

July 27, 2008
August 3, 2008

Established
in
1899

The Dallas Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of Dallas

» committed to achieving racial and cultural diversity «

Sunday-Morning Worship

Services at 9:15 & 11:30

Sunday, July 27

Sermon: "The Art of Power"

Dr. Laurel Hallman

I will turn to Thich Nhat Hanh for a different way to look at power.

Music: Alan Dyer will play piano music.

~ ~ ~

Sunday, August 3

Sermon: Guest Speaker Gini Courter will be in the pulpit.

Gini Courter is the elected Moderator of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Our delegates to the General Assembly this year saw Gini preside over the plenary sessions with intelligence, skill, and good humor. We welcome her to our pulpit.

Laurel Hallman and Xolani Kacela will conduct the service.

Music: Don Krehbiel and Alan Dyer will play music for organ and piano.

~ ~ ~

From June through August, the Nursery is open for infants and children under the age of 3 during both the 9:15 & 11:30 services.

~ ~ ~

Religious Education classes for children 3 years of age and older will take place at 11:30 a.m. only.

From the Senior Minister Dr. Laurel Hallman

My granddaughter, who is three, is wrestling with the difficult information that their new baby, who is to be born in October, is going to be a boy.

"But I don't like boys," she said. They're working it out. She has agreed that it will be good to have her brother in the back seat of the car with her, in his own car seat. "I don't like sitting back here by myself," she has announced. Of course, it is just the beginning. We all have to make little adjustments every day, whether we like it or not.

Recently I was told that one of the primary capacities which makes it possible to live a long life is the ability to adapt to 'what is.' Even

when at the end of a life it means adapting to loss.

Many spiritual practices are directed at just that skill—the ability to receive 'what is.' Paradoxically, the skill of receiving 'what is' often makes us much more able to change circumstances than if we had spent all our energy fighting against them.

I know my granddaughter will be in for lots of surprises when her baby brother is born. And I know she will work them out. It's a good reminder for all of us about life.



First-Sunday Collection to Benefit Junior Players

Junior Players (JP), founded in 1955, is Dallas' oldest, non-profit children's-theater organization. Over its lifetime, JP has adapted to meet the community's changing needs, moving from traditional productions performed entirely by youngsters to providing free arts-education programs in local recreation and cultural centers, low-income housing developments, elementary and middle schools, and through social-service agencies serving youth at risk. Through performing, writing, and staging productions, JP helps children, whose economic disadvantage might oth-

erwise make the arts unavailable to them, develop their self-esteem, literacy, and communication and conflict-resolution skills.

On Sunday, August 3rd, come hear Andrea Purkey, church member and Junior Players' Communications and Development Director, talk about this wonderful organization. If you can't be at church then, please send your contribution to the church office (please make checks payable to the church and write "Junior Players" on the memo line) or call the office to donate by credit card. Help Dallas' youth shine!



Chart and Compass 2010 What's the Latest?

Help us preserve our history! We need more volunteers for a Church Archive Team to help with all aspects of planning and facilitating the archival storage of our church's historical, financial, and administrative records. If you are interested in or experienced with historic preservation, please contact Tom Kirwin (tkirwin@dallasuu.org) to review the draft charter for the team. Let's keep our story intact for those who will follow!

The Transition Team page at <http://www.dallasuu.org/compass/transition.php> will now give you the opportunity to get involved or to ask questions about where we are in our

Chart and Compass 2010 initiatives. The FAQ page will be updated by the team on an ongoing basis as further information becomes available.

The Facilities Team met on July 8 to review the latest cost estimates for the revised Phase 1 building plan, and will meet again before determining its recommendation to Laurel and the Board for consideration later this month. A groundbreaking early next year is still anticipated.

~ Mike Birrer and Janet Tharp
Leadership Team Co-Chairs
~ Fritz Kuehn
Leadership Team Communications



A journey of compassion and peace with the refugees of Darfur, Sudan

Social action is at the heart of summer programming for our Young Religious Unitarian Universalists (YRUU). This group of 10th-through-12th-graders has begun work on the Tents of Hope project in an effort to raise awareness about the plight of the Sudanese in Darfur. This June, the youth assembled, erected and began painting the Tent of Hope that you see in back of the Religious Education building each Sunday. The Tents of Hope project centers on the concept that creating tents, like those used by refugees and internally displaced people can serve as focal points in communities for learning about and bringing aid to the people of Sudan.

Our journey with the Tents of Hope project began June 21, at our Beginning-of-Year Lock-In. The group heard First Church's own Paulette and Bob Cooper give an emotional and inspiring account of their work in Darfur, including a message about the

power of children and youth to make a difference in the world. Our youth will continue to work on the tent throughout the summer, and the tent will remain standing to raise awareness among the congregation. A day on Preston Road is being planned for the tent, where it can send the message to the greater community. The Tents of Hope project culminates in a *Gathering of the Tents* event in Washington D.C., November 7-9. Our tent will be included with tents from all over the country on the National Mall, where our youth and advisor representatives will experience a weekend of events which will bring the nation's focus to the Darfur conflict.

The youth invite *you* to join them in this project. If you would like to help paint the tent, or are interested in starting your own Tent of Hope, please contact Youth Programs Coordinator Lillian Drab (ldrab@dallasuu.org, 214-884-1222).

Where's Nathan?

Several of you have seen our job-posting for Religious Education Administrator on the church web site and mentioned here in the *DU* and are probably wondering: What happened to Nathan Ryan?

No, Nathan is not leaving us; he will be our new Director of Lay Ministry, a position created under the Chart and Compass 2010 Strategic Plan. We are so pleased to have him move into this vital role to help us develop First Church's Lay Ministry program.

Nathan came to us a little over a year ago from the Austin area, where he worked in a UU congregation as Director of Religious Education. He is a life-long UU and actually met his wife, Lauren, at an event here at First Church. He brings excellent experience with UU programming and a strong commitment to our church. We are blessed to have him in this role.

As Director of Lay Ministry, Nathan will help current and new members find a place of service in our church and community. He will also be a resource for anyone who wishes to connect to the various ministries and activities of our church. As we finalize a replacement for RE Administrator, we look forward to seeing Nathan in his new role, possibly as early as August 1.



The Bridge Group will meet **Tuesday, July 29th, at 10:00 a.m., in Channing Hall.** Carolyn Saunders (214-528-2578) will be hostess.

Next month's Bridge Group will meet **Tuesday, August 12th, at 10:00 a.m., in Channing Hall.** Genie Fritz (214-352-8370) will be hostess.

Reminder: There will be no general Alliance meetings until September.

PERIODICALS POSTAGE PAID AT DALLAS, TEXAS

The *DALLAS UNITARIAN*: USPS 811-720 is published biweekly by First Unitarian Church of Dallas, 4015 Normandy Ave, Dallas TX 75205-1750
POSTMASTER: Send address changes to *The DALLAS UNITARIAN*, 4015 Normandy Ave, Dallas TX 75205-1750

The *DALLAS UNITARIAN* ~ Volume 41 Issue 15

Next Publication Deadline: **NOON, Friday, July 25, 2008** - Volume 41, Issue 16

Sundays Covered: August 10, 2008 and August 17, 2008



NEEDED: A FEW GOOD MEN AND WOMEN

As this newsletter goes to print, 39 volunteers have come forward to teach in our September–May classes for children and teens, and we need more volunteers to ensure that each child receives the attention that he or she so richly deserves.

Whether or not you've taught before, please consider volunteering this year. Information about open positions and curriculum can be found at the R.E. table in Channing Hall. We're looking forward to Ingathering Sunday on September 7. Curriculum is in place and we're excited about using many of the *Tapestry of Faith*

programs being developed by the UUA. We've been *very* impressed by the lessons we've shared with the children, and their response has confirmed our hope that the lessons contain the breadth and depth necessary to engage eager minds in moral discernment and spiritual development.

Don't delay—it's important that we fill these positions right away. Teacher Training with Gini Courter, August 2, is fast approaching. Consider carefully how *you* can make a difference in the lives of the children of our church. Call me today (214-884-1203) and volunteer to teach.

FROM THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE

We have much to be proud of and much to do!

Be part of the church's future as we start to identify leaders to serve in 2009, a key year. We'll install Dr. Kanter as Senior Minister in January. Dr. Hallman will retire in June, we hope to call new Second Minister later in the year, and the changes promulgated under our Chart & Compass strategic plan will continue. The Nominating Committee's goal is to identify able leaders and connect their skills with the essential and exciting work to be done.

Help the Committee find the people who will fill the following positions:

Board of Trustees—President, Vice President, Treasurer, and three at-large Trustees

Nominating Committee—Three members

Endowment Committee—One member

On August 3rd, you'll have a special opportunity to visit with Nominating Committee members about your interest in filling one of the positions and your suggestions for other poten-

tial candidates. And starting August 3rd, forms for nominating yourself or another will be available in the church office, on our web-site (www.dallasuu.org) and from Committee members. (If you are nominating someone else, please remember to check with that person about his or her desire to serve.) The completed forms should be returned to the office or a Nominating Committee member by August 18th.

Committee members are John Payne, Chair (214-929-4882, john.payne@marshallgroupusa.com); Phillip Collins (214-552-6138, phillipecollins@sbcglobal.net); Jeanne Kuehn (214-718-5936, Jeanne@dreamlab.com); Paulette Mulry (214-587-5940, pmulry@viscern.com); Jeff Watson (jqwatson@sbcglobal.net, 214-893-3123). You may contact any of them if you have questions or concerns.

Consider the possibilities, for yourself...and for our church.



It's time for us to have a little talk! During the month of August, we will hold open meetings with the congregation to hear your suggestions, concerns, and questions about our search for a second minister.

The input we receive from you at these meetings, along with results of the survey, will form the core of the Ministerial Profile we submit to the board for approval. That profile becomes the basis on which we solicit applications and conduct interviews with prospective ministers.

Wednesday, August 6

7:00–9:00 p.m., in Channing Hall

Sunday, August 17

10:30–11:15 a.m., in the Sanctuary

12:30–1:30 p.m., in Raible Chapel

Please make time to drop by and talk with us! This is *your* chance to tell us what you want in a second minister.

WELCOME

Welcome July's New Members!

The July book-signing brought nine new members to our congregation. Their pictures can be found on the Visitors bulletin board in Channing and in the hallway by the Library.

Jana Bryant
Steven Cumming
Audrey Duffell
Dolores Godinez
Amy Grissom
James O'Flaherty
Susan Schmidt
Rita Swanholm
Robert Tye

The next opportunity to join our church will be August 10th after either service. A minister and Membership Committee volunteers will be available then to answer your questions and, if you are ready, you can join the church by signing the Book of Names. Please feel free to contact Jenny or Mark Watson (watson.avalon@sbcglobal.net, 214-821-8312) if you have questions.

MUSIC NOTES

by Don Krehbiel



Choirs for Children and Youth

Exciting things are happening in the Children's and Youth Music Department! We are very pleased to announce that after a very successful Youth Choir performance this past spring, this choir, under the direction of Cynthia Nott, will be returning for three performances during the 2008/09 season. The Youth Choir (9th–12th grades) Primary Choir (5 years of age–2nd grade), and Junior Choir (3rd–7th grade) **all begin rehearsals on September 14th**. More details will follow along with instructions on how to sign up during the month of August. We look forward to hearing the voices of our youth soar in one of our fabulous choirs!

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Hearts & Hammers– September 13 & 20



Hearts and Hammers provides repairs to homes of low-income homeowners, most of

whom are elderly and many disabled. The work typically includes painting, caulking, ramp construction, siding replacement, landscaping and other services to restore the character of the home and improve its weatherproofing and security. In September, First Unitarian Church will participate in repairing one such house. It's located near Loop 12 and I-45. We have participated in the program many times and it has always been a happy and satisfying experience for both the volunteers and the homeowners.

On Sundays in August, there will be a sign-up sheet at the Community Service Table in Channing Hall. Add your name to the list. Volunteers will be needed for painting, siding replacement, replacing broken glass, and providing lunch for the volunteers.

SUNDAY MORNING

Adult Forum–10:30 a.m., in the Library “Power Over People”

July 27: “Freud’s Theory of Human Nature and Civilization,” Part 1

August 3: “Freud’s Theory of Human Nature and Civilization,” Part 2

Political systems must effectively attend to the relationship between the individual and society and address the essential and enduring questions about the nature of “good society,” the source and function of legitimate political authority, and the values reflected by political institutions. This video-lecture series looks at the political thought that has shaped modern societies from the ancient Hindu and Greek through the 20th century. Perfect for an election season!

Spiritual Conversations–10:30 a.m., in Raible Chapel

July 27: “I don’t want to live a small life,” by Mary Oliver, from *Red Bird*

August 3: “I Ask My Mother to Sing,” by Li-Young Lee, from *Rose*

Spiritual Conversations meets weekly except on the second Sunday of the month. Each session opens with a reading, often a poem, and continues with a period of silent reflection. Conversation begins slowly as we share our reflections on the reading and the spiritual experience it inspires. Copies of the reading are provided.

Adult Discussion-Group–10:30 a.m., in the Parish House

July 27: “Ralph Waldo Emerson”

August 3: “American Mythology”

In spontaneous group discussions, participants exchange information, share knowledge, and express personal views on a variety of religious, spiritual, and ethical issues. Handouts are provided each week to spark discussion.

HUUMANIST Discussion-Group–11:30 a.m., in the Library

July 27: “The Merton Thesis”

August 3: A Humanist Sermon

The Group meets weekly to seek in-depth exploration of the intellectual, moral, and spiritual bases of both the long UU tradition of non-theist religious humanism and of the humanist content in the even longer traditions of the theist religions of our culture. Everyone is welcome!

Obadiah Knight Says “Thank You!”



On behalf of the teachers and students at Obadiah Knight Elementary, I would like (albeit belatedly) to thank you so very much for the wonderful donation of books for our classrooms for the 2007-2008 school year. Our students in grades 2-5 were able to supplement the regular curriculum with fun and interesting books. My fourth-grade students enjoyed books such as *Tales of a Fourth Grade Nothing*, *James and the Giant Peach*, and *Fourth Grade Rats*.

I have to say, it always gave me a good feeling to flip open the inside of the front covers of the books to see who the donor was. It didn't matter if it had a name, like “The Watson Family,” or “Gretchen Riehl,” or simply “Donated by The First Unitarian Church of Dallas.” It always made me feel like you were there in my classroom with me. I appreciate that moral support, and I know my students truly enjoyed the books. The teachers are able to do so much more with a complete book than with excerpts and short stories, which is what we have in our textbooks.

Again, on behalf of our students and teachers, we appreciate the church, and especially Community Service Committee members Chris and Mike Rambo, Christiane Baud, Susan Spalding, and Mike Heinlen, for thinking of us.

~ Roger Grape

Fourth Grade Teacher, Obadiah Knight Elementary School



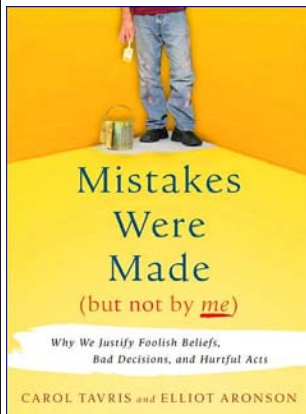
AFTER The New Testament

**Thursdays at 7:00 p.m.
In the Parish House**

July 24 : The Letter to Diognetus—An Apology; Apologetics in Early Christianity
July 31: The Apostolic Fathers as a Collection; The Apostolic Fathers and Proto-orthodoxy

Pastoral Care Book Study

led by **Rev. Dr. Xolani Kacela**



4 MONDAYS ~ JULY 28–AUG. 18

7:00 P.M. in the PARISH HOUSE

UUs are good about taking responsibility for ourselves and we often are quick to encourage others to do the same. But chances are each of us occasionally overlooks some aspect of our lives which needs to be dealt with. Perhaps we justified some action that, on second thought, was not quite right. In this study of *Mistakes Were Made (but not by me)*, we will examine the role that self-justification plays in our lives and how we can make our lives better. Please join us!

Registration Required ~ \$20 includes a copy of the book

Interactive Workshop with the UUA Moderator



**Friday Evening, August 1st
In Raible Chapel ~ 7 o'clock**

***If you have ever met her you
cannot miss the fact that she
loves life and loves being a UU.***

Gini Courter is one of the most invigorating voices and outspoken proponents of Unitarian Universalist faith and practice. Don't miss this chance to engage in an interactive experience focusing on UU identity, our faith and history, church growth and governance, congregational life, and public witness. Courter says, "It's all connected."

BGLTQQ

What would a vibrant, sustainable ministry for Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian, Transgender, Queer, and Questioning folks look like at First Unitarian Church?



**Ice Cream Social & Conversation
with our Ministers**

DANIEL KANTER & XOLANI KACELA

WITH CHARLES McMULLEN

TUESDAY EVENING ~ AUGUST 12TH

7 P.M. IN CHANNING HALL

email programs@dallasuu.org to let us know you'll attend

To sign up for a class or event, email programs@dallasuu.org or stop by the Adult Religious Education table on Sunday morning.

A Gentle Reminder: "Are you up-to date?"

It's summertime, when vacations and the heat take us out of our regular routines. One thing that doesn't take a break, though, is the church's expenses. Please keep current on your pledge so we can keep things running smoothly. If you would like information on how to pay your pledge automatically, please contact Barbara Eidt (beidt@dallasuu.org, 214-884-1201) or Chris Denney (cdenney@dallasuu.org, 214-884-1206) in the church office. Thank you!

Book Drive for Dallas' Homeless Children



The Community Service Committee is sponsoring a book drive to benefit Parkland's Homeless Outreach Medical Services

(HOMES) program. Each year, HOMES treats over 3,000 homeless children, many of them preschoolers. The chaos of homelessness exposes those children to increased risks of poor health and developmental delays. The HOMES staff not only provides medical care, it also introduces young minds to dreams of better lives by giving them books. More important, motivating children to begin reading early increases the chance they will succeed in school, thus offering a chance to make those dreams a reality. Please bring your new or gently used children's books to the Community Service table any Sunday through the end of August. Donations of money are also welcome. The books will be given to children of all ages, from 6 months through teenage, who live in the city's shelters and transitional housing.

Remember what a special book meant to you as you were growing up. Now imagine what it will mean to a child with no home to call her own.



CARING COMMUNITY

All joy to **Dolores and Jeff English**, celebrating the birth of their first grandchild, **Kaia Abigail Kendrick**, on July 7. Her parents are **Kimberly (English) and B.J. Kendrick**. Everyone is doing well.

Congratulations to **Russ Summers and Alicia Tibbals** on their marriage July 5. We wish them a lifetime of happiness together.

We hold close many coping with health concerns: **Patricia Tharp**, who had a knee replaced on July 2; **Nick Lerner**, who underwent back surgery on July 10; **Tracee Bennett**, as her strong recovery from recent surgery continues; **Bill, Kathryn, and Elisabeth Tucker**, as they await Bill's heart procedure on July 21; **Francis and Kay Fuselier**, as they care for Francis' brother **Vernon**, who had heart surgery on July 16; **Ruth Clark**, hospitalized for pneumonia; **Betty McDonnell**, who has had surgery to repair her broken hip, and **Gerry Perkus**, who is recovering from successful surgery.

Our condolences go to **Joan Pask**, her daughter, **Jenny Duncan**, and granddaughters, **Rosa and Ingrid Duncan**, on the recent death of **Albert Pask**, their respective husband, father, and grandfather, at age 80, after a period of declining health.

Carey and Emily Crozier are in our hearts as they mourn for their mother, **Charlee Jenkins**, who died recently.

We hold close the family of **Mae Newton**—daughter and son-in-law **Sandie and Steven Newton-Gribin** and grandsons **Doug and Will**—as they mourn for Mae, who died unexpectedly on June 28. Memorial arrangements are pending.

Our sympathy goes to **Tracee Bennett** and her family on the death of her grandmother, **Waneta Bennett**, on July 13, in Abilene, Texas. Waneta, 87, had been in declining health.

KUDOS

...to **Judy Youngblood**, whose work *Untitled (1998)* is on view at the Dallas Museum of Art in a new exhibition, *Lone Star Legacy II: The Barrett Collection of Contemporary Texas Art*. The exhibition opened June 22 and will continue until September 14 in the Tower Gallery. The piece was recently acquired by the Museum.

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Mission Statement The First Unitarian Church of Dallas creates and nurtures a liberal religious community where all souls shall grow in harmony with the divine through worship, education, service, and fellowship.



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