinth

Wednesday, September 2

12:30 p.m. SPIFF Meeting
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 3

7:00 p.m. Nominating Committee

Friday, September 4

7:00 p.m. Women's Ritual Circle*

Saturday, September 5

No Events Currently Scheduled

Sunday, September 6

One Service Only 10 a.m.
No RE or Childcare

Monday, September 7

Labor Day – **Church Office Closed**
12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 8

4:30 p.m. Support Group
7:00 p.m. Men's Support Group*

Wednesday, September 9

6:30 p.m. RE Teacher Training
3rd-6th Grade
7:00 p.m. 150th Communications
Committee
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 10

5:30 p.m. Executive Committee
7:00 p.m. Young Adults Group

Friday, September 11

6:30 p.m. AUW Kick-Off Party~
7:00 p.m. Drumming Group

Saturday, September 12

9:30 a.m. AUW Board Meeting

Sunday, September 13

Water Communion Sunday
One Service Only 10 a.m.
No RE Childcare available birth – 3 yrs
11:15 a.m. Foundations of Our Faith

Monday, September 14

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
5:30 p.m. RE Teacher Training
2 & 3 year-olds AND
4 & 5 year-olds
7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal
7:15 p.m. RE Teacher Training
K & 1st Grade

Tuesday, September 15

4:30 p.m. Support Group
6:30 p.m. RE Teacher Training
Second Grade
7:00 p.m. Library Committee

Wednesday, September 16

7:00 p.m. 150th Steering Comm.
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 17

9:00 a.m. Liberal Collation Group
6:30 p.m. Board of Trustees

Friday, September 18

7:00 p.m. Women's Ritual Circle*

Saturday, September 19

No Church Events Scheduled

Sunday, September 20

RE Starts 9, 10, and 11
Services at 9 am and 11 am
11:00 a.m. OWL Parent Orientation
12:00 p.m. AUW/MUUSJA Walk
6:30 p.m. Wheel of the Year:
Autumnal Equinox~

Monday, September 21

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Visual Arts

Tuesday, September 22

Autumnal Equinox
4:30 p.m. Support Group
7:00 p.m. Men's Support Group*

Wednesday, September 23

1:30 p.m. Library Committee
Work day (Anyone Welcome)
7:00 pm Choir Rehearsal

Thursday, September 24

7:00 p.m. Young Adult Group
7:00 p.m. Foundation Committee

Friday, September 25

7:00 p.m. OWL Class Kick-off

Saturday, September 26

No Church Events Scheduled

Sunday, September 27

Child Dedication
Services & RE at 9 am and 11 am
Church Group Sign-Up Sunday

Monday, September 28

12:00 p.m. Career Transition Group
7:00 p.m. Band Rehearsal

Tuesday, September 29

4:30 p.m. Support Group

Wednesday, September 30

10:00 a.m. Chi-Gung
7:00 p.m. Choir Rehearsal
7:00 p.m. Ralph Nader
Book Reading~

The Liberal is Published
Monthly
by First Universalist Church

Looking for Discussion?

The Cyber CoffeeHour is a great
place to chat with other First U
members and friends about
various issues, both in our
congregation and in the world.
Check in to see what others are
saying, or to express your opinion.
Navigate to:

[http://groups.yahoo.com/group/
CyberCoffeehour/](http://groups.yahoo.com/group/CyberCoffeehour/)

Direct submissions, questions or comments about
The Liberal
to Kevin Watson, Editor (kevin@firstuniv.org).
Please clearly mark submissions as
"For the Liberal."

Next Liberal Deadline is
Friday, September 11

First Universalist Church Is Served By:

Senior Minister

Justin Schroeder x102

Associate Minister

The Reverend Kate Tucker x103

Minister Emeritus

The Reverend John Cummins

Director of Congregational Life

Heidi Mastrud x124

Youth and Young Adult

Ministry Coordinator

Katie Heaton x109

Children's Program Coordinator

Marsha Partington x111

**Program Assistant and
Sunday Childcare Provider**

Lily Franz x107

Music Director

John Jensen

Choral Director

Janice Hunton

Director of Faith in Action

Debra Rodgers x106

Director of Administration

Patti Frazee x104

**Facilities Coordinator and
Financial Assistant**

Chrystal Teachout x100

Communications Coordinator

Kevin Watson x110

Membership Support

Sandy DiNanni x125

Cleaning Custodian

Mike Higgins

Hospitality Custodian

Wesley Full

Upcoming Events:

Friday, September 11

AUW Kick-Off Party (p. 8)

Sunday, September 13

Annual Water Communion
(p. 4)

Sunday, September 20

Start of Two Sunday Services

Wheel of the Year:

Mabon – Autumnal Equinox
(p. 8)

Sunday, September 27

Child Dedication Sunday

*Church Group Sign-Up
Sunday (p. 2)*

Wednesday, September 30

Ralph Nader Book Reading
(p. 9)

OFFICE HOURS

Monday-Thursday	8:30 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.	Phone: 612-825-1701 Fax: 612-825-8879 firstuniversalist@firstuniv.org www.firstuniv.org
Friday	8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.	
Saturday	Closed	
Sunday	8:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.	

FIRST UNIVERSALIST CHURCH
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