

The Blast
Sept. 5 -12, 2010

First Unitarian Universalist Church
A community of love beyond belief:
Transforming ourselves,
Houston, and the world.

HAPPENING SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

This Sunday, September 5, 10:30 Worship Service
The Reverend Adam Robinson
“Entertaining Angels”

“Don’t forget to show hospitality to strangers, for some who have done this have entertained angels without realizing it!” –Hebrews 13:2

Missing the blessing that someone can be to us or that we can be to them is all too common in our harried and hurried lives. How can we be more entertaining to angels and become angels who entertain?

Early Morning Book Group

8:30 a.m., Room 302

We'll read and discuss "Oriental Wisdom," Part Two of "Taming of the Gods," Ian Buruma's study of religion and democracy on three continents.



Sunday Discussion Circle

12:00 Noon, Room 304

How do we get beyond abortion, have an authentic conversation about sexuality in America, and decrease unplanned or unintentional pregnancies?

Facilitator: Jon Naylor, assisted by Peter Durkin.



For Our Guests: Finding Your Way at First Church

The Meditation Room, located between the sanctuary and Channing Hall, is a pleasant and comfortable space where you can meet one or two leaders of the congregation, enjoy a cup of coffee, and learn more about our denomination and our church. Sundays, 11:40 a.m., or right after the church service. We meet for about 20 minutes, leaving time for lunch in Channing Hall.

Facilitator Training

Sept. 5 or 12, 1:15-2:45 p.m., Fireside Room, with a light lunch provided. Facilitator: Natalie Browne

For current facilitators and church members who would like to brush up on their skills, this short program will provide basics of good group facilitation. Choose one date or the other. Sign-up is necessary for lunch plans to be made. Childcare will be provided if reservations are made at least one week in advance. Email names and ages of your children to childcare@firstuu.org.

Everyone in their 20's and 30's is invited to join other young adults after the worship service on the **first Sunday of every month**. We gather in the courtyard after worship and then head to one of the local restaurants for a good meal, conversation, and fellowship. **Join us on Sunday, September 5. You'll be glad you did.**



NEW U CLASS

Saturday, September 18, 9:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., Fireside Room
Facilitators: The Rev. Daniel O'Connell and others

While the New U Class is primarily a pathway to membership, all are welcome — both the curious and those who have already decided to join us. We will explore how your spiritual journey led you to us and how UU's talk about religion. You'll have a short tour of the building and find out the way things run here at First Church. During the class you'll have the opportunity to meet several church leaders and staff. We'll do our best to answer your questions. The day includes a complimentary lunch, giving everybody an opportunity to get better acquainted with each other. **Please sign up at the information table in Channing Hall or call the office at 713-526-5200, or e-mail us at church@firstuu.org.** Childcare will be available; please email the names and ages of your children to childcare@firstuu.org by September 10.

Audio Visual Team Needed — With the acquisition of some new audio visual equipment that will enliven our website and allow the sharing of church experiences more fully with visitors and absent members, we are forming a team to help with the Sunday morning taping of our worship service. No experience required — we'll teach you what to do. Sign up at the information table or contact the office at church@firstuu.org.

First Unitarian Universalist Church 5200 Fannin Street, Houston, TX 77004
713-526-5200 — www.firstuu.org — church@firstuu.org

Next Sunday, September 12, 10:30 Worship Service

The Reverend Dr. Daniel O'Connell

“Leap of Faith”

Orthodox religion tends to conspire against independent thinking. By its very nature, orthodoxy is more interested in certainty, not freedom. But, by trying to see something clearly for ourselves, we can gain new insights not only for ourselves but to share with other people.

OTHER UPCOMING EVENTS

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI)

Family-to-Family Education Program

Beginning Tuesday, September 14, 6:30 to 9:00 p.m., Room 302

Free program for family members, partners and significant others of individuals with:
Major Depression, Bipolar Disorder, Schizophrenia and Schizoaffective Disorder,
Borderline Personality Disorder, Panic Disorder, Obsessive Compulsive Disorder,
Post Traumatic Stress Disorder, Co-occurring Brain Disorders and Addictive Disorders.

New this fall, we are hosts for a series of 12 weekly classes structured to help caregivers understand and support individuals with serious mental illness while maintaining their own well being. The course is taught by a team of trained NAMI family member volunteers who know what it's like to have a loved one struggling with one of these disorders. **Registration is required.** Please call 713-970-4419 or go to <http://www.namimetrohouston.org> for more information or to register.



Second Friday Movie and Potluck

Friday, September 10, 6:30 p.m., Fireside Room

The potluck will be at 6:30 p.m. and the movie starts at 7:00 p.m.

Dirty Pretty Things: Undocumented immigrants Okwe and Senay work at a posh London hotel and live in constant fear of deportation. One night, Okwe

stumbles across evidence of a bizarre murder, setting off a series of events that could lead to disaster — or freedom. This gritty, complex thriller from director Stephen Frears received an Oscar nod for its screenplay.

From Jesus to Christ: The First Christians

Sundays, 12:00 to 1:30 p.m., September 12 thru October 3, Room 304

Facilitators: Janice Porter and Robert Barnett

This historical documentary series produced by *Frontline* tells the epic story of the rise of Christianity. The four hours explore the life and death of Jesus, and the men and women whose belief, conviction, and martyrdom created the religion we now know as Christianity. Drawing upon historical evidence, the series challenges familiar assumptions and conventional notions about Christian origins. Archaeological finds have yielded new understandings of Jesus' class and social status; fresh interpretations have transformed earlier ideas about the identity of the early Christians and their communities. Each hour of video will be followed by a discussion. Sign up at the information table or call the office at (713) 526-5200.



Celebrate Autumn Equinox

at First Church with friends, food and song on **Tuesday, September 21, at 6:30 p.m. in the Fireside Room.** Join us as we reflect on the turning of the year and our

connection to the earth when the day will be as long as the night. Bring a potluck dish to share (we encourage local and seasonal foods), enjoy round singing and words of reflection, explore the meaning of the Equinox and end the evening with ice cream to help us last until the cool weather finally comes. For more information, to RSVP, or to volunteer to help with the evening contact Carol Burrus at carol.burrus@gmail.com or Paul Havlak at havlak@gmail.com. We hope to see you there!



Meal Packs for the Homeless

Once again we are offering meal packs for the homeless that you may purchase to hand out yourselves to hungry people you see on the street or for donation to the **Emergency Aid Coalition** for distribution through their daily lunch program. You may place your orders at

www.firstuu.org by clicking the **online payments and donations** section or by filling out an order form that will be on the information table in Channing Hall beginning Sunday, September 5. The packs will be available in mid-November and cost \$5.00 each. This is a simple and easy way to help ease the pain of hunger that so many of our fellow Houstonians deal with everyday. Support of this First Church community service project has been phenomenal in the past and it is hoped you will once again choose to participate.

For more information about these or any of First Church's ministries visit www.firstuu.org, call the office at 713-526-5200 or stop by the information table on Sunday morning.