

## **AND NOW FOR SOMETHING COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!**

The Stewardship Team at First Church announces our *NEW* and *IMPROVED* annual stewardship campaign.

### **Now, More Than Ever...**

#### **Completely Different...**

##### **EFFICIENT**

You'll notice that we're conducting the pledge drive in new ways. For example, we intend to complete the drive and announce the total during a joyous moment in the April 12, Easter Sunday service. This timely completion will mean that the many volunteers working on the campaign will not suffer the agony of previous years when a seemingly eternal 'mop-up' was necessary. A timely completion will allow us to budget and plan for the exciting year ahead, and will send a clear message to potential applicants for our settled senior minister position. We know you want to support the mission and ministry of this church; **PLEASE let us know that by April 5!**

##### **USER-FRIENDLY**

Pledgers can make automatic payments with electronic funds transfers from checking or savings accounts or from a credit card.

##### **COURAGEOUS**

At a time when so many are cutting back, this church presses forward with faith knowing we are needed now more than ever, and can fulfill our mission only if we NOW give MORE than ever before.

##### **PRESCIENT**

A successful search for a new settled minister depends on attracting great applicants. Knowing this, we ask our members to support this year's campaign generously, with purpose and intention.

##### **CONSCIENTIOUS**

Proportional giving is important. Consider pledging the gold standard of at least 5% of your annual income towards the support of First Church. Already doing so? Move beyond 5% toward a tithe. Unable at present to pledge 5%? Move as close as possible toward that goal.

*What we have done for ourselves alone dies with us; what we have done for others in the world remains and is immortal.*

*Albert Pike*

**First Unitarian Universalist Church  
5200 Fannin Street  
Houston, TX 77004  
(713) 526-5200  
[www.firstuu.org](http://www.firstuu.org)**

## **FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF HOUSTON**

A welcoming  
congregation



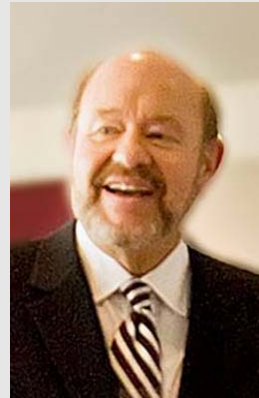
Now More Than Ever

## **Now, More Than Ever...**

### **A letter from Interim Senior Minister David Keyes**

Dear Friends,

Now, more than ever, as the scope of the current economic crisis unfolds, the time has come to examine our hearts and consciences to find ways in which we can do more, give more, and serve more. The support this congregation can render is more important than ever.



Many individuals in Houston are genuinely hurt by these uncertain economic times. Now, when some among us are out of work, or fear that they may be, it is especially important that First Church is able to offer assistance in the form of good pastoral care and relevant support groups. As the social service agencies and charitable causes are reeling from reduced giving, First Church, as a progressive institution, can set an example and make a difference through our leadership and commitment.

The immediate response to economic strains is to spend less. This cutting back, however, should not affect our desire to sustain a community of generosity. As members of a progressive church, our spiritual health should not reflect our fears; rather it should reflect our faith, open-mindedness, and nurturing capacities.

The spiritual health of this congregation has always been reflected in its strong participation, open-mindedness, spirited worship and willingness to construct and nurture community and relationships. This is the foundation for all the good we do.

For the past few months, I have been tithing to this church – giving 10% of my income, because I know it is essential to my spiritual growth. I know the difference my money can make. As the time draws near to decide how to support this church in the coming budget year, it is my hope most members can and will give willingly and with open hearts. Indeed, the need and the opportunity are here and the vitality of this progressive institution can make a difference to our members and to our community. I hope you will join me in this discernment process

--David Keyes

### **WHY SUPPORT FIRST CHURCH?**

The staffing, programs, and ministries of the church are supported by the individual generosity of members and friends. For First Church to remain a vital, growing force in our spiritual lives and in our community, our giving must also grow. Faithful consistent giving by members and friends is our largest single source of funding, allowing us to predict our income and plan responsibly.

### **MAKE A PLEDGE**

Our values are reflected in our financial commitments. Now, more than ever, a pledge to First Church is a planned choice, an intentional decision to share your resources on a dependable basis, by giving an agreed-upon amount: monthly, quarterly, semi annually or through a single payment. Payments can be made automatically from your checking, savings or credit card account or bring a check to drop in the collection basket on Sunday or mail your donation using the handy payment envelope that comes with your pledge statement.



### **Stewardship Team**

Joe Zuchlewski  
Mike Hart  
Leonora Montgomery  
Sue Prochazka  
Evelyn Carlson  
Thorpe Butler  
Caroline Brooks  
Elizabeth Gilbert