



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

First Church News

November 2011

**Worship and
Religious
Education
for Children
and Youth**

**Two services on
Sunday mornings:
9.30 and 11:30**



Email:
church@firstuu.org

Website:
www.firstuu.org

**5200 Fannin Street
Houston, TX 77004
(713) 526-5200**



We Are One

The 3rd source of Unitarian Universalism is world religions:

Wisdom from the world's religions
which inspires us
in our ethical and spiritual life;

Susan Smith, our district executive, once told me the job of our religious education program is to teach our faith to our children. This year, we have a ten different monthly themes from September through May. Six of those themes are the six sources of Unitarian Universalism. We've already covered Direct Experience (September) and Religious Humanism (October). This month is world religions (November 2011).

I have heard different attempts at capturing the difficulty and synergy of the fact of many different religions in the United States, one of the few countries without a state religion.

For years, people talked about a 'melting pot.' Somehow, we'd bring the best of our individual traditions into one big pot— but for some this only created a gooey mess appealing to no one.

Others talked about a 'tossed salad' where the individual ingredients would retain their identity, but together create something greater than the whole.

Our country is full of stories of people who tried to create a 'universal' religion— but these attempts never work out because people invariably dissent on the particulars.

For a long time, I like the idea of 'many paths, one mountain' but for some people this is too close to: 'one god, many interpretations,' as they claim their god is distinctly different than other people's god, and is not the same.

To simplify, there are people of faith who are inclusive— they recognize the superiority of their religion over others— at least for themselves— but they also value and promote the idea of other religions participating at the welcome table. Then, there are people of faith who are exclusive— who insist theirs is the only true window on Reality.

Nowadays, I tend to think of World Religions as 'using the same words, but different dictionaries.' Despite different religious paths, at root, we are human: we are one.

Unitarian Universalists are not only unafraid of other religions— we are not in a competition—but we know we can learn from them, and by a free & responsible search, come to respect other traditions, and even learn about our own faith

Daniel

SERMON TOPICS FOR NOVEMBER

November 6 - Taoism

Rev. Dr. Daniel O'Connell

November 13 - Guest on the Rim

Natalie Browne, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

November 20 - Bread Service - Bring some bread, home made or otherwise, perhaps of an ethnic origin important to you. Feel free to dress in costume reflective of the breads place of origin. This will be a multi-generational service so the children will stay with us during the services.

November 27 - Let's All Give Thanks

Rev. Adam Robinson

Join as we look at, and give thanks for, some of the things that we all can be grateful for. Let's be grateful as one for those things that make us one.

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY

Rev. Adam Robinson, Assistant Minister

A Jewish rabbi, Buddhist priest and a Unitarian minister walk into a church...sounds like the beginning of a joke huh? Well it's not, my friends.

Back on August 6, we actually had that happen right here at First Church. Many of you were able to come to our Inclusive Interfaith Prayer service. If you remember there was another prayer meeting that was happening in town that day down at Reliant Park. That one excluded people.

I was invited to many different interviews to talk about the way that I, as one of your ministers and as a member of the newly forming Houston Clergy Council, was offering an alternative to the prayer meeting others had planned for that day. Our main contention was that prayer for our country, state, and city should be open to all.

Common ground was found with the clergy who gathered that day. We all believed that no matter what variety of Christian or non-Christian church, no matter what expression of one of the many world religions (or even no religion), no matter ones' gender identification or sexual orientation, the sacred practice of prayer should be open to all.

It was magic. All who were there felt a rapture and a glory that were beyond the sum of its parts. The spirit in our sanctuary was palpable and real. The experience was truly one that transported all of us to a place where we were one in our thought, our devotion, even our faith. We were indeed one in that prayer service.

One thing I am left to think about in getting ready for the coming month as we study world religions and reflect on that day of August 6, is this: Why did it take an external attack on a shared fundamental value to get us to that point? It was magical, but at the same time I am left with the ultimate question, How can we capture that feeling of unity all the time?

That answer is eluding me for the time being, but perhaps as we here at First Church explore world religions together, it might come to me.

In the mean time a Jewish rabbi, Buddhist priest and a Unitarian minister walk into your church and magic happened. We were one.

Peace and light,
Rev. Adam



REMEMBER! Daylight Saving Time begins at 2:00 a.m. on **Sunday, November 6**. Set your time pieces **BACK** one hour before bedtime on Saturday evening.

SPANNING THE AGES

From Natalie Browne, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Are We One?

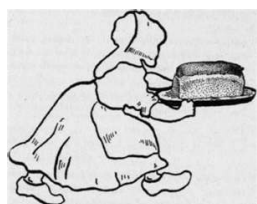
I keep discovering things I did not understand as a child that are “revealed” to me in a flash.

Example: I’ve been thinking of girls names since I learned that my grandchild-on-the-way is a girl. Last week I recalled a family that had four girls whose names I thought were beautiful when I was four. They were Zulene, Zeilna, Zuleide, and Zaida. As I brought them to mind, it dawned on me that the family must have been Arabic. I didn’t have a clue that they were any different from me – they weren’t, really. Neither were my friends who had a little plaque on their doors. I remember noticing the plaques, but it wasn’t until I was a young adult that I learned that the plaque is called a mezuzah and contains a parchment on which is written the schema of the Jewish faith, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your mind . . .”

My point here is that I was surrounded by people of faiths that were not mine and yet I did not know it: they were “just like me.” I don’t know if it had to do with being a child, if it had to do with my parents’ liberal attitudes, or if it had to do with it’s being Brazil, but differences did not seem to matter. I recall coming to this country and discovering that my parents were not comfortable with my inviting “Mary”

over to our house. When I indignantly asked them why, I remember getting some story about her being from the “other side of the track” and her family attending the Foursquare Gospel Church. I was deeply troubled by the inconsistency in what I knew of my Christian faith and what I heard my parents say abashedly but clearly. I knew that Mary was no different from me – she was a girl I liked to be with.

One of my favorite images of our chalice comes from Richard Grigg in his book, *To Re-enchant the World; a Philosophy of Unitarian Universalism*. He speaks of the lip of our chalice as always having room for one more view as we look at the same flame. I am glad to be part of a movement that focuses on our oneness while honoring our differences. I hope that we can preserve our childlike view where deep inside we know that we are one.



Bread is a Simple Food; Teaching Children about Cultures by Cherry Steinwender is a wonderful book for explaining differences and likenesses in the human race. This book will be used in our RE classes with elementary students in November. The author writes, “Bread Can Teach a Powerful Lesson.” Ms. Steinwender will be our guest for a book signing after both services on November 20. This book would be a great gift.

Don't Know Much UU History?

Sundays, October 30 and November 6 at 11:00 a.m.

Ever wondered about why we call it Channing Hall? Just exactly who was John Murray or Joseph Priestly? Join a group of likewise curious minded individuals who want to learn about the history of the Unitarian evolution in the United States. The information provided through a DVD series along with the discussions and creative activities will help you further articulate to others the role Unitarians and Universalists played in our country's past. You will also have a better understanding of the tensions that have arisen and can arise in congregations governed by the democratic process. Understanding the history of a free church in guaranteeing individual freedoms is critical as we counter the ever-growing fundamentalist view of religion. Join us for these important and interesting discussions.



Thinking about Joining? Membership Enrollment Day is the First Sunday of Each Month



If you would like to join First Church, we ask that you complete the Enrollment Forms: New Member Information, Talents and Interests, Pledge Card and Skills Inventory. These forms are available in the office or from a Sunday Morning Hospitality Team member. Membership enrollment is held the first Sunday of each month at the Welcome Table in Channing Hall after each worship service. **The next opportunity is Sunday, November 6.** You can turn in your enrollment forms at the Welcome Table in Channing Hall. We welcome the possibility of your joining us soon and hope that your relationship with First Church will be spiritually, intellectually, and emotionally rewarding.



Harvest Moon Fall FUNdraiser and Auction Saturday, November 5, 6:00 - 8:30 p.m.

Don't miss out on the FUN at the Harvest Moon party this coming Saturday, November 5, at First Church. The party begins at 6:00pm with good food and drink, and great fellowship. We have over 300 items in the silent auction including original art, handmade jewelry, hand knitted apparel, treasures from abroad, and so much more. And First Church members have again generously donated all sorts of outings and tours, their professional services, and lots of dinners and parties.

The silent auction will close promptly at 8:00pm when everyone moves into the Sanctuary for the LIVE auction. We have 10 live auction items with some unbelievable vacation opportunities. Earl Dredge is our auctioneer again this year. Even if you don't plan to bid at the live auction it's great fun to attend.

Come one, come all, and bring your friends (especially if they have big pocketbooks) to Harvest Moon. If you haven't pre-registered you can register at the door to get your bidding package.

THANKSGIVING DAY POTLUCK

1:00 p.m., Thursday, November 24,
in Channing Hall



You bring your favorite vegetable dish, dessert, bread, etc. especially vegetables! Richard Braastad supplies the turkey.

For more information, contact Richard, 713-529-4050 or LetsDoLaunch@gmail.com. \$5.00 donation suggested, but not

**Day of the Dead Service and Celebration
Wednesday, November 2, 7:00 p.m.**

Bring a photo or token of a lost loved one to contribute to the Day of the Dead altar. The service will be in English with a Spanish translation. Everyone is welcome. After the service in the sanctuary, there will be a pot luck dinner in Channing Hall. Traditional Mexican dishes are encouraged as well as a sweet dish or candy to share in the tradition of the holiday. Everyone is invited to wear costumes and jewelry to wake the dead as we dance and sing in Channing Hall.



**NEW U CLASS
Saturday, November 19
9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.**

While the New U Class is primarily a pathway to membership everyone is welcome both the curious and those who have already decided to join us. We will explore your spiritual journey and how UUs talk about religion. You'll meet several church and staff members who will do their best to answer your questions. A complimentary lunch will be provided as well as childcare for those who register their children prior to November 11, at childcare@firstuu.org. Sign up sheets are on the Information Table in Channing Hall on Sundays or you may call the church office at 713-526-5200 to enroll.

Meal Packs for the Homeless

We are nearing the time to produce the meal packs for the homeless and would like to invite volunteers to help with the process. Parents and their children, four years or older, are especially welcome to participate in this First Church example of “**Deeds, Not Creeds**”, but anyone who wants to help can come. **Saturday morning, November 19, at 9:30**, the assembly line will start up in the Fireside Room and we will fill more than 200 meal packs. You'll have lots of fun and feel good about sharing your gifts. If you haven't yet placed your orders there's still time. Go to www.firstuu.org and click the **online payments and donations section** or **fill out an order form on the Information Table in Channing Hall** and hand it in to the church office by **Wednesday, November 16**. Email Tom Cowen at tom@firstuu.org if you will be able to help.



“POPCORN THEOLOGY” MOVIE NIGHT

Young adults (20's and 30's): join us for fellowship and discussion based around selected movies, starting with *Dogma* on **November 18**. Details will follow via email. Contact carolynleap@gmail.com to make sure you're on the YA list.

LIFESPAN FAITH DEVELOPMENT OFFERINGS FOR ADULTS AND YOUTH

Welcome to Lifespan Faith Development at First Church where we provide tools to help us grow spiritually, build stronger families, improve relationships and make the world a better place. The programs listed are sponsored by the Adult Programs Team, APT@firstuu.org, unless noted otherwise.



FINDING YOUR WAY AT FIRST CHURCH (for our guests)

Sundays, immediately after each service

For an informal conversation after the service, go to the Welcome Table in Channing Hall for an opportunity to meet informally and exchange ideas and impressions while you enjoy a cup of coffee or a meal. Sponsored by the Welcome Team.

NOVEMBER 2011

Visitors are welcome at all events.

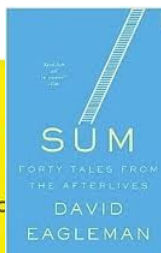
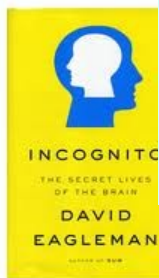
Check the day's event listing at church for room assignments.



OUR AMERICAN ROOTS: UU'ISM IN NORTH AMERICA

Sunday, November 6, 11 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.

Facilitators: **Liz Gilbert**, Member, Playwright, and **Robert Barnett**, Member, Professional Trainer. This five-part DVD and discussion series will provide an excellent overview to North American Unitarian Universalist history. The accompanying study guide provides information and resources that encourage discussion and reflection among participants. All are welcome!



PREVIEW DR. DAVID EAGLEMAN

Sunday, November 13, - 9:30a.m. to 11:00 a.m.

Get to know Dr. Eagleman before he visits First UU on December 4, 2011. Come view a TedX video of Dr. David Eagleman, our sixth annual Joseph Priestley Lecture Series presenter. He discusses his version of his own religion, "Possibilianism," of which many of us may be members. We will follow the video with readings from his award winning book of short stories, *Sum*, a collection of his whimsical re-imaginings of alternative narratives for an afterlife.



"POPCORN THEOLOGY" MOVIE NIGHT

Friday evening, November 18

Young adults (20's and 30's): join us for fellowship and discussion based around selected movies, starting with *Dogma* on November 18. Details will follow via email. Contact carolynleap@gmail.com to make sure you're on the YA list.

EXPLORING MINDFULNESS with Guided Meditations and Recorded Talks **Sundays, 9:30 - 10:30 a.m. through December 18**

We listen to one or two guided meditations and recorded talks by well known meditation teachers including Jack Kornfield, Sharon Salzberg, and Jon Kabat-Zinn. The guided meditations and talks last from about five to twenty minutes each, and the focus each week is on some aspect of mindfulness. We get to know each by briefly sharing some of our meditation and life experiences. The personal sharing is always optional. **Facilitators: Church members Pam Perry and Carol Schwarten, assisted by Ginger Clarkson.**

ON-GOING

Sundays

CHANGING WOMEN, 9:15 a.m. - 10:15 a.m.

Contact: Keddy Outlaw, First Church Member, ChangingWomen@firstuu.org. A women's wisdom circle and Native American spirituality discussion group. Please join us for some sacred time.

EARLY MORNING BOOK GROUP, 8:30 a.m. - 9:30 a.m.

Contact: Dick Hanneman, First Church Member, BookGroupCoordinator@firstuu.org

Bring your coffee and join the early-bird readers. The book and chapters under discussion are listed in the weekly *Blast*. We read and discuss non-fiction books, both new and old, about topics such as science, morality, ethics, biography, philosophy, history and current events.

[Click here](#) for a listing of current and future books.



MEN'S GROUP, 9:30 a.m. - 10:45 a.m.

Contact: Peter Durkin, First Church Member, MensGroup@firstuu.org.

Conversation for guys - one of the best things going for long-term mental health. New participants welcome!

PARENTS GROUP, Sunday, November 20 (usually 4th Sundays), 11:00 - 12:30

Contact Sue Steinhardt, First Church Member and Occupational Therapist,

ParentsGroupCoordinator@firstuu.org Looking for thoughtful parents who share your values and concerns? Now would be a good time to join us. Infants are welcome in our group. Child care is provided in the nursery for older children.



SUNDAY DISCUSSION CIRCLE, 11:30 a.m.

Varying subjects are discussed led by a rotating team of facilitators.



Tuesdays



TAI CHI, 6:15 p.m. - Beginners are encouraged to arrive at 5:30 for personalized instruction. Facilitator: **Dale Englefield**, Church friend, studied under Tai Chi Master Edward C.C. Shen and Yang Style World Champion Don Buttermore. Dale teaches the traditional Yang Style short form with martial arts references. Arrive early at 5:30 for extra practice or individual instruction.



GREAT IDEAS GROUP, 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

November 8 and 22 (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)

Facilitator: Dan Robb, First Church Member - Contact Dan, GreatIdeas@firstuu.org.

The Great Ideas Group studies the great thinkers, great writers, great religions, and great ideas of the past and present. Current discussions focus on law enforcement ethics and future subjects will include economics and equality. Newcomers are welcome.

Fridays



POETRY GROUP, 10:00 a.m. to 12 noon

Facilitator: Lucrecia Cox, First Church Member - Contact Lucrecia, Poetry@firstuu.org.

“The best words in the best order.” This group reads poetry and seeks the rewards that great literature can provide.

Saturdays

TAI CHI, 10:30

Facilitator: Dale Englefield, Church friend, studied under Tai Chi Master Edward C.C. Shen and Yan World Champion Don Buttermore. Contact Dale, TaiChi@firstuu.org. This class is similar to the traditional Chinese method of teaching: process-oriented and learn-by-example. After warm-ups, we will do the form very slowly and in silence. After we have finished there will be time for students to ask questions.

OUTSIDE OFFERINGS AT FIRST CHURCH

These groups welcome church members and friends.

Houston Area Women’s Group, Sundays 10:30 a.m. Iris Greer Sizemore, 713-529-8571

Houston Climate Protection Alliance, First Sundays, 1:15 p.m. - Contact [Tim Mock@gmail.org](mailto:TimMock@gmail.org)

Yoga for Beginners, Mondays, 7:00 p.m., Stan Polins, stanpolins@hal-pc.org (fee based)

Houston Peace Forum, Second Thursday, 7:00 p.m. - Pat Nichols, nicholspat@awesomenet.net

AL-ANON, Fridays, 12 noon - houstonalanon.org or 713-683-7227

Houston International Folk Dancers, Fridays, 7:30 p.m. - houstonfolkdance@yahoo.com

National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI), periodically, Susan Denyes-Moody, 713-970-4419

Wheel of Life



Church member **Ken Steinhardt** was recognized as “**Greeter of the Year**” by Houston Greeters on October 4. Ken volunteers as a greeter, introducing Houstonians, out of town and international guests to downtown Houston’s tunnel system. To learn more about Ken’s work, visit www.houstongreeters.org.

Congratulations to **Heidi Hardt** who earned her Ph.D. in International Studies from the Graduate Institute in Geneva, Switzerland on September 29, with a commendation of magna cum laude.

Church members **Zac Cole** and **Amanda Almoney** were married on October 15, with Rev. Adam Robinson officiating at the ceremony. Congratulations, Zac and Amanda!

**The Sixth Annual
Science at the Solstice Priestley Lecture
December 4, 2011, at 2 p.m., in the Sanctuary
Presenter: David Eagleman, Ph.D.**



A neuroscientist at Baylor College of Medicine, David Eagleman studies the biological basis of human experience. As a writer, he is making profound contributions to our understanding of what it all means, in both his fiction about the afterlife and his nonfiction books on synesthesia and on the contradictions of consciousness. Mark your calendars now so that you won't miss this year's "Science at the Solstice" event.

Two of Dr. Eagleman's recent books, *Sum* and *Incognito*, will be available on Sundays from the Channing Book Cart. For more information on his writings and for media coverage, see www.eagleman.com; for his laboratory work go to eaglemanlab.net.

A preview video and discussion presentation will be offered in advance of Dr. Eagleman's appearance at First Church on **Sunday, November 13, at 9:30 a.m.** In the video Dr. Eagleman discusses his version of his own religion, "Possibilianism," with which many of us may identify. Two of his books, *Sum: Forty Tales From the Afterlife* and *Incognito, The Secret Lives of the Brain*, are available for purchase on the Channing Book Cart.

The Priestley Lecture series, coming into its sixth year, is inspired by the traditional Christmas Lectures of the Royal Institution in London, initiated by Michael Faraday. Our series is named after Joseph Priestley, a Unitarian minister, early chemist, and refugee from England for such beliefs as a denial of mind-body duality.

For this celebration of Science at the Solstice, we invite active researchers and educators to amaze us with contemporary advances in worldly knowledge. Previous Priestley Lecturers have included Robert Curl, co-discoverer of buckyballs; John Lienhard, engineer and radio host of *The Engines of Our Ingenuity*; Robert Hardt, mathematician; Connie Barlow, evolution evangelist; and David Wheeler, of the Human Genome Sequencing Center at Baylor College of Medicine.

Visit our church website to see a detailed calendar of all upcoming and ongoing events: www.firstuu.org.
The calendar link is on the left side of the home page.

NEWS FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

This month, the Board continued the work that we started at our yearly retreat: tying all of our conversations during our meetings to the important documents of the church including but not limited to our Constitution, Bylaws, and Policies. I am in awe of the work that went onto creating these documents, especially our policies and ends statements - they are standing up to new interpretations and sparking deep conversation. I believe that our attention to these ends will enable this church to fulfill its mission - creating "A Community of Love Beyond Belief, Transforming Ourselves, Houston and the World."

During our pre-meeting workshop, we refined our Board Orientation process. It is clear that if we are to be successful we will need to make sure that new Board members are ready to hit the ground running when they start their term in July. We have asked that the Leadership Development Team screen and recommend candidates by January. This will enable us to provide opportunities for the candidates to learn in short workshops, observe board meetings, and work with a mentor who serves on the board. By the time that you read this, the document will be in the Appendix of our governing policies and posted on the web.

We are also going to revisit the metrics of our Ends Statements interpretations. In the current metrics, church members will need to participate in MANY surveys each year in order to gather data about programming and movement toward our ends. Rather than this approach we will use the method modeled by St. Paul's Unity Church and administer one yearly comprehensive survey. This will enable us to examine trends and figure out where we are successful and where there is still room to improve.

We will need your help! As with any survey, the more responses we gather, the better our data will be. We also understand that surveys are not a whole lot of fun, so we are going to try to figure out a way to entice you to complete it.

It is difficult to encapsulate a month of work into a short newsletter article! I remain grateful for the opportunity to serve this congregation and work with a marvelous team. Thank you.

Lucy Anderson
Board President

First UU Church Treasurer's Report

As we close our first fiscal quarter, we continue to find ourselves on solid financial footing. This might not be apparent from a glance at this month's finance report which shows a shortfall of about \$9,000 in pledges received for this month, or about 20% of the budgeted monthly total. However, all of this shortfall (and more) is attributable to a small number of large pledgers who haven't made payments yet this year. We have no reason to believe that these pledges won't eventually be paid, so we think this shortfall will be temporary.

The shared offering came in slightly above budget this month, breaking the pattern of the first two months of the year. The offering remains behind for the year but this is a step in the right direction. Rental income continues to fall short of budget. Overall, we have an income shortfall that is just about the same amount as the pledge-income shortfall, which means everything else is tracking OK.

Our expenses continue to come in below budget, which can only be good. As in my last report, I caution against reading too much into this since I believe most of these expenses (which include professional expense accounts and FSA accounts) will eventually be incurred. But I think we can hope that some of this savings will turn out to be real. For now, I would just say we are doing fine.

--Evan Michaelides, Treasurer

Leadership Development Team

We drafted a covenant. We reviewed a list of candidates the LDT put together last Spring. From that list six people were deemed qualified to serve on Stewardship. Individual emails have been drafted to send to the six possibilities. Should none of these six accept we'll go over the list again. If necessary a special LDT meeting will be scheduled for this purpose. Board President Lucy Anderson's draft of a "Board Orientation" outline was reviewed. The LDT will be happy to attend a mid-June meeting with the Executive Committee and new Board members, as outlined but we question the real need for this. Lucy may attend our next LDT meeting to better explain the purpose of this "Board Orientation". Your LDT members are: **Jon Naylor, Connie Acosta, Peter Durkin, Linda Richardson and Cindi Walker.**

Stewardship Team

The Stewardship Team would like to welcome all the new members here at First Church and explain a some of our responsibilities. **Mary Koch** and **Joe Lach** are this year's co-chairs of the 2012 Canvass and other members of the Stewardship Team include **Joyce Ambler**, **Madeleine Mauritz Bosse**, **Liz Gilbert** and **Anneliese Unterharnscheidt**. **Evelyn Carlson** serves as a contributor to the team by providing input into, and production of, printed materials that support our campaign.

The Stewardship Team conducts the Annual Canvass each spring and the activities leading up to this most important events. You will hear often from us both in person and through this column to reflect on the importance and role that First Church plays in your life and that of our community. As a "Deeds Not Creeds" community we know that we make a difference to not only ourselves but to numerous individuals and communities outside of the walls here on Fannin Street. To keep this community running we rely on your support of our annual Canvass.

The Canvass will officially begin this year with Canvass Sunday on March 25, 2012. Rev. Daniel has scheduled a wonderful speaker, Denny Davidoff, whom you will not soon forget. Afterwards everyone will gather in Channing Hall for refreshments.

We hope you get to know us better through our monthly newsletter articles throughout the year and we welcome your comments and ideas. Please feel free to contact your Stewardship Team members individually or through e-mails sent to stewardship@firstuu.org.

Our governance reports are excerpted from the Governance Page on the church website:
<http://www.firstuu.org/governance.php>.

First UU Common Threads Knits Scarves for Christmas for UU Orphans in Khasi Hills

The Children's Village is an organization of the Unitarian Union of North East India which cares for and provides an education for orphans of Unitarian families in the Khasi Hills. Common Threads, a Covenant Group of First UU, recently set about to knit and crochet scarves for the children for Christmas. They got together recently to take the photo at right to send greetings along with the 28 scarves they knitted and crocheted. Common Threads meets twice a month. Members in the photo from left to right are: Keddy Outlaw, Laura Nagel, Rebecca Moore, Angela Serody, Lois Hardt (top), and Elizabeth Long (not pictured: Sandy Boyd, Karen Joers, Nancy Pomeroy, and Anneliese Unterharnscheidt).



Holiday Shopping Reminder

Shopping for books, music and more?

amazon.com[®]

will give a percentage to First Church
when purchases are made via the link
on our website:
<http://firstuu.org/amazon.php>.

First UU Church of Houston - Changing Women Native American Spirituality Group Ladies' Night Out and Swap Meet Nov. 18, 2011, 7:00 p.m., Fireside Room



First Church women and friends are invited to enjoy all kinds of fun, including swap meet, massages, movies, art, entertainment and great food. Wear comfortable clothing such as sweats, kaftans or PJs. Bring up to 10 items to donate to the swap meet and let us know if you have a talent you'd like to share at the event! \$10 per person plus money for shoulder massages (about \$1 a minute). Please RSVP to Angela Serody at angelas@acma-inc.com or Elizabeth Long at elong@rice.edu. More details will be sent to you by email once you RSVP.

First Unitarian Universalist Church
5200 Fannin Street
Houston, TX 77004-5808

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GO GREEN

The newsletter is available online. We email a link to the newsletter each month and to the *Blast* each week. If you do not need a copy mailed to you, please let us know, peggy@firstuu.org.

First Church News



***A Community of Love Beyond Belief:
Transforming Ourselves, Houston and the World.***

**Church Office Hours:
Monday to Friday, 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.
Sunday, 9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.**

Rev. Dr. Daniel O'Connell, Senior Minister
Rev. Adam Robinson, Assistant Minister
Rev. Robert L. Schaibly, Minister Emeritus

Natalie Browne, Director of Lifespan Faith Development
Jason Oby, Music Director
Bob Fazakerly, Organist

Peggy Harvey, Director of Administration
Tom Cowen, Facilities Manager
Jessica Pierce, Nursery Coordinator
Tom Pile, AV Technician
Hilman Laws, Weekday Custodian
Tyson Barber, Weekend Custodian

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

President
Lucy Anderson (2013)

Vice President
Lydia Luz (2012)

Trustees
Connie Acosta (2014)
Steve Braun (2012)
Ron Cookston (2012)
Peter Durkin (2012)
Rita Saylor (2013)
Wendy Van Syckle (2013)
Sheila Whitford (2013)

Treasurer
Evan Michaelides

Parish Clerk
Rosita Kirkman