

COURIER



May 1, 2012

Fort Worth, Texas

Number 310

We are a liberal religious community of diverse individuals. We nurture spiritual growth, encourage lifelong education, work for social justice, serve the larger community, and celebrate life's gifts together through meaningful worship. We welcome and support others in their expression of religious freedom.



ON THE JOURNEY

I don't know a lot about plants, but I do know this: Pulling at them just doesn't make them grow faster or taller - it just bruises the plant. In a congregation, applying more pressure to change faster generates anxiety, not development.

What does help growth is the feeding of the people and the community as a whole. Focusing on worship, education,

fellowship, and service are key both to personal care as well as living the mission of the congregation.

The late Unitarian Universalist minister and writer Roy Phillips summed it up this way: *The environment the congregation provides is that of a fertile and cultivated field in which the uniqueness, preciousness, and power of the divine seeds people bring can send roots into the rich ground of culture, tradition, and community and can unfold from within, reaching outward and upward, actualizing their potential, coming gloriously to flower, and bearing fruit for serving the needs of the world. One of the primary aims of religion is self-culture, we are saying, the cultivation of the spirit. We mean that we must support the unique unfolding of persons, for the beauty of the flowering and for the fruit it will bear for the world.* (Letting Go: Transforming Congregations for Ministry by Roy Phillips. p. 47)

I experience this environment in the themes and life of the church over the last nine months. Established programs for children, youth, and adults continue to provide a foundation for personal development. New covenant groups are meeting. The greeters are ready and welcoming every Sunday. The Stewardship Team and I were inspired by the congregation when we chose the theme, "We're On Our Way" for the annual budget drive. Seeing so many people in the sanctuary on Sunday morning motivates me to do my best. Visitors and returning friends comment on the positive "feel" of the congregation.

Some areas of the church to need more nurturing. The church is working with a significant financial deficit. Many members and friends responded very generously to earlier notices about the financial need and that made a difference in the bottom line. Overall there are signs that the church is turning a corner. (You'll have a chance to hear about the state of the finances after potluck on May 6.) At the same time, there still is much to tend and plant and grow.

I encourage your full participation in the life of the church. Join us as together we live out the saying, "by their fruits you shall know them", that we may be known far and wide as a progressive voice in the world.

Namaste,
Jennifer



INSIDE

- 2 BOARD MEETING AGENDA
- 2 SECRETARY'S NOTES
- 2 TREASURER'S FINANCE DISCUSSION
- 3 SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP
- 4 VESPERS — WORSHIP FOR ALL AGES
- 4 CARING AND SHARING
- 4 CONGREGATIONAL MEETING
- 5 SAVE THE DATE
- 5 STEWARDSHIP
- 5 CALLING ANGELS
- 6 FROM THE PRESIDENT
- 6 WHERE IN THE UUORLD IS THE REVEREND JENNIFER
- 7 SOCIAL ACTION COUNCIL NEWS
- 8 SMALL GROUPS
- 9 SOCIAL GROUPS
- 9 HOSTED AT FIRST JEFFERSON
- 10 CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION
- 11 GUEST AT YOUR TABLE
- 11 PARENTING GROUP
- 11 ADULT SPIRITUAL EXPLORATION

Tuesday, May 8, 7:15 pm

Gather, Greet, Refreshments
 Call to Order
 Chalice Lighting/Reading/Centering Moment
 Personal Check-in – what's on your mind that would affect demeanor in meeting
 Covenant Review
 Appoint Meeting Roles of Process Observer and Timekeeper
 Approval of March Minutes
 Discussion and Decisions on Area Coordinator Reports
 Discussion and Decisions on Leadership ID Report
 Treasurer's Report
 SHORT BREAK
 Staff Reports
 1. Minister
 2. Director of Religious Education – Children & Youth
 Special Committee reports
 1. Service Auction and,
 2. Rental Income Task Force
 New Business
 Action Item Review
 Discussion on May Congregational Meeting Preparation
 Timekeeping and Process Observation comments
 Checkout – brief appreciations, comments or disappointments
 Closing Words
 Adjourn

The board met on Sunday, April 15th. Leadership ID reported that Judy Gutierrez has stepped down from Membership and Small Group Ministry chair positions and both have been filled. Nominations were necessary to replace Committee on Ministries members; Tasha Morris has stepped down, Karen Burkett has moved, and Carolyn Gaines' term is nearing an end. Due to increased professional load, Dan Levine will be stepping down from the board in June and Nancy Hynes has agreed to serve the duration of his term through December of this year. Executive session was called to discuss employee issues. Foundation repair regarding the crack in the sanctuary has taken place under warranty. There was concern over the current status of Service Auction preparation, but the board thought that with enough help the fundraiser will be a success. The treasurer report noted cleaned up bookkeeping and employee compensation. We have had pledges for 2011-2012 coming in, but we have had to transfer quite a bit of money from the money market fund to cover monthly operating costs. Brenda reports that we seem to have turned a corner, however, keep those pledges coming in. Stewardship reported a successful pledge drive with double the returns by Commitment Sunday than last year. A follow-up campaign is underway to get a pledge card in from every member.

2012 Board of Trustees**President – Lewis Morris****President-Elect – Jean Bruttell****Treasurer – Brenda Jones****Secretary – Mike Burkett, Rebecca St. John****Ministry Area Coordinator – Dan Levine****Outreach Area Coordinator – Melissa Jeffrey****Education Area Coordinator – Michael Zepeda****Operations Area Coordinator – Dan Sexton****Leadership ID – Randy Gregory****Committee on Ministries****Carolyn Gaines (Committee Chair) Brian Cox,****Karen Burkett, Nan Terry****TREASURER'S FINANCE DISCUSSION**

May 6, after potluck, Brenda Jones, Treasurer, and the Finance Committee will host a forum in Coleman Hall to discuss this year's finances. This is an opportunity to get all the information and questions answered about how we did in our ambitious plan to undergo the 2011-2012 year's budget with a deficit. Come out and look at the reports and discuss how well we did.

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP

MAY WORSHIP THEME IS MERCY

May 6 **“Spring”**

Roy Redman & The First Jefferson Choir

Our choir will present the spring section of *The Seasons* by Joseph Haydn at the 11:00 A.M. service on May 6. *The Seasons* is a setting of a poem by James Thomson which depicts the seasonal changes. This charming music includes solos, which will be sung by Marjorie Anderson, Dennis Webb, and Lynn Wells, and the chorus of “country people” which will be sung by the choir. Ronda Hilton will accompany on the piano.

This edition of *The Seasons* will be produced with a new English translation by Robert Shaw, Alice Parker, and Thomas Pyle. The colorful music is some of the best of Haydn’s work, and we are sure you will find it enjoyable. Please make plans to join us on May 6.

May 13

“The Flower Communion: The Blossoming of Mercy”

The Reverend Jennifer Innis

The Flower Communion is a Unitarian Universalist tradition when we honor our liberal religious community and renew our message of hope in the world by the exchange of flowers. Please bring cut flowers to share with the congregation. All ages are invited to be part of the worship.

Save The Date, Sunday, June 24—Special Guest Speaker

On Sunday, June 24, First Jefferson has the honor of having Frances Moore Lappé as our visiting speaker. Lappé is the author of 18 books, including *Diet for a Small Planet*, which has sold over 3 million copies worldwide. Her most recent book (2011) is *EcoMind: Changing the Way We Think To Create the World We Want*. (See article at <http://greensourcedfw.org/articles/eco-mind-noted-author-frances-moore-lappe> for more information)

In 2002, Lappé founded the Small Planet Institute (<http://smallplanet.net>), with her daughter, a collaborative network for research and education to bring democracy to life. She has received 17 honorary doctorates. Lappé grew up in Fort Worth, and her parents, John and Ina Moore, founded the First Unitarian Church in Fort Worth. Historian Howard Zinn wrote: “A small number of people in every generation are forerunners, in thought, action, spirit, who swerve past the barriers of greed and power to hold a torch high for the rest of us. Lappé is one of those.” Please plan to join us and welcome France Moore Lappé to First Jefferson

A special offering designated for the Small Planet Institute will be collected during the service on this day.

May 20

“Senior Bridging”

Senior High Youth and Friends

Join us for the annual recognition of graduating seniors. The youth will create the worship and offer statements about what they believe and how they see their future. Join our high school seniors as we witness their next step in the journey from adolescence to young adulthood. Rev. Jennifer Innis will assist as we celebrate this momentous transition in their lives.

May 27

“Love Mercy”

Beth Dana

The Hebrew prophet Micah tells the Israelite people “to do justice, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with [their] God.” (Micah 6:8) As we explore the theme of “mercy” this month, we will focus on the second part of this call to action and how it applies to our lives today. What does it mean to “love mercy?”

Beth Dana is a lifelong UU and a candidate for the UU ministry.

Every Wednesday evening between September and May is Wonderful Wednesday. We have home cooked meals (Chef Rachel!) at 6:00 p.m. on the evenings that the Covenant Circle or the Men’s Group meet, respectively. On other weeks we have pizza party and all toss in a few bucks. Every week we go to Vespers in the Jagger’s Parlor from 6:40 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Vespers is intergenerational and is intended to be a groovy time for us all to be together in mid-week. We take into consideration the monthly worship themes (May = Mercy), as well as holidays and anniversaries when we choose the topics for Vespers. We are winding down the program (at least for the year) so please join us! Here is what is coming up:

May 2, 2012: ‘7th Principle’ – We are all connected. We have had an excellent time at Vespers this year, we’ve learned about how we fit into our church family, about different cultures/holidays, about how we feel and what we believe. We’ve been grateful, been happy (enough to do the ‘Happy Dance’!), been introspective and been in awe of famous people like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. We’ve talked about the history of our church itself and of our larger faith. We have talked, as Universalists, about unconditional love, because that is a big deal. As our last session, we will talk about how we are all (even on hiatus!) still connected, through a wonderful web, with each other and this community. Yay!

CARING AND SHARING

Thanks to **Paulette Holland, Mable Thompson, Allen Metcalf** and **Bill Maginnis** for their hard work during the April all-church cleanup. Paulette and Mable cleaned in the kitchen, Allen ran the carpet cleaner, and Bill cleaned the fountain, caulked and hauled the re-cycling. The roof was inspected for storm damage. The front sign has new high intensity LED solar lights.

**Congregational Meeting
will be May 20, 2012**

Agenda

1. Convene 11:00 am/ Recess/ Reconvene 12:30 pm
2. Opening Words / Chalice Lighting
3. Review of Relational Covenant
4. Vote on Fall 2011 Congregational Meeting Minutes
5. State of the Ministry
 - A. Minister
 - B. President’s Report
6. Staff Reports
 - A. Minister
 - B. Children and Youth Religious Education Director
7. Strategic Plan
8. Stewardship Consultation
9. Presentation of Committee Reports/ Q&A
10. Denominational Report
11. Finance Report
12. Vote on Budget for Fiscal Year 2012-2013
13. Presentation of Committee Chairs
14. New Business
15. Extinguish Chalice and Closing



With the Pledge Drive behind us, the Stewardship team has turned its attention to the collection of outstanding pledge cards. As I have mentioned before, we need to have cards turned in by everyone. This is a necessary help for the Board of Trustees to plan and budget for the coming year. The Stewardship team has begun to call and ask everyone to bring or mail in the cards. While we have already surpassed the number of cards that were turned in last year, that is not enough. Our goal is to reach 100% collection of pledge cards. If you have misplaced your card, there are more available outside of the church office. If you have questions, don't hesitate to ask me

As I mentioned last month, our third Cottage Meeting is May 5th from 1:00PM to 2:30PM at First Jefferson. This will be our Cottage Meeting on Pastoral Care. The meeting is to discuss how we care for each other. We do many things, from sending cards and making calls when someone has had a loss, to visiting each other in the hospital during an illness. There are many ways that we take care of one another, and this is also stewardship, one of the community, for the community. Please bring your experiences from other churches, and your hopes and dreams for how we can care for each other. I look forward to having the opportunity to share with you.

Taking a quick peek behind the curtain, you may have also noticed that the three Stewardship Cottage

Meetings have each been a little bit different from a purely technical aspect. The Stewardship Team is trying to vary the time and means of notification for the events in order to gauge the best time for the event and the best manner for notification. I appreciate your flexibility as we test the various combination. We are also working to keep the Stewardship calendar accurate in the church calendar, and updated in the Courier

As always, if you have any questions with regard to Stewardship activities, or the Stewardship Committee itself, please feel free to give me a call on my cell phone at 817-845-6649, or send me an email at dhayward@thehaywards.org.

CALLING ANGELS

Sometimes the church has need of a purchase to further some aspect of our vision, but the item is not budgeted. If you feel good about giving beyond your church pledge, please consider gifting the church with one of the following items. Thank you!

Singing the Journey (Teal) Hymnals

\$18 each or 20 for \$288.00

Industrial kitchen floor mats to comply with

our insurance

cost \$90.00

SAVE THE DATE

May 5th 1:00 PM – 2:30 PM: Cottage Meeting – Topic: Pastoral Care
May 20 Congregational Meeting

Have a date you want saved? It's often a good idea to get the word out early, so send notice of your important group or committee events so everyone will be able to mark their calendars in time!

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Hello All,

April has been bustling with activity. Many volunteers have donated their time and energy. All their hard work can be seen in several key areas throughout the church. Our Stewardship Committee has worked diligently to transform our thinking. Due to their efforts, we have experienced the most successful pledge drive in years. Our Green Sanctuary Team has done extensive research to bring us a greener life here at First Jefferson. These, along with other committees and dedicated members, have contributed countless volunteer hours to make First Jefferson a better community. For this, I thank you.

I want to thank the Service Auction Committee for hosting a great event. The Service Auction is not just a fundraiser – it's an annual opportunity to spend time together as a community, eating, laughing, and having fun. Indeed, it helps to fill our social calendars for the year, providing us with a number of ways to connect with each other. In such, it is a major undertaking to organize. A huge thank you to our committee and all of the volunteers who made it possible!

The annual spring Congregational Meeting will be on Sunday, May 20. We will be discussing and voting on the annual budget for the upcoming fiscal year. A number of committees will be providing updates so that the congregation is kept in the loop on what has been happening around the congregation, and what

our plans as we move forward. Lunch will be available for purchase prior to the meeting, and childcare will be provided. Please mark your calendars and attend this very important meeting.

At the end of June, six delegates, along with several other members, will embark on a week-long trip to Phoenix, Arizona for General Assembly 2012. While there, we hope to learn more about social justice work, how to apply it in our own congregation, develop lines of support from our association, and participate in organized reform for justice. As such, it is imperative that the delegates know how the congregation feels regarding the many issues that are to be addressed at GA. Information on these issues can be found at www.uua.org/ga or on the Social Justice bulletin board in Coleman Hall. I ask that you take the month of May to think about these issues, so that when the final list of delegates is available in June, you can articulate your thoughts on these matters so that our delegates can be well prepared to be the voice of First Jefferson. There is still time to register and make travel plans to attend GA 2012. I ask you to consider participating in this historic event and join our members who have already committed to participate in this social justice work. You can register at www.uua.org/ga.

In faith,
Lewis Morris

WHERE IN THE UORLD IS THE REVEREND JENNIFER

I endeavor to fulfill my service with you while I enjoy the company of my new baby Abby. At this point, I need to have her with me for most meetings as she has not yet learned the joys of feeding from a bottle. I will be available by appointment on most Wednesday and Thursday afternoons. Please contact me for an appointment as I am working more from home for the next few months. I will attend the last Wonderful Wednesdays before summer break on May 2, the Cottage Meeting on Pastoral Care on May 5, the Finance Forum on May 6, the Board meeting on May 8, the Worship Arts meeting on May 17, and the Congregational Meeting on May 20. More than a full-time minister, I rely on you to let me know how I may be of service.

The best ways to find me are by my cell phone: 972-639-7900 and by email: revjinnis@earthlink.net. My day off is Monday. I will return general calls and email after my day off is complete. In case of emergency, I will respond as soon as possible.

Bowing to the Light within,
Jennifer



Green Sanctuary Team sets up shop during the Earth Day Service

Last year, the congregation voted to seek qualification and recognition as a UUA Green Sanctuary. Voluntary participation in the Green Sanctuary Program provides a framework for congregations and congregants to proclaim and live out their commitment to the Earth and the interdependent web of all existence and is designed to give roots and wings to the vision that, together, we can create a world in which all people make reverence, gratitude, and care for the living Earth that is central to our lives.

The first goal is to seek approval from the UUA Green Sanctuary Program to start the process of qualifying as a UUA Green Sanctuary. This process will create the foundation of a pervasive culture change throughout the congregation, including:

Worship and Celebration

Religious Education

Sustainable Living

Environmental Justice

As you might guess, this is no small undertaking and it cannot be done in a day. The Green Sanctuary Team, co-chaired by Nancy Hynes and Susan Dycus, hopes that you will all participate in the first task toward that goal: assessing how we are doing now on that vision and how we can improve. In the near future, the Green Sanctuary Team will be asking for input through surveys, interviews and email queries. If you are not approached in one of the ways, please contact the Team directly to give your input. Also, since many hands make light work, all First Jefferson members and friends are invited to join the Team or to attend any of our business or topical meetings, which are currently held at the church on alternating Friday mornings at 10 am and are announced in the Courier. If you need any information or would like to join the Team, call Susan Dycus (303) 579-2866, sjdycus@yahoo.com or Nancy Hynes (682) 552-0968, nkhynes@gmail.com.

Social Service

Our sole purpose, without discrimination, is to serve local needy families, the elderly, handicapped and homeless persons living in zip codes 76103, 76112, and 76120.

Eastside Ministries is a non-profit organization that serves the needy living in the community around First Jefferson. Despite its small budget in January of this year alone, 596 households in need were supplied with food, diapers, clothing, prescription help, transportation, and other types of support.

You can support Eastside Ministries with a direct monetary donation, by supplying clothes, food and other items, or by participating in the sponsor programs at Albertson, Kroger or Tom Thumb where part of what you spend is designated for contribution to ESM.

Volunteering at the Tarrant Area Food Bank and designating your hours for ESM will provide credit toward food purchases by ESM from the Food Bank. You can volunteer at ESM as well, helping in the office, clothing room or pantry. Call Jan Havins at 817-446-3278 to ask about volunteer opportunities. Eastside Ministries relies on gifts and participation from member churches, including First Jefferson— one of the churches who founded the organization in 1985. We invite you to continue living our principles by helping this organization to help our community. For more information on ESM, including a video that shows the facility and beautifully explains what it accomplishes and why, please visit www.eastsideministriestx.org.

Service is our prayer. Let us pray.





You Are Invited to Join One of the New Covenant Circles

Covenant Circles are open to all who are interested in connecting more deeply with the folks at the church, including first time visitors and newcomers as well as Members and Friends of First Jefferson. Sign up for the Circle that best fits your schedule with the Circle Leader. Childcare provided, pre-registration required.

Covenant Circles are a form of small group ministry at First Jefferson consisting of groups of no more than 10 people who gather monthly to explore meaningful topics. These groups give participants opportunity to deepen in their own self-understanding and foster closeness and connectedness. The Circles have three covenants: the first covenant is to the group - members agree to make the Circle a priority and commit to attend for at least four months and to remain open to other participants. The second covenant is to First Jefferson - each Circle agrees to do a service project the church. The third covenant is the wider community as each Circle agrees to do a service project for the wider community.

To sign up and register for childcare, contact one of the Leaders for the Circle you choose.

Covenant Circle	Date and Time	Circle Leaders
1st Tuesday Circle	May 1, 12:30 - 2 pm	Randy Gregory, Jean Bruttell
3rd Sunday Circle	May 20, 12:30 - 2 pm	Patrick Gutierrez, Gail Lockwood
4th Wednesday Circle	May 23, 7 - 8:30 pm	Nancy Hynes, Laurie Mikitka

Men's Covenant Group

Meets monthly 7 p.m. on the second Wednesday. Bob Portman.

Friends Covenant Group

Meets monthly 5 p.m. on the third Friday at First Jefferson.

CUUPS

2nd Friday, 7:30 pm, Jagers Parlor

The next year holds changes as we work on covenant, statement of purpose, and governance. Please join us as we weave all the threads together...in spirit if not in body. Contact Rosalind Dugan 817-447-9240 or rosalinddugan@att.net

Sacred Hearth Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans 2012 Calendar

Ostara/Spring Equinox, March 17th, 6pm

Beltane, April 28th, 6pm

Litha/Midsummer, June 23rd, 6pm

Lammas, August 4th,, 6pm

Mabon/Autumn Equinox, September 22nd, 6pm

Samhain, October 27th, 6pm

Yule/Winter Solstice, December 22nd, 6pm

HUUmanist Group

Sunday, May 13, 12:30 pm in Library

The 99 % Spring Movement. By Ken Sambell and Panel. What are your goals for this group ? We will also discuss the Ft. Worth Police response to the campers in the Park.



Dinners for Nine

New Members are Welcome

Dinners for 9 is a great opportunity for First Jefferson members and friends to get together once a month for interesting conversation and share a meal. The focus is on conversation and fellowship, so you don't have to be a great cook or have a fancy place to host the dinner.

Women's Combined Alliance

Usually Meets Second Tuesday, 12 pm at First Jefferson

Women's Alliance enjoyed a tour of Roy Redman's studio and lunch at Lilies in April. For May, we are going to Veteran's Park on Arkansas in Arlington Marianne Hermann will be our hostess.

May 15: Veterans Park

June: FJUUC potluck, planning for next season

Interweave

3rd Friday of the month, 7:30 pm

Fun and fellowship around town. Nationally the group advocates on behalf of gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and their allies. This group is for *everyone* regardless of sexual orientation. For information contact Randy Gregory 817-874-0084 rgregory@flash.net

First Jefferson Book Discussion Group

4th Tuesday of the month, 7 p.m., Jagers Parlor

The FJUUC book discussion group meets the 4th Tuesday of each month. We read and discuss a variety of books: fiction, non-fiction, classics, mysteries, historical, etc. Suggestions for books to discuss are encouraged. For information, contact Gail Rowntree 817-595-4072.

Intergenerational Book Club

At our first meeting a schedule was set and the brainstorm of desired reads resulted in a whopping list of 35 books ranging from Ray Bradbury titles to Hunger Games to Where the Red Fern Grows. However, choosing only 4 at a time is our plan to keep the group open for new folks to feel welcome to join and contribute suggestions. May 16th we'll discuss Dark Life by Kat Falls, a UU writer who started out screenwriting but chose to write this book for her son using all his favorite topics: the ocean, underwater life, pirates, machines. It's such a good read some in the book club are already into the second book of the series, Rip Tide. Food for thought: Jennifer Nichols (South Region Lifespan Faith Development) recently shared that the more intergenerationally connected a young person is in church the more likely they are to be a religious adult. Here's to exploring some great and challenging books. Happy reading!



PFLAG

1st Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m.

PFLAG provides opportunity for dialogue about sexual orientation, and acts to create a society that is healthy and respectful of human diversity. <http://www.pflagfortworth.org> Mark & Lisa Daly mark.daly@tx.rr.com

Ryanwood Neighborhood Association

Meets quarterly at the church. For details go to Ryanwood's website www.ryanwoodna.org or contact President Alyce Boyd 817-457-2610 president@ryanwoodna.org.

Jefferson Freedom Café

Third Saturdays, 7:30 pm, Sanctuary

The Jefferson Freedom Cafe is an all volunteer, non-smoking venue, which hosts a musical performance usually on the 3rd Saturday of each month. Refreshments include a variety of coffees, teas, soft drinks, snacks and desserts. Alcohol (beer & wine) is BYOB.

CHILDREN & YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The Mission of Child and Youth Religious Education

Our church community is called to support each other as we raise and develop children of character. The Religious Education program of First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church will:

- teach the Principles and Purposes of Unitarian Universalism as well as knowledge and respect for the religious beliefs of others
- support the children in their quest for understanding
- promote respect for and knowledge of Nature
- embrace one another as members of our church family

Congratulations to the Middle School OWL class!

They completed the 26 lesson curriculum on April 15th with a celebration that included the graduates (Cayenne Lowe, Jessica Taylor, Miranda Bruttell, Aidan Tribble, Dorian O’Conan, Nicholas Hancock, Sebastian Cox) and the instructors (Tammy Hayward, Eric Wennersten, Kris McVean, Rosalyn Hunter and Tina Harmuth)! This was quite a commitment and we want to commend you all for persevering and completing the class.

Easter Party was a huge success!

We had 5 big boxes of food to take to Eastside Ministries! Thank you everyone who participated! Mary Costello is our RE Party Queen and makes it all seem effortless! Thanks Mary!!

Service Auction

Don’t forget to check out the Silent Auction section of the Service Auction for the great contributions from the RE wing! We have a great many offerings and know that anyone who wins one of the bids on these products will be very lucky indeed! The High School group will also be helping with the serving and clean up for the Auction – tell them thanks for helping out when you see them.

Senior Bridging

Senior Bridging is May 20th, this is a day of celebration for our youth transitioning to the Young Adult realm. Come and celebrate with them.

Summer Begins

Last day of classes for this RE year will be May 20th. Don’t forget to thank all of the teachers for giving so much of their time to teach this fantastic religion to our children and youth! We will be having a Fun Day at our playground on June 3rd to start off the summer right! Come ready to play! It is an all ages play day.

Summer Classes – Dr Seuss and UUs

Summer classes begin on June 10th. We have 4 age groups and 9 weeks of classes. We are really hoping to get some of the different committees within the church to commit to teach a class at each level (anyone on the committee can teach – doesn’t have to be the same person) It isn’t hard and it is a great way to let the children and youth know what different committees do for the church. We will have teacher training for the summer session on June 3rd while the children play on the playground during the RE hour.

Water Day

July 1 will be a water day for RE. We will have slippery slides, sprinklers and other fun stuff to play in/with. You will need towels and sunscreen and clothes that you don’t mind getting wet in!

Hogwarts Camp

Camp runs June 24 – 29, 2012 This year’s theme is A Universal Quest We have the registration form on the FJUUC website! Look under the RE tab. The brochure will be up on the website also – tell your friends with children to go check it out! We have a great time learning cool stuff and making friends – and the Honeydukes candy is pretty “sweet” too!! If you have any interest in helping out – contact Julie Tribble, Tina Harmuth or Mary Costello. We have some dedicated folks that return every year but new people are always welcome! The theme is: A Universal Quest and will learn about the Universal love of faith offers.

We will be offering some familiar classes, such as Potions, Charms, Defense Against the Dark Arts (DADA), Muggle Studies, Divination, Arithmency, Incantations, Transfiguration, Astrology and more... our closing day will take us on a scavenger hunt around the grounds! It is sure to be lots of fun!

'Guest At Your Table' Fundraiser a Success!

The RE Council would like to thank everyone who participated in this year's Guest At Your Table fundraiser. Together we raised \$452.52 - almost doubling the funds we raised in 2010. This is the primary congregational fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee. For details of their current projects visit their website at www.uusc.org

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) is a nonsectarian organization that advances human rights and social justice in the United States and around the world. We envision a world free from oppression and injustice, where all can realize their full human rights. Through a potent combination of advocacy, education, and partnerships with grassroots organizations, UUSC supports programs and policies that promote workers' rights, advance the human right to water, defend civil liberties, and preserve the rights of those affected by humanitarian crises.

Congratulations, First Jefferson, for supporting this work and we look forward to your participation in 2012!



PARENTING GROUP

Are you interested in a monthly group focusing on parenting? The fourth Sundays after church is a possible time for such a gathering. Contact Julie Tribble (817-751-2759) or Jean Bruttell (817-788-5978) if you'd like to participate or help facilitate.

Bible Workbench

Sundays, 9:30 am, Library

Adult Religious Education With Sacred Stories. Bible Workbench class is open for visitors! The class is for the non-theists, the theists, the skeptics, the contrarians and those interested in the Bible as literature, those interested in stories, and those just interested in a book which is one of the foundations of western culture. The Workbenchers are not the "Bible experts" of First Jefferson. We are also not the Christians of First Jefferson (the UU Christians are outnumbered in class about 2 or 3:1, maybe more). So now you know, you are wanted and are bound to fit in.

May 6, 2012

John 4:7-21

May 13, 2012

Acts 10:44-48

May 20, 2012

Psalms 1

May 27, 2012

John 15:26-27, 16:4-15

Adult Forum

Sundays, 9:45 am, Jagers Parlor

As always, we welcome people from church who want to speak or arrange for guest speakers at the forum.

May 6th: Kelly O'Conan who is a former member of First Jefferson and now a member at Oak Cliff UU Church, will talk about Unity Park and the homeless for whom it is a resource. She works for an agency assisting the homeless.

May 13th: Dr. John Harvey is back. This month, he will speak on the fact that Social Security cannot become bankrupt.

May 20th: We will continue the program based on the book about healthy congregations. Part two of our three part study discusses the system tension when a congregation desires stability and change, compassion and clarity.

May 27th (Memorial Day weekend): Time for a current affairs discussion, to be facilitated by Lorraine Levine. Economics, will give a talk, "The Real Impact of the Debt and the Deficit."

Journeys

Sundays, 9:45 am, Religious Education Office

Are you interested in connecting more deeply with folks at First Jefferson? Visitors and newcomers are welcome to join members and friends as we explore meaningful topics each Sunday morning. We seek to deepen our own self-understanding and foster closeness and connectedness.

CONSULTING MINISTER

Rev. Jennifer Innis
972-639-7900
minister@firstjefferson.org

MINISTER EMERITA

Rev. Marjorie Montgomery

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

Julie Tribble
dre@firstjefferson.org

MEMBERSHIP

Randy Gregory
membership@firstjefferson.org

PRESIDENT

Lewis Morris 682-365-3940
president@firstjefferson.org

CHURCH OFFICE

Karl Thibodeaux 817-451-1505
administrator@firstjefferson.org

CHURCH WEBSITE

www.firstjefferson.org

NEXT COURIER, ISSUE #311

Submission Date
Wednesday, May, 1 pm.
Send edited, publish-ready articles
on events to Karl at
administrator@firstjefferson.org

COURIER #310, MAY 2012

First Jefferson Unitarian Universalist Church
1959 Sandy Lane, Fort Worth, TX 76112-5412

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED

**POSTMASTER: PLEASE DELIVER PROMPTLY
TIME-SENSITIVE MATERIAL ENCLOSED**