



First Unitarian Universalist Church of San  
Antonio

# A Beacon on the Hill

Vol. 63, Issue #11, August 1, 2007

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Glad to be here!

I find that I've been saying it often this past month: "Glad to be here!" Usually I say this in response to "We're happy you're here," or, "You finally made it."

Yes, it is good to be here, and I mean every word of it—especially the last one. Not only I am happy that our long process of discernment has concluded, I'm grateful, specifically, that it is here that I landed. So if you hear me say this little phrase, please note the stress on the last word. As in,

I'm glad to be **HERE!**

Why here, exactly? First, I've heard in my conversations with you a hunger to grow both in body and spirit. By body here I mean church community, an embodiment of love in a world that sorely needs it. You want to include more seekers in your circles. You want to share this healing message of ours that says religion can engage both reason and feeling, and you don't have to be hurt by it in the process.

By spirit I mean capturing that which is unique to religious community—a deepening connection with truth and ultimacy as you have found it revealed to you. I believe that revelation comes in many forms: from books and letters; through conversation, dialogue, laughter, even conflict; out of silence, reflection, and meditation. It was here, in San Antonio, after traveling literally coast-to-coast seeking a church to serve, that I felt resonance between where I am, where you are, and where we might go together. As one of my favorite hymns says: "Come and go with me to that land!" (Who would have known that "land," for Cindy and myself, would happily be Texas?)

Now our journey can begin. I almost wrote, "now the work can begin," but that would be terribly inaccurate. We've all been working for a long time at this church thing. You've built a faith community to be proud of, one that reflects who you are. This community has weathered the decades and has prospered, guiding so many people along their spiritual paths. I've spent decades in lay leadership, the past five years in seminary and professional development, and now I am here. And so our journey begins.

In faith,

Rev. Bret

The sermon topics for August will be: 8/5 Keys to a Beginning 8/12 Our Transcendental Roots 8/19 A Bright Faith 8/26 Making Gods
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# REactions

## Upcoming Religious Education Events

### Schedule

Aug. 12th	10:30am Nursery opens 11:00am all Children and Youth Religious Education classes begin 12:30pm, YRUU; Meets at Community UU Church
Aug. 19th	10:30am Nursery opens 11:00am all Children and Youth Religious Education classes begin 12:30pm, YRUU; Wade Richmond room
Aug. 26 <sup>th</sup>	10:30am Nursery opens 11:00am SUNDAY SUNDAY!, Last day of Summer RE, all children and youth meet in the Jefferson building 12:30pm, YRUU; Wade Richmond room
Sept. 2 <sup>nd</sup>	9:15am Nursery opens <b>Children and Youth RE moves back to 9:30am</b> 9:30am <b>Lifespan Connections Worship</b> , Fellowship Hall - <i>all children youth and adults are invited to help us celebrate the beginning of the new year.</i> 12:30pm, YRUU; Wade Richmond room
Sept. 9 <sup>th</sup>	9:15am Nursery opens 9:30am, Classroom Sunday; all Children and Youth meet in their individual classrooms 11:00am Worship For All Ages, <b>Gathering of the Waters Service</b> 12:30pm, YRUU; Wade Richmond room

**Don't forget to be collecting water for our annual Gathering of the Waters service. Whether it is from Greece, Portland or the San Antonio river gather some from where you have been spending your summer. When we come back together to begin our regular 'church year' on September 9<sup>th</sup> we will share the water and celebrate being together**



## **Sign-Up Sunday Is Back!**

Whether you're new to the church, or a long time member, mark your calendars for Sept. 9. We'll be holding Sign-Up Sunday out on the patio and in the fellowship hall. Representatives from many of the committees and groups of the church will be stationed at the tables to answer your questions about their activities and to offer you opportunities to sign-up to help participate in all the vital things that keep our church a vibrant community. It's always been a fun and festive way to start the church year--see you there!

**Thanks,  
Shannon**

## **Rummage Sale!**

The best Rummage Sale in San Antonio is on Saturday, **August 11, 2007 8:00am sharp**. Where is it, you may ask? Right here at FUUCSA. You also might ask; "What can I find there?!" We hope almost anything your heart desires. Donations of working household items, electronics, collectables, knick-knacks, small appliances, antiques, and what-nots (that's the name of something you don't know the name of) will be accepted Sunday August 4 through Wednesday August 8. August 9 and 10 will be spent sorting, pricing, & displaying all those wonderful items you have so willingly donated (no clothes please). So come shop with us on Sunday, August 11. We're going to have a blast (and who knows - you might find your hearts desire; stranger things have happened!)

**Mara Jewell** [jbtigerbear @ yahooUU, com](mailto:jbtigerbear@yahooUU.com)

## **EMERSON BOOKSHOP**

Emerson Bookshop's recent arrivals include Essential Rumi, Garrison Keillor's Good Poems for Hard Times, Karen Armstrong's The Great Transformation: The Beginning of our Religious Traditions and A Short History of Myths, children's Furry Logic: A Guide to Life's Little Challenges, and I Do: A Guide to Creating Your Own Unique Wedding Ceremony. Almost all our books are \$15 or less and cover a wide range of topics. Other great books in our bookshop are Breakfast Epiphanies, Bucketful of Dreams: Contemporary Parables, City Magick: Urban Rituals, Spells and Shamanism, Suzuki's Good News for a Change, Common Fire (activists talk), Drawing Down the Moon, Ethics for Everyone, Everyday Spiritual Practice, Freethinking Mystics with Hands, Salzberg's Heart as Wide as the World, How to Talk to Teens About Really Important Things, Fulghum's It was on Fire When I Lay Down on It, Lifecraft: The Art of Meaning in the Everyday, Nothing Left Unsaid: Words to Help You, Kubler-Ross's On Death and Dying, Pilgrim Book of Bible Stories, Chodron's Start Where You Are, To Life: A Celebration of Jewish Being and Thinking, Borysenko's Woman's Journey to God, Outside the Lines: Meditations on an Expansive God, several other books of meditations, and American Creed: A Spiritual and Patriotic Primer.

Visit our bookshop in the sanctuary classroom after the morning service on most Sunday's.

**Thanks.  
Carol**

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## **Share the Plate Schedule, 2SeePrint**

Through our congregation's mission statement, we are called to "engage in outreach and service to the wider community." Our Unitarian Universalist principles call for us to work for justice and humanity. Through our forthcoming Share the Plate program, we will have an opportunity to reach out to the San Antonio community, and demonstrate who we are and for what we stand.

Each month, our congregation will have the opportunity to learn more about the Share the Plate recipient organization at a **9:30 AM Forum** on the **First Sunday**. The **Forum** will be held in the **Jefferson building**. This will provide a time to learn about direct involvement opportunities with the recipient organization.

Share the Plate will occur on the **Second Sunday** of each month. During the worship service a brief testimonial will be given by our member nominator, as well as by a representative from the organization. All money donated during the offering that is not marked for the operating budget (pledge payments) or other designations will be donated to the selected non-profit organization. On the Third Sunday, the amount collected for the recipient will be printed in the bulletin.

Here are the Plate Recipients, August 2007-August 2008:

August 2007: **San Antonio Youth Literacy:**

[www.sayl.org](http://www.sayl.org)

September 2007: **UU Housing Assistance**

**Corporation:** [www.uuhac.org](http://www.uuhac.org)

October 2007: **Battered Women's Shelter:**

[www.fvps.org](http://www.fvps.org) (*Domestic Violence Awareness Month*)

November 2007: **Fisher House:**

[www.fisherhouse.org/theHouses/texas.shtml](http://www.fisherhouse.org/theHouses/texas.shtml)

(*Veteran's Day*)

December 2007: **Under the Bridge:**

[www.underthebridgesa.org](http://www.underthebridgesa.org)

January 2008: **Stand and Deliver**

February 2008: **San Antonio AIDS**

**Foundation:** [www.txsaaf.org](http://www.txsaaf.org)

March 2008: **Community Responsibility**

**Endowment Fund (CREF)** *CREF Flower Power grants are scheduled to be presented on March 16, 2008*

April 2008: **Child Advocates San Antonio**

(CASA): [casa-satx.org](http://casa-satx.org) (*Child Abuse Prevention Month*)

May 2008: **Rainbow Room:**

[www.gtcp.org/sanantonio.asp](http://www.gtcp.org/sanantonio.asp)

June 2008: **Planned Parenthood:**

[www.ppsctx.org](http://www.ppsctx.org)

July 2008: **Greater Edwards Aquifer Alliance:**

[www.aquiferalliance.org](http://www.aquiferalliance.org)

August 2008: **Animal Defense League:**

[www.adltexas.org](http://www.adltexas.org)

**Submitted by, Diane Duesterhoeft, Social Action Committee Co-Chair, [dduesterhoeft @ gmailUU, com](mailto:dduesterhoeft@gmailUU.com) or SeePrint.**

### **August Share the Plate -- San Antonio Youth Literacy**

On August 12, 2007, the recipient of our Share the Plate donations will be San Antonio Youth Literacy (SAYL). SAYL's mission is to promote the literacy skills of San Antonio's at-risk youth. Developed in 1999, the "Let's Read!" program is an early intervention literacy program designed to assist elementary school-age children in developing their reading skills. At local schools throughout San Antonio, trained volunteer reading tutors provide one-to-one tutoring to more than 300 children who are reading below grade level. During the 2SeePrint school year, SAYL tutors contributed 3,241 volunteer hours and served 357 children. To learn more, visit [www.sayl.org](http://www.sayl.org).

In addition to sharing worship with us on the 12th, Pat Medina, the Executive Director of SAYL will present information about the organization, its mission and volunteer opportunities at the forum at 9:30 on Sunday, August 12 in the Jefferson Building. SAYL was nominated for Share the Plate by Donna Harrison.

## **Richard Teitz has joined the Peace Corps!**

Effective August 20, 2007:

I'm making some life style changes! For a long time, I had been thinking about volunteering for the Peace Corps, and I have been accepted to work in Panama as an economic development advisor. Email will reach me at [rst24755 @ yahooUU, com](mailto:rst24755@yahooUU.com). Please pass on to any who ask or might be interested. I want to stay connected.

**(If sending via FedEx, UPS, etc.)**

Cuerpo de Paz  
Edif. 95, Ave. Vicente Bonilla  
Ciudad del Saber, Clayton  
Panamá, República de Panamá  
Tel: 507-SeePrint Fax: 507-SeePrint  
Attention: *Richard Teitz* PCV

**(If sending via regular mail)**

*Richard Teitz* PCV  
Cuerpo de Paz/Panamá  
0SeePrint8 Entrega General  
Panamá, República de Panamá

## **ALSO MOVING**

Lisa Peterson - to College Station  
Chris & Krissie Pulley - to College Station  
James Thomas - to Dallas

With the host of recent losses in our church family, I can speak of the loss of one, but perhaps also for the many. The condolences, the hugs, the visits, the thoughtful gifts of food and flowers helped fill the empty space in my life. Suddenly I was not as alone as I thought. The memorial service and reception following began the process of closure and lifted the spirits of my whole family.

We are so blessed to have one another in times of need. The opening of your hearts helped mend mine and I will be eternally grateful. I hope I can keep the gift going.

In love and peace,

**Arline Terrell**

## **HAPPY BIRTHDAY!!!!**

Tara Alexander-08/04, Abdu Kadri - 08/05, Chris Pulley - 08/06, Sonia M. Aguirre - 08/06, Lisa Peterson - 08/07, Melanie Constantinides - 08/08, Cory Shaw - 08/08, Brian Wade Evans - 08/10, Steven Feinstein - 08/12, Barbara Brown - 08/13, Jack Richmond - 08/15, Ellen Clegg - 08/15, Andy Fitch-Wallish - 08/16, Cheryl Lardy - 08/16, William Earl Maxwell - 08/18, Sarida S. Bradley - 08/18, Carlos Gonzales - 08/18, Lee Hampton - 08/21, Laura Richmond - 08/23, Imke H. Streuding - 08/24, Greg Foster - 08/24, Alejandro O. Ruiz - 08/24, Bill E. White - 08/26, Gale Haradon - 08/26, Ann Hidalgo - 08/27, Lucy Norton - 08/27, Rob Hines - 08/28, Katie Romich - 08/28, Carrie L. Salas - 08/28, Susan Kakacek - 08/30, Roger Kramer - 08/30, Joan Wells - 08/30, Susan Skaer - 08/30.

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Director of Religious Education,

**Mary Alice Partain**, (210)SeePrint [dre@firstuusanantonio.org](mailto:dre@firstuusanantonio.org).

Minister of Music - **William J. Ross**  
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We're on the Web:  
<http://www.FirstUUSanAntonio.org>

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DATED  
MATERIAL

## Olmos Season, 2007-08

***Auf Wiedersehen, Sommer!***  
3:00 PM Sunday, Sept. 2, 2007  
Guest Artists: Renya  
Shterenberg and Karen Stiles,  
violins, Courtney Filner, viola,  
and Kenneth E. Freudigman,  
cello

Luigi Boccherini, Quintet in G,  
for flute, two violins, viola. and  
cello

Anton Reicha, Quintet for horn,  
two violins, viola, and cello  
Carl Maria von Weber, Quintet  
for clarinet, two violins, viola  
and cello

**Haunted Pools and Magic  
Bagpipers!**  
7:30 PM Tuesday, October 30,  
2007

Guest Artists: Matt Diekman,  
viola, and Kristin Roach, pianist

Mikhail Glinka, *Trio Pathetique*,  
for clarinet, bassoon, and piano  
Gustav Holst, *Terzetto* for flute,  
oboe, and viola  
Charles Martin Loeffler, Two  
Rhapsodies, for oboe, viola, and  
piano

**Warren, Wolfgang, and more!**  
7:30 PM Tuesday, March 11,  
2008  
Warren Jones, piano

George Rochberg, Trio, for  
clarinet, horn, and piano  
Herbert Howells, Sonata, for  
oboe and piano

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,  
*Adagio* in b minor, for piano  
solo

Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart,  
Quintet in e-flat, for oboe,  
clarinet, bassoon, horn, and  
piano

**A Quintet, a Sextet, and a New  
Star!**  
7:30 PM, Tuesday, June 3, 2008  
James Ho-Jae Cho, piano

Josef Bohuslav Foerster, Quintet  
in D, for flute, oboe, clarinet,  
bassoon, and horn

Igor Stravinsky, *Petrouchka*, for  
solo piano  
Ludwig Thuille, Sextet, for wind  
quintet and piano

Programs subject to change without notice