



First Unitarian Universalist Church of San Antonio A Beacon on the Hill

Vol. 63, #2, January 30, 2007

IN THE INTERIM, BY REV. ERIC POSA, INTERIM MINISTER

Bring-a-Guest Sunday: Do you have friends or family members who have asked you about your church? Maybe you know someone who seems like they are interested in more liberal perspectives on religion. Or, perhaps you know someone without a church home, who might benefit from the programs, community, and ministry of First UU Church. Of course, I hope each of you always feels free to invite such people to our church. But sometimes it helps for us as a church to go out of our way to be welcoming. So our Church Council has approved that we hold a "Bring-a-Guest" Sunday on March 4, the first Sunday of the month. I strongly encourage everyone to invite someone you know—especially any un-churched friends and family, but also those who regularly worship elsewhere, but may like to learn more about us. If they have children, you might invite them to attend the Worship for All Ages at 9:30 AM; if not, they may still want to come early and attend one of our 9:30 classes for adults. Please especially extend an invitation to worship at 11:00 AM, and also to be our guests for the "soup lunch" following service. (Though, you might add we'll serve more than just soup.) ☺ I even encourage you to go out of your way to offer a ride to these folk that Sunday, and be ready to answer any questions. Above all, this March 4 (NOT February!) is an opportunity to be as hospitable as possible.

(Temporary) Changes in Worship: As the church explores changes during this time of transition, one area we are looking at is our worship service. In particular, many parents and others involved in Religious Education have expressed the legitimate concern that our children are not present with us adults in worship for long enough to feel a part of a larger, intergenerational community. So starting the first Sunday in February, we'll make a change in our order of service, moving the Words for All Ages and "singing out the children" to occur after the offering. As I suggested above, this may only be a temporary change; we'll try it for several weeks, then evaluate it at our March Worship Committee meeting whether this change works well enough to continue, or if we should return to our earlier format. Input from children, their parents, and other adults will be helpful, so please let the Worship Committee know how well this change meets your needs.

Is this a Christian church, or not? This question may surprise some of you, but I suspect it's not as easy to answer as some might think. Thinking critically about it can help us, not only to understand our own faith, but to explain to others where our religious views fit in our predominantly Christian culture. So we'll explore this in some detail the first two Sundays in February, with a two-part sermon series, entitled—you guessed it—"Is this a Christian Church,

Or Not?" One Sunday will examine the arguments against Unitarian Universalism being identified as Christian; the other will explore the view that UUism is Christian. Join us as we take a balanced look at this complex issue.

See you in church!

**In faith,
Eric Posa**

REACTIONS

Upcoming Youth Religious Education Events

Schedule

- February 4th **Worship Sunday (for grades K-8); 9:30am, Fellowship Hall**
Pre-K Class; 9:30am, Longfellow Building
YRUU; 12:30pm, Wade Richmond room
Last Sunday for Mystery Pals exchange
- February 11th **Classroom Sunday (for grades K-8); 9:30am**, each age group goes to their particular room
Pre-K Class; 9:30am, Longfellow Building
High School Class; 9:30am, Wade Richmond room
- February 18th **Mystery Pals Lunch! 12:30pm, Fellowship Hall**
Classroom Sunday (for grades K-8); 9:30am
Pre-K Class; 9:30am, Longfellow Building
High School Class; 9:30am, Wade Richmond room
YRUU; 12:30pm, Wade Richmond room
- February 25th **Youth Religious Education Council Meeting; 12:30pm, Thoreau Building**
Social Action Sunday (for grades K-8); 9:30am, Jefferson Building
Pre-K Class; 9:30am, Longfellow Building
High School Class; 9:30am, Wade Richmond room
YRUU; 12:30pm, Wade Richmond room

Beginning this Sunday, February 4th, we will enter a trial period of inviting our youngest people to remain in the service for a longer period of time and to experience more of our rituals. The "Words for all Ages" will now follow "Greeting Each Other," allowing the children to hear our wonderful choral music for the offertory and also to participate in the giving of gifts. Then they will witness the lighting of candles for joys and concerns and take part in the welcoming of guests and the traditional greeting each other. After the Words for All Ages we will sing them out in our traditional way.

Child care will be available for those children who may not be ready for a longer time in the church. We know our congregation will be patient as we explore this new way of sharing what means so much to all of us, and that you will greet and embrace these youngest members of our church, for they are our future.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY:

Nevin Rupp- 02/03; Gary Evans - 02/07; Laura Codina - 02/10; Carl Lobitz - 02/15; Jeffrey L. Addington - 02/13; Mike Phillips - 02/22; Steve Harkins - 02/05; Trent Cheyney - 02/19; Karl Kutac - 02/22; Maris B. Van Heynigen - 02/24; Nannette Sheaffer - 02/10; Bettie B. Ward - 02/08; Carol A. Storms - 02/11; Judith Hoffman - 02/28; Patricia A. Meneses - 02/13; Peggy Schiffman - 02/22; Tracey Knouse - 02/03; Aloise Miller - 02/19

THE FIRST UU AMATEUR PIANO GROUP

We will meet again on March 13th in the Sanctuary at 7:00 p.m. The meeting will last from one to two hours. All pianists are invited. For further information, please contact Bryant Mauk at [see print version for phone] (please use the answering machine if I am not available) or e-mail me at Bryant1000@aol.com.

U BAR U RETREAT CENTER

A new series of workshops will take place at the U Bar U Retreat and Conference Center near Kerrville. Led by Reverend Tom Capo and Martha Kirby Capo, the "Spiritual Wholeness: Mind, Body, Spirit" workshop series begins with a weekend retreat on Prayer and Meditation. Specifically designed for Unitarian Universalists, workshops in the series also include Personal Mission and Vision; Deepening Your Theology; and a couples workshop, Spiritual Journeys in Partnership. An ordained UU minister, Rev. Tom has been in private psychotherapy practice for over 25 years. He has led workshops for NASA and at SWUUSI. Martha Kirby Capo is an award-winning, published poet and lyricist whose work has appeared in The Aureorean, Texas Poetry Calendar 2000 and 2003, Curbside Review and several PoetWorks Press volumes. The first workshop, Prayer and Meditation, will allow you to expand and deepen the experience of prayer and meditation. We will take time through didactic presentations and multiple experiential opportunities to consider more thoroughly what it means to pray and meditate. It will be held **Friday, March 30, through Sunday, April 1, 2007** at a cost of \$150 per person. To learn more about the "Spiritual Wholeness: Mind, Body, Spirit" workshops or to register, please look for brochures at Sunday services and Forums, ask Jan Estes for a PDF, or contact Rev. Tom at 281.468.2800 or tcapo@houston.rr.com.

NEW UU

Interested in learning more about our church? Needing a way to fulfill membership requirements? Our next two-part New UU Orientation Class will be Thursday, March 22 from 7:00-9:00 pm (Part 1: Explorations) and Sunday, March 25 from 12:30-1:00 pm (Part 2: Connections). The Explorations class is for anyone who wants to learn more about our church, either for "intellectual curiosity" or to fulfill the requirement for membership. All are welcome. The Connections session is for those who have recently filled out a membership form and are ready to get involved. Representatives from church committees, classes, and activities will be present to help you decide. Questions? Contact Betsy Kropp (akropp@mac.com).

John Shelby Spong

The Roley Lecture Series, Madison Square Presbyterian Church, San Antonio, in association with the D.L. Dykes, Jr. Foundation and in cooperation with Sol Center University Presbyterian Church; First Unitarian Universalist Church; Margarite B. Parker Chapel, Trinity University; Progressive Religious Organization of San Antonio and Travis Park United Methodist Church present:

John Shelby Spong - *Jesus for the Non-Religious* - February 9,10, & 11, 2007

Friday Night Lecture
Bishop Spong Speaks at 7:30 PM
The Margarit B. Parker Chapel, Trinity University
Free and Open to the Public

Saturday Morning Lectures
Bishop Spong Speaks at 9:00 & 11:00 AM
Madison Square Presbyterian Church
\$35 per person / Registration Required
Scholarships Available

Sunday Morning
Bishop Spong Speaks during Adult Sunday School at 9:30 AM
and preaches in Worship at 10:50 AM
Madison Square Presbyterian Church

To register:
Phone 1-210-[see print version for phone]
Email bmadisonsqpres@satx.rr.com
or online at www.faithandreason.org

Dear UU Friends:

We adopted a 10 year old girl from Russia in 2003 and she will be 14 in March. She has come very far considering her background of extreme poverty, abuse (both physical and sexual), neglect, abandonment, trauma and poor nutrition. Lately, however, since she has reached her teen years, she has been acting out in extreme ways and we are very concerned about her. We are in need a finding a therapist who is experienced in dealing with post-institutionalized children from Eastern Europe who knows how to treat Reactive Attachment Disorder. I know this will be like finding a needle in a haystack in the San Antonio area, but we are willing to travel to Dallas, Austin or Houston if need be. I would appreciate any recommendations for therapists who might be able to help us, even if only temporarily until we can find someone with the most appropriate experience.

Thank you for your kind attention and consideration.

Lee Ann Cook

YRUU:

I just wanted to highlight one item from the announcements. The high school Young Religious Unitarian Universalist youth group (YRUU) is hosting the soup lunch this Sunday (February 4th). As the announcements indicate, the youth will be using the proceeds from this soup lunch to launch a new social action project they are working on. We will discuss the project at the soup lunch.

The YRUU youth will be bringing soup and other goodies, but they would also very much appreciate any contributions of soup (and it really is soup weather now) or other items for the lunch.

Thank you!

Donna Harrision
YRUU advisor

Bed and Breakfast:

Do you dream of inexpensive vacation travel to interesting destinations where you can stay in the homes of friendly people who share your ideals and are happy to provide directions and advice for their area?

The UU bed and breakfast directory *UU're Home* (formerly *Homecomings*) can fulfill your dream. For 27 years, we've provided a network of hosts in the United States (and a few abroad) who enjoy meeting new friends and who are happy to open their home to like-minded people.

You can also become a host and be listed in the directory. Contact us at 828-[see print version for phone] or at info@uurehome.com, and we will gladly send you information about listing your accommodations.

Host listings on the *UU're Home* website at www.UUreHome.com are updated whenever changes are made or new hosts are added. The paper edition is published every year in April (and has many listings different from those on the website). For a copy of the 2007 directory, please send a check for \$20 (or \$25 and your e-mail address for both the book and a year's access to the website) to *UU're Home*, 43 Vermont Court, Asheville, NC 28806.

Cherry Blossom Festival:

"A B&B experience will be hosted by Cedar Lane UU Church on the Washington DC beltway during the National Cherry Blossom Festival (night of April 13- thru afternoon of April 15). Transportation to and from the airport, the Metro subway entrance, and church service on Sunday is included. A brief city tour (or Metro pass), reserved seats at the Annual Cherry Blossom Parade and a dinner at church Saturday evening are also all part of the festival package. (Participants will receive a package of tour materials and

recommendations, including Metro maps, designed to make any spontaneous touring on your own easy.) Cost: \$250/single; \$500/couple. Registration form must be received by March 19, 2007, accompanied by a non-refundable deposit of 50% of the total cost. A flier with registration form is posted on the bulletin board and at www.cedarlane.org/cbfestival.pdf