



FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

First Church News

October 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**



Deeds, not creeds.

Unitarian Universalism has seven Principles and six Sources. Our theme of the month is one of the six sources: Humanism.

It reads like this:

“Humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit;”

Like a lot of religious concepts, there are multiple flavors of humanism. The one many UUs tend to be interested in is religious humanism.

It's essential components (in my view), are:

1. the recognition of an ethical obligation to live a moral life;
2. freedom, reason and tolerance as essential perspectives; and
3. being untethered to supernatural justifications for morality.

It is this strain of our religion that informs our first Principle: the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

Note that this Principle is in stark contrast to fundamentalist Christian teaching which insists we are all irredeemable, degenerate sinners in the hands of an angry God, worthy only of eternal torment and damnation (yes, some people really believe that).

I grew up UU, surrounded by mostly UU humanists, so I sometimes take Humanism for granted. But just watching the news makes me realize it is still a minority religious opinion, even as it has grown more widespread in the last century.

Every month, the staff and I sit down and try and come up with a tag line, a Big Idea that will encapsulate the monthly theme. Staff members bring a couple pages of ideas, and we spend several hours (yes, hours) talking about them. What we're aiming for is something concise, meaningful, and positive.

One of us liked “we're not waiting for God: this is it!” Another liked “We may not know what God is, but we can know what it means to be human.” There were other much longer passages we found of interest, but after much discussion and pondering, someone will say something and we will all stop our train of thought, and a look of Aha! comes across our faces, and we've got our Big Idea – this month, it is **deeds, not creeds**.

Rev. Daniel

SERMON TOPICS FOR OCTOBER

October 2 - Humanism.

We'll explore another source of our UU faith: "humanist teachings which counsel us to heed the guidance of reason and the results of science, and warn us against idolatries of the mind and spirit." Today's service kicks off this month's theme: Humanism. Rev. Dr. Daniel O'Connell

October 9 - It Only Adds

An exploration of the intimate relationship between the intellect and the spiritual quest.
Rev. Dr. Lee Barker, President of the Meadville Lombard Theological School (UU) in Chicago

October 16 - A Little Bit Better

Polly Toynbee, President of the British Humanist Association says, "The Humanist view of life is progressive and optimistic, in awe of human potential, living without fear of judgment and death, finding enough purpose and meaning in life, love and leaving a good legacy." Let's claim that freedom and let our deeds leave the world a little bit better than we found it. Rev. Adam Robinson

October 23 - The Evolution of Human Nature

We will consider how tens of thousands of years of evolutionary patterns on human nature affect us, even today, and what a good UU religious response might be. Rev. Dr. Daniel O'Connell

October 30 - All Soul's Day.

Humanists who eschew supernaturalism can still find religious awe and wonder in delving deep in the natural world. We will consider what might be a humanist take on All Souls Day. Rev. Daniel O'Connell

NOTES FROM THE JOURNEY

Rev. Adam Robinson, Assistant Minister

Years ago while shifting my very conservative religious paradigm to one that encompassed what I believed to be truth it struck me that there were many valuable parts of that upbringing that would be detrimental to cast off just for the sake of tossing them off.

One truth that I have retained and will continue to retain comes from the Christian Scriptures. It's from the epistle of James. "But someone will say, "You have faith and I have works. Show me your faith apart from your works, and I by my works will show you my faith." (James 2:18 NRSV)

I suspect that if one looks closely that there would be a similar sentiment, if not principle, in almost all expressions of religious devotion.

When "Deeds, Not Creeds" was chosen as our Big

Idea for the month I was called back to thinking about how I live my Unitarian Universalist faith. It becomes easy for even the best of us to let our words do the talking and not our actions. The tendency to bemoan the state of things as they are and not doing anything to change them is something any of us can fall into.

I am so glad that we don't have to live in fear of breaking creeds and being punished for that shortcoming. An understanding as freeing and magnificent as this one needs to be talked about and shared with all. I hope that our very human minds, bodies and souls will walk the walk and do the deeds that provide that witness to the amazing faith we have embraced. May even James be proud of us as we, by our works, show our faith.

Peace and Light, Adam

SPANNING THE AGES

From Natalie Browne, Director of Lifespan Faith Development

When I was sixteen, I discovered the slum close to our church. I lived in Sao Paulo, Brazil, one of the largest cities in the world, and tucked behind a wall, with only a narrow alley to get in and out, was what some might call a ghetto - a maze of alleys and winding dirt paths that crisscrossed between and among the makeshift shanties of the poor who mostly had come to the big city from the impoverished, often drought-beset interior of Brazil, hoping for a better life.

Our youth group went there to sing and while we were there we eagerly invited everyone to come to our church, only a couple of blocks away (on the other side of the wall). The following Sunday a few people showed up and in talking to them I learned that the girl whom I had befriended there did not come because she could not walk up the long flight of stone steps that connected the church's street with the entryway to the favela. Blithely, I promised we'd be there to get her the next Sunday. But when the next Sunday came, I

could find no one who would drive down the steep and rutted road. So I walked over by myself. Carmela was waiting: someone had helped her to the outer wall next to the entryway. If I remember correctly, she was around ten years old. I picked her up and started up the stairway. Half-way up I realized that I was endangering both of us: the stairway was exceedingly steep, I was losing my breath and my legs were wobbly. Somehow I managed to get to the top and to carry Carmela into the church.

I cannot remember how Carmela got back. What I do recall is that I never went back. To this day, I wonder about that little girl and what she must have thought after that failed experience. It still fills me with a sense of impotence at the needs of the world. Yet, out of it I had a lasting experience that I, Natalie, knew what was righteous and good and that I could not reach that goodness alone – it is a communal effort. It was a defining moment in my religious humanism.



CHALICE LIGHTER TRAINING

Saturday, October 1, 10:00 a.m. - 12 noon

(Make up date: Oct. 9, 1:00 p.m. - 3 p.m.)

This worship leadership program is open to children in 2nd grade and up. It involves learning to ring the bell for worship and to light the chalice at one of our services. Training will be held on Saturday, October 1, between 10 a.m. and 12 noon, with pizza for lunch following the training. There will be a make-up date on Sunday, October 9, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m. with snacks after the class. The children will take home a muslin stole to decorate. Once they bring it back to church they will be scheduled to serve. We need children to light the chalice at both services, but are in more need at the first service. Sign up by emailing Natalie at natalie@firstuu.org with your child's name, age and grade, parent to whom communication should be addressed, and service preference. Alternatively, sign up at the church after Closing Circle in the Fireside Room.

Everyone in their 20s and 30s is invited to join other young adults after the late worship service on **the first Sunday of each month** and head out to a local restaurant for a good meal, great conversation, fun and fellowship. **Join us on Sunday, October 2**, after the late church service when we gather in the front courtyard.



NEWS FROM OUR BOARD OF TRUSTEES

The Board has been extremely busy! In the past week we have held our monthly meeting on Wednesday and participated in a weekend retreat over Friday evening and Saturday morning. During our Board Meeting we reviewed trend data which compared last year's and this year's attendance numbers on Sunday. The numbers tell a story of growth here at First Church. Since we moved to two services, our Sunday numbers have increased greatly. If we were still in one service, the space in the sanctuary would not be able to hold everyone. Wow! We are able to share our faith with more people and give them access the gifts that it brings.

The Board also created a Board Orientation Document in conjunction with the Leadership Development Team to make sure that we have a feasible and effective way in the short term to transition new Board members onto the board. The document is being revised this month based on the feedback from both groups and will be reintroduced for adoption into policy next month. Sheila Whitford and Ron Cookston are creating wording for the policy.

The retreat created time to work on the following three outcomes:

- Attain shared knowledge of our governance philosophy, system and practice;
- Renew the board's covenant and explore our shared (spiritual) practice of board leadership, and
- Confirm or establish board priorities and plans for the coming year

One of the key events on Friday evening was a

"refresher" course on Policy Governance. Although I have attended training on the topic before, it was validating to learn that we are on the right track as we move toward greater understanding of our Ends Statements. We still have a lot to do. In fact, our work is continuous and systematic. We focus on the three main jobs of the board - linking - or connecting - with the congregation, defining, creating, and revising policy, and monitoring our collective achievement toward the ends that we have set.

Saturday gave us the opportunity to practice interpreting one of the limitations on our Senior Minister that is set out in policy. This is a crucial step in clarifying the expectations that the board has on the type of information that we will need from our Senior Minister as part of our monitoring work. We are in a phase that work intensive and will take some time to complete.

Our Board agendas this year are packed with work that we need to accomplish as we begin the cyclical process of monitoring. We have made tentative plans for another workshop for the Board in January as well as a linkage event in February. What is evident after our time together is that we are committed to using our minutes together in a productive way that focuses on policy and the future, rather than the minutiae. Thankfully, we have a skilled minister who is extremely capable and inspiring; what a great combination!

And now I am in my La-z-boy chair. I know that I have some senseless TV shows on my DVR. I am overwhelmed with gratitude.

—Lucy Anderson, President

Report from your Leadership Development Team

Our new year has started well and the expansion to two sermons has gone smoothly. As our new year began the Leadership Development Team was tasked with finding a candidate to fill a vacancy on the Stewardship Team. Your LDT hopes to soon submit the name of a First Church member that will be a great asset to the Stewardship Team and their fundraising efforts during the 2011-2012 Pledge Drive. Your LDT members are Jon Naylor, Connie Acosta, Peter Durkin, Linda Richardson and Cindi Walker.

The following reports are available in full on the church website at http://www.firstuu.org/treasurer_reports.php.

First UU Church Treasurer’s Report – September 21, 2011

Because of summer vacation schedules, July’s financial results were not available in time to be considered for last month’s report. So, this month’s report will cover both July and August.

We are off to a good start. We are not far off from where our budget predicted we would be at this point, and in those areas where our results do differ from what was budgeted, the differences are mostly positive ones.

Income is essentially in line with budget. Gifts are running well ahead at nearly \$4,000 vs. only \$1,000 budgeted, as a final \$3,000 from the Pat Walsh bequest came in. One area to keep an eye on is the Shared Offering, which has come in below budget both months and is running nearly \$2,000 short at this point. We hope that this will improve with increased attendance in the fall. Rental income has also come in light so far, perhaps for a similar reason.

We are doing well on expenses, at only \$109,000 so far vs. a budgeted \$119,000, putting us nominally \$10,000 to the good. I would caution that there is probably a little less going on here than meets the eye since a substantial part of the difference represents expenses that we are still likely to incur at some point during the year. For example, about \$3,500 of the difference relates to professional expenses and FSA accounts, which tend to be lumpy and not predictable from month to month. Many other areas where we show small amounts of savings are similarly hard to predict month to month, so it could well turn out that much of the money budgeted for July and August just ends up getting spent in a later month. All that said, we are undeniably ahead of budget and doing well so far, which is a good place to be. The only area where we are significantly over budget at present is in printing and mailing expenses, which are a total of \$2,500 over because of the postcard campaign in connection with moving to two services.

Healthy Congregation Team Report

Since August 28, the Healthy Congregation Team has the Board of Trustee’s listening table. The team is in Channing Hall between the two services every Sunday to listen to concerns and retrieve positive feedback about the church and staff. The team has been meeting to put together a structure that outlines team member commitment in two or three year terms. The team presently consists of four members, Lindley Doran, Trish Kolodney, Bill Nelson, and Sheila Whitford. Three more team members will be added some time in October. The team is in the process of identifying individuals who might work well on the team for Reverend Daniel’s approval. Trish Kolodney and Lindley Doran are working on a variety of protocols that the team can use for individuals as well as group meetings.



Social Justice Task Force

The Social Justice Team, and many of its wonderful volunteers, completed a project of preparing lunches for residents of the Madge Bush Transitional Living Center. For several weeks the volunteers met on Saturday mornings and prepared as many as forty meals that were delivered to the children and their mothers at the Center where families live rent free and are encouraged with education and training to return to self supporting lives.

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.

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.

OCTOBER 2011

Visitors are welcome at all events.

Check the day's event listing at church for Room Assignments

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.

MINDFULNESS MEDITATION PRACTICE

Sundays, October 2, 9 and 16

Facilitator: **Ginger Clarkson**, New Member and Music Therapist

Ginger trained as a Community Dharma Leader by Jack Kornfield and other teachers at Spirit Rock Meditation Center in California, she led the Cholula Vipassana Sangha in Puebla, Mexico for over a decade. Her book, *A Silent Cure: Transforming Pre-verbal Trauma Through Meditation*, was published in 2007. Ginger will offer a half-hour meditation period to practice principles introduced in the Exploring Mindfulness class. Each meditation will be accompanied by instructions and a discussion about participant's experiences with the practice.

OUR AMERICAN ROOTS: UU'ISM IN NORTH AMERICA

Sundays, October 2, 9, 30 and 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 provide an excellent overview to North American Unitarian Universalist history. The accompanying study guide provides information and resources that encourage discussion and reflection amongst participants. All are welcome!

UU ARTIST'S WAY GROUP

Mondays 7:00 - 8:30 p.m. - enrollment still open

Facilitator: **Greg Rea**, Member, High School Teacher

Because this group is committed to completing Julia Cameron's 12-week "artistic recovery" course, it will be open through the end of October only. Based on Julia Cameron's best-selling self-help book, *The Artist's Way: A Spiritual Path to Higher Creativity*, the group uses the activities, insights, and suggestions from the book to explore and unleash our creativity. Artists and creators from all genres and media have a place here--poets, painters, composers, and choreographers. If you create but could use a little boost, you're welcome to huddle with us. Please join by contacting Greg Rea at eastwood_rea@yahoo.com.

ON-GOING

Sundays



EXPLORING MINDFULNESS:

Practicing Awareness in Our Everyday Lives

9:15 - 10:15 a.m. Facilitators: Carol Schwarten, cschwarten@yahoo.com, and Pam Perry, pamperry@hal-pc.org, both First Church members

We listen to guided meditations and talks on varying topics. Everyone is welcome each week.

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

Contact: Keddy Outlaw, First Church Member, at keddyo@yahoo.com 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, at dickhann@swbell.net

Bring your coffee and join the early-bird readers. The book and chapter 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 at Peter.Durkin@ppgulfcoast.org

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



PARENTS GROUP, Sunday, October 23 (4th Sundays), 11:00 - 12:30

Contact Sue Steinhardt, First Church Member and Occupational Therapist at

steinhardts@earthlink.net. 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.



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

October 11 and 25 (2nd and 4th Tuesdays)

Facilitator: Dan Robb, First Church Member - Contact Dan at drdr2001@aol.com.

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, lcx@treycx.com

“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. 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

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, Periodically, Susan Denyes-Moody, 713-970-4419

Wheel of Life



Former First Church member, **Meredith Ann Rice**, died on August 11, in Rockport, TX, at the age of 89. Her daughter, Pego Rice, would enjoy hearing from anyone who remembers her mother. She can be reached at 361-205-7232.

Another former First Church member, **Barbara Holland Stein**, died on September 1, in Santa Fe, NM, after a year long battle with a brain tumor. Barbara was a member of the UU Congregation of Santa Fe at the time of her death.

Anyone with information to share about a current or former church member who is ill, in the hospital, or has had a life changing event (good or not) is encouraged to send that information to tom@firstuu.org for possible inclusion in the Wheel of Life.

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 the worship service. **The next opportunity is Sunday, October 2.** 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

First Church members and friends should have received a letter in the mail recently about **Harvest Moon**, this year's Fall FUNdraiser and Auction, with a list of suggested items to donate and a Donation Form. The FUNdraiser and Auction Team wishes to draw your attention to the following items:

-  Consider offering a dinner or other social event. It's a great way to meet new folks, and historically, dinners are our highest money makers. What could be better than having FUN with fellow UUs while raising funds for First Church?
-  The minimum opening bid for any item will be \$5 this year. Remember that we are raising funds for the church while at the same time having a really FUN evening.
-  Please donate nice quality items. This is not the time to get rid of the *junk* in your garage. Items should be worth an opening bid of \$5 at the very least.
-  Come just to have FUN even if you don't *plan* on bidding on anything. And bring the kids if you'd like. The whole family is welcome.

See you during the **Harvest Moon** next month. That's Saturday, November 5th! And drop by the **Harvest Moon** table in Channing Hall on any Sunday between now and the FUNdraiser and Auction if you have questions, need more donation forms, or simply want to drop by for a spell and visit!

Thanks from the **Harvest Moon** "farm hands": Diane Stotz, Connie Acosta, the head honchos, and Joyce Ambler, Elizabeth Asnes, Evelyn Carlson, Lois Hardt, Kamal Maheshwari, Jon Naylor, Linda Richardson, Wendy Van Sickle, and Lauri & Joe Zuchlewski.



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 members and staff 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 September 9, 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.

Our **shared offerings for the month of October will be Freedmen's Town Association**. Houston's Fourth Ward has been known as Freedmen's Town because it was the first Black settlement in Houston following the Civil War. It's origin began when emancipated slaves began to buy land along the Buffalo Bayou to build their homes. The Freedmen's Town Association is a community based non-profit corporation. The Association was formed in 1981 to design, implement, coordinate, and direct programs intended to ensure the effective participation of Fourth Ward residents in the redevelopment and revitalization of their community.

TRAVELER

Saturday, October 15

Dinner at 6:00 p.m. / Concert at 7:15 p.m.

Tickets are \$25.00 each and may be purchased on line at www.firstuu.org or at the Information Table on Sunday mornings.



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. 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.



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 on the information table in Channing Hall and handing it in, along with your payment, at the church office. 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 and thirst that so many of our fellow Houstonians deal with everyday. **Thank you for your support of this project of sharing our gifts.**

Your Name _____

Your e-mail Address _____

Your phone Number _____

of meals for you to personally distribute: _____

of meals to go to the Emergency Aid Coalition: _____

Amount paid (\$5.00/meal) _____



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 eagleman.com; for his laboratory work go to eaglemanlab.net

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.

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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
Hilman Laws, Weekday Custodian
Orlando Friedman, 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)

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