



April 2012

Volume 53 Issue 4

Inside Scope

President	2
Migrants	3
Calendar	4
Contacts	5
Treasurer's	6
Happenings	6
NOTICE	7
UUA Tidbits	7
Homeless	8
RE	9
Ghost Tour	9
Worship	10
Music	10
Art Gallery	10
Tax Help	11
Greening	11
UU101	11

**UUSP
Mission
Statement**

"Providing a compassionate and welcoming community, inspiring spiritual and intellectual growth, and serving as a beacon for social activism and service."

SCOPE

Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg
719 Arlington Avenue North

April 2012

Waves Of Love From Jim

Three years ago, I shared from this pulpit that if we would share the love we feel here, if we became excited by what we were doing in this place, if we would provide a Sunday service that we could be proud to bring our friends to, and if we had small group ministries in place to support and send out our members to help the St. Petersburg area, then attendance would be the least of our problems. This amazing community has done these activities and more. We're been growing. In the words of UUA President Peter Morales...we "get" church. We understand that the aspects of a healthy church that really attract large numbers of guests center in the love and the lives of its members. A church full of genuinely engaged, loving people attracts others. People will want to go where friends and neighbors are making a difference, both in their own unique life journeys and in the world. We have an opportunity to offer a choice that would help our friends and neighbors make that difference in the world. They're disillusioned and suspicious of "organized" religion, and that's a perfect fit for us...because we're DIS-organized religion. Someone you know wants to think thoughts outside of the religious box and is just waiting for permission. Someone you know wants to begin making a difference, and is just looking for encouragement. And we can give them a place to grow and the love to support their journeys. That's what we do.

Unfortunately, that's not what we've been doing lately. Lately, we've been... practicing being human together...and that's ok, too. We have become fixated on speaking rather than listening, losing our capacity to be flexible in responding to diverse opinion. We have become rigid in our insistence on compliance in accepting doing church the way we always have done it, rather than listening to each other as we creatively learn how to be human together. That's just not the "us" we have evolved into today. We welcome diverse opinions and enter into rich dialogue. That's who we are. That's what we do.

See "Waves" page 5.....

Staff

The Reverend
Jim Culver
Consulting Minister

The Reverend
Alec Craig
Pastoral Care Minister

Careena Cornette
Director of Religious Education

J. Peter Schultes
Office Manager

Aaron Johnson
Custodian

Teresa Kelly
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Board of Trustees

Board of Trustees

Laurie Clement
Margie Manning
Robb Sanborn
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President's Column

More on Transition

At the March Board of Trustees meeting, the Board voted to pursue the hiring of a full-time developmental consulting minister for two years with input from the District Executive as to the specific developmental areas to be addressed.

As there is confusion as to what this means and why this option was chosen, I would like to offer the following comments.

What is a developmental consulting minister and how does that differ from an interim?

An interim minister is accredited and possesses special training in helping congregations move through transitions. Frequently this process is used to help prepare for the calling of a minister, so that the new minister comes into a congregation that has dealt with the “elephants in the room” and has a clear vision of their future and a strong commitment to stewardship.

Interim ministers serve for a limited time – not exceeding two years and agree not to become a candidate for the called minister position. This essentially means they are “pre-fired” and can present more objectivity in assessing a congregation’s strengths and weaknesses. They ask questions we may not think to ask ourselves, and the process can be uncomfortable for many people. They are free to “speak the truth without fear or favor”.

A developmental consulting minister can achieve some of the same objectives with several key differences. The relationship can continue beyond the two-year period and can grow into a called minister if that is mutually agreeable. The pace at which we explore the various areas of our congregational life and structure is slowed down allowing for less anxiety, giving us an opportunity to explore other styles of ministry, governance and stewardship. Developmental Consulting Ministers are not necessarily accredited, but may have expertise in one or more areas of congregational development.

This is not just a placeholder arrangement. Responsibilities do include coordinating worship, preaching on Sunday and providing pastoral care so that the church maintains a natural rhythm; but at the same time there is specific work being done by the congregation with guidance from the minister that will help us grow internally.

Why did you choose that option?

We heard the concerns from some members of the congregation regarding negative experiences with an interim minister, and while there are conflicts to move through and internal analysis to be done, a gentler pace is in order. The two-year commitment gives us time to do that in a way where we can catch our breath, but still move forward so that we can be in a position to call a minister in the next 3 to 5 years. This gives a minister time to get to know us and help us use our strengths and develop new ones.

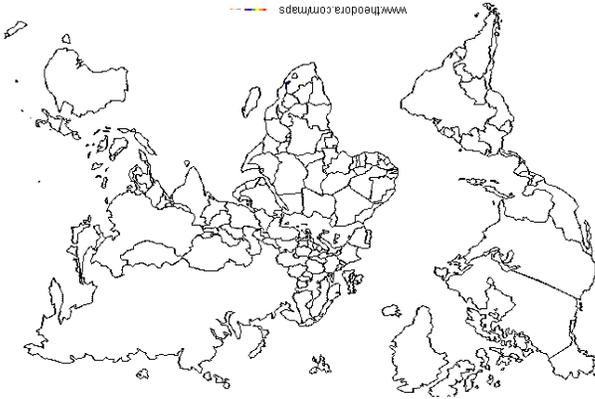
To pretend that there are no “elephants in the room” would do a disservice to the community and only cause more and deeper problems down the road. A quote from the Transitional Ministry Handbook says it well:

“Although people’s initial instinct will often be to simply hunker down and “hold the fort,” it is inevitable that as the power structure realigns, some will step back and others forward to fill the power vacuum caused by ministerial vacancy. As the lid comes off, anxieties may first express themselves over relatively mundane matters—but soon more serious concerns unearth themselves. The church staff feels overwhelmed, momentum stalls, new members and even some long-timers back away, the canvass falls short. Anxiety-driven conflict rends the fabric of congregational life. Compounded, these stresses will weigh heavily on the present, yes, but also on prospects for a successor ministry.”

See “President” on page 5.....

Standing on the Side of Love with Immigrant Families

Upside Down Spanish



I remember as a child when I would lie on a big footstool, head hanging over the edge and I would view the world “upside down.” The ceiling was at the bottom and the floor was at the top. Chairs and tables and television were up not down. Everything was the same, yet everything was different. Gravity ceased to exist and in the blink of an eye the child’s imagination saw things in a new way.

This suggests something of what we now offer in a brief Spanish course, just four lessons long, one each week. Shall we tell you that you will speak Spanish in just 6 hours like those television commercials that promise rock hard abs in just 5 minutes a day? No, but we will say that 6 hours, four classes of one and a half hours each, will enable you to learn things you have never imagined before about the world and Spanish. It can turn your world upside down (or downside up) and enable you to see things in a new way and say with confidence, “Hola amigo, decime tu historia.” (“Hello friend, tell me your story.”)

Mike Rissler, member of the Migrant/Immigrant Ministry who returned in the past year to St Petersburg after living and working in South and Central America for many years, will be offering these interesting workshops. Contact *Mike at estudio2001@gmail.com or 727 480-2340 or 727 954-5904 to let him know that you plan on attending one or more of the workshops.*

**Join us for *Upside Down Spanish*, Saturdays, 10:30 -12:00
Conway Hall – Use Office entrance on Arlington Avenue
Beginning April 7, 2012**

Human Trafficking – Mark Your Calendars to Attend the May 20th Service

Kathlyn Mackovjak, Esq. Supervising Attorney in the Immigration Unit at Gulfcoast Legal Services, works daily to assist the victims of human trafficking. She will help us look beneath the surface to identify the victims of human trafficking in the US and right here in Pinellas County. Learn what we can do about this very serious and heartbreaking problem.

Clothing for the Children of Migrant Workers

Thank you for your continued generosity. Our last visit to the camps for this season was on March 17th. However we will continue to collect children’s clothing – please only clothing as our storage space is limited – over the summer.

Help Plan Outreach and Social Justice Actions

The Migrant/Immigrant Ministry meets each month to plan outreach, educational and advocacy projects. Our next meeting will be on **Tuesday, April 10th** at 5:30pm in the Church Office. Please join us – we welcome your input.

April 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:00am Discussion Group 10:15am Children's Choir 11:00am Sunday Service 11:00am Food Collection 12:30pm Pastoral Care 12:30pm UU 101 7:28pm Collage	2 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 6:00pm Ghost Tour 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	3 10:00am Handcrafters Guild 5:45pm Zumba 7:00pm Emotions Anonymous	4 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm Social Justice 7:00pm Mindfulness Meditation	5 3:00pm Memorial Service: Dodie O'Keefe 5:45pm Zumba 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Awakening to Life	6 9:30am Stretch And Tone 6:45pm Picnic In The Playground	7 9:30am Zumba 10:30am Upside Down Spanish 7:00pm Gilmour Gallery Opening 7:00pm Watercolor Exhibition
8 10:00am Discussion Group 10:15am Children's Choir 11:00am Sunday Service 7:28pm Collage	9 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 6:00pm Homeless Ministry 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	10 5:30pm Migrant/Immigrant Ministry 5:45pm Zumba 7:00pm Emotions Anonymous	11 9:30am Zumba 4:30pm Covenant Group 7:00pm Board of Trustees 7:00pm Mindfulness Meditation	12 5:45pm 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Awakening to Life	13 9:30am Stretch And Tone 6:45pm Picnic In The Playground	14 9:30am Zumba 10:30am Upside Down Spanish
15 10:00am Discussion Group 10:15am Children's Choir 11:00am Sunday Service 11:00am Food Collection 7:28pm Collage	16 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm Covenant Group 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	17 10:00am Handcrafters Guild 5:45pm Zumba 7:00pm Emotions Anonymous	18 9:30am Zumba 6:00pm Women's Forum 7:00pm Mindfulness Meditation	19 5:00pm Grief Support 5:45pm Zumba 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Awakening to Life	20 9:30am Stretch And Tone 6:45pm Picnic In The Playground	21 9:30am Zumba 10:30am Upside Down Spanish
22 9:30am Pancake Breakfast 10:00am Hospitality Ministry 10:00am Discussion Group 10:00am Market Place 10:15am Children's Choir 11:00am Sunday Service 12:30pm R. E. Meeting 12:30pm Town Hall 7:28pm Collage	23 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm Worship Ministry 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	24 5:45pm Zumba 7:00pm Emotions Anonymous 7:00pm Mindfulness Meditation	25 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm Covenant Group 7:00pm Mindfulness Meditation	26 5:45pm Zumba 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm Awakening to Life	27 9:30am Stretch And Tone 6:45pm Picnic In The Playground	28 9:30am Zumba
29 10:00am Discussion Group 10:15am Children's Choir 11:00am Sunday Service 12:30pm Annual Meeting 7:28pm Collage	30 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu					

“Waves” from page 1.....

Here in this special place, we are all encouraged to follow whatever path resonates within each. Here in this special place we hope that those sitting near us hold differing beliefs than we do. Here in this special place, we encourage everyone to share, to listen, to reflect, and to enter into a rich dialogue. When we do these things, we truly create lives that **bring Dignity, Meaning, Worth and Joy to all our days.**

Waves of love. Jim

.....“President” from page 2

Sound familiar? I believe there are still unexpressed disappointments over the departure of Rev. Mishra, as well as other conflicts that have left some of our members with unresolved pain. It's time to start addressing these issues in a way that respects everyone. It's scary. It may be hurt even more before it feels better. Yep, that is likely-but necessary.

Why full-time?

In short, because we deserve it. We should dare to dream big dreams and not be satisfied with “enough”. The role of a Trustee is to advance the mission of the church to the best of it's abilities within the resources available. All_aspects of the mission. We are not supposed to have allegiances to specific programs or ministries-no matter what our personal desires are.

The level of support a full time position can give to our ministries can help make sure that we are being equitable (not necessarily equal) in allocating our resources. Music is a valued part of our community's life and there is no reason why that cannot continue to thrive with Jim devoting his efforts exclusively to music. Other ministries can become more vibrant and serve as attractors for new members as well with some additional attention and support. We should be excited about all the things we do here and take that excitement out into our community so people know what we stand for.

Can we really have that?

A full-time position is not out of reach. It might be a stretch, but if we don't try we'll never know. And that's where you come in. We currently support 1.25 FTE (full time equivalent) ministerial staff and are planning on 1.5 FTE ministerial staff which would include half-time for music.

If the prospect of a more vibrant and alive UUSP appeals to you and you have already made your pledge, thank you.

If you have made your decision to pledge but haven't yet turned it in, please do so we can count it.

If you have been sitting on the sidelines deciding what or if you will pledge, I hope that you will seriously consider the role you wish to play in UUSP's future.

Your contributions benefit the entire congregation and that is what being in a covenantal relationship is all about. Our (formerly) anonymous donor Patricia Mann MacGivern knew this well. Did we learn this well?

We need each other.

We can be amazing together.

In Service, **Teresa Kelly**

Group Contacts

Administrative

Jeff Baughman 403-0655

Building & Grounds

Fred Russell 542-5449

Care Ministry

Rev. Alec Craig
393-3499

Children's Religious Education

Dolores Benjamin 360-7592 & Shannon McMahon, 204-8319
co-chairs

Ministry on Ministry (MOM)

McKell Moorehead
894-0264

Communications Working Group

Morgan Gresham
327-6075

Hospitality Team

Pat Passarello 525-2753

Congregational Life Ministry

Dave Coale 898-8038

Music

Jim Culver 616-318-4664

Program Council

Scope

J Peter Schultes 898-3294

Social Justice

Handcrafters Subministry
Dani Skryzpek 488-3601
Homeless Subministry
Reggie Craig 631-1031
Migrant Subministry
Karen Coale 898-8038

UU Service Committee

Marilyn Barber 298-5096

Worship Ministry

Margie Manning 374-0570

April Celebrations

Anniversaries

Still No Cupid

Birthdays

2nd--Waldo Rowell
2nd--Cheryl MacNeill
8th--Gloria Marvin
24th--Darren Stowe
26th--Peter Hood

Treasurer's report

This month, I want to tell you why my husband Mike and I make a financial commitment to UU St. Pete. We pledge nearly 4 percent of our annual income to the church because we consider it an investment in a community we strongly believe needs to exist to make our world a better place. Our contribution, combined with others, allows us to pay ministers and staff who inspire us, challenge us and care for us. Our contribution, combined with others, permits us to improve and maintain our beautiful building, where we worship, play and learn together, and host community events. Our contribution, combined with others, educates the next generation of UU's, feeds and clothes those in need, and connects UU St. Pete with the broader Unitarian Universalist movement.

Some can give a lot, some not so much. By pledging any amount, we are putting on paper our commitment to make sure this church is here now and will be here in the future for those who want and need what we have to offer.

Many members and friends of UU St. Pete have made generous pledges for the upcoming fiscal year, which starts July 1, 2012. However, please don't overlook your pledge for the current fiscal year, which continues through June 30.

Happenings and Events

A Month of Sundays

April 1 - "Are Church and State Really Separate?" Reverend Doctor Barry Lynn, CEO of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State, will be our speaker.

April 8 - "We Are Risen! We Are Risen...Indeed?" Jim Culver On this Easter Sunday, we'll explore ways in which our congregation can rise from the tomb of discord.

April 15 - "Take the Key and Lock Her Up" The United States leads the world in the number of incarcerations. Is it always good to be in first place? Alec Craig

April 22 - "Music Sunday" Our Music Ministry will present a Cantata featuring 5 Adult Choir anthems, a Children's Choir anthem, a Hand Bell Ringers anthem and 7 readings. The readings and songs speak to the themes of gratitude, peace, social justice, spirituality, love, our interconnected web, and our church home. Another joyful service to invite friends, neighbors and co-workers!

April 29 - "UU Views of God" with various readers This service will explore several concepts of God, as a life force, as mystery, as a Biblical figure, as well as from the humanist and atheist viewpoints.

and atheist viewpoints.

If you would like to know how much you have paid toward your current pledge, please ask Dani Skrzypek, our financial secretary, for an up-to-date report.

Pledges make up nearly half of our budgeted operating income for this year, and likely will make up a slightly larger percentage for next fiscal year, so please think about what UU St. Pete means to you and make your financial commitment.

February 2012 financial highlights:

Total revenue: \$15,810.33

Pledges: \$9,086
 Endowment contribution: \$2,942
 Building use: \$2,165
 Sunday services: \$1,081
 Other income: \$536

Total expenses: \$20,690

Compensation: \$9,652
 Program expenses: \$2,419
 Building expenses: \$7,555
 Other expenses: \$1,064

Any questions? I'll be glad to try to answer them.
 Margie Manning, Treasurer

UUA Trustee Tidbits from Joan Lund

As far as I am aware, I am totally of European descent; I have no American Indian heritage. I know the American history I was taught in school was fraught with inaccuracies and I am never able to completely understand the anguish experienced by Indigenous Peoples. I am also a faithful UU who is called to support the appeal of Indigenous Peoples, which means supporting the implementation of the repudiation of the Doctrine of Discovery. I believe when we respond to our Indigenous Peoples' we embrace our UU

Principles, exemplifying the words of Theodore Parker: "I do not pretend to understand the moral universe; the arc is a long one, my eye reaches but little ways; I cannot calculate the curve and complete the figure by the experience of sight; I can divine it by conscience. And from what I see I am sure it bends towards justice." (1853)

Two pieces of information you need to know: 1) Delegates to GA 2010 charged the BOT with accountability to partner organizations in Arizona, 2) Those partner organizations asked that we work on the issue of the Doctrine of Discovery. Our partners in Arizona have asked us to learn, bear witness in the Phoenix community, provide assistance through specific service opportunities, worship and grow together. We will leave Arizona ready to partner and work together for human rights in our own communities.

Please study the 2012 Justice General Assembly UUA materials when they arrive in your congregation. There will be over 100 workshops, lectures, panel presentations, film screenings, and worship services. The UUA website states, "These programs will educate and prepare participants to build the capacity of UUs to stand in opposition to systemic racism and to witness on immigration, racial and economic justice." In addition National Public Radio's Maria Hinojosa, Mexican/American broadcast journalist will deliver the Ware lecture; and Rev. Karen Tse, human rights defender, international human rights attorney, and UU minister will deliver the Service of the Living Tradition sermon.

According to my colleague Rev. Michael Tino, we need to, "Answer the call of accountability to people whose history, color and first language dehumanize and silence them in our nation". We need to answer the call to BE the faith response to the symptom in a national illness of racism that needs to be countered with faith and love. I look forward to joining my Florida UU colleagues in Phoenix. As I said after GA 2011, I hope more Florida UUs will be part GA 2012 than ever before in the history of our District.

Joan Lund, April, 2012
jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727

.....**NOTICE**.....
Official

The annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg will be held on Sunday April 29th at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

A Town Hall to discuss the budget and a Special meeting called by congregation will be held on Sunday April 22nd at 12:30 pm in the Sanctuary.

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HOMELESS MINISTRY

Members of UU St. Pete's Homeless Ministry are involved in many projects to assist the homeless and poor in our community. We work to fulfill the third section of our church's mission "to serve as a beacon for social activism and service". The Homeless Ministry has sponsored the Friday Night Picnics every week for the past three years. Members participate with other downtown churches in the Celebrate Outreach coalition. We raise money at the Stone Soup Auction every November and at our monthly Pancake Breakfasts to help local homeless service organizations. We've participated in letter writing campaigns and meetings with city officials to advocate for our city's homeless residents. Church members serve supper every Monday at Beacon House and we participate in CROP Walk every March to raise money to alleviate hunger here and around the world. Everyone is invited to participate in our ministry and/or any of its programs and we always welcome new members. Please speak with Reggie Craig or any other member of the Homeless Ministry if you'd like to join us – we'd love to have you.

Here are some of the things the Homeless Ministry has been involved in lately:

CROP Walk – On Sunday, March 4th, UU St. Pete members (for the tenth year in a row) joined members of 23 other local churches participating in the annual St. Pete CROP Walk. Several hundred men, women and children walked through downtown St. Pete to bring attention to and donations for people who are hungry and poor around the world. Our church members very generously contributed close to \$600 and we thank you on behalf of all those who will be helped. After the walk, people gathered at the Sunshine Center for refreshments and lively conversation. Remember, this is an annual event, so look for CROP Walk again next year; it's always on the first Sunday in March.

BEACON HOUSE – CAN YOU HELP?

Members of UU St. Pete have been serving supper every Monday at the Beacon House Men's Shelter Community Kitchen for seven years. The shelter provides shelter and transitional services for 25 men and the community kitchen provided 33,000 meals during the last fiscal year. We have a group of loyal volunteers but we can always use more willing helpers. Come early May many of our servers head north for the summer, which leaves us quite short-handed. If you'd like to help and can give an hour of your time some Mondays, especially during the summer, please contact Pat Yochim.

CELEBRATE OUTREACH

Celebrate Outreach! is a partnership of St. Petersburg faith-based congregations which is dedicated to preventing and ending homelessness in our area through social justice, advocacy, community education and direct service, of which UU St. Pete is a founding member. Join us each 3rd Saturday of the month for our presenter partners, who help teach us ways to aid those in need. Upcoming workshops include learning to navigate existing services to help provide the basic necessities of life to our neighbors.

PICKING UP WEEKLY FOOD DONATIONS – CAN YOU HELP?

A group of us go to the St. Petersburg Saturday Morning Market every week while they are closing down and ask for donations of food that would otherwise be thrown out. We take the food to the church and freeze what we can for The Friday Picnic. Then one person takes any food we can't use to Beacon House. We need more people to help one or more Saturdays a month. We need people with cars, especially large ones like a van or truck (but we can take 2 small cars if necessary); we also need people who can lift up to 20 pounds (who don't necessarily have to have a car). We meet at the church at 1:15 p.m. almost every Saturday year-round (there are a few Saturdays a year the market doesn't operate), and finish sometime between 3:30 and 4:30 (but we can use your help even if you can't stay the entire time). Contact Geneva Nelson if you can help.

SHARING ABUNDANCE – CAN YOU HELP?

Every Sunday after the service, we staff a table in Gilmour Hall that contains donated perishable food that will not last until the Friday Picnic. We give it away to those in need – members of the congregation who need it can take it for their own households, or for anyone they know who needs it; or they can take food to prepare for the Friday Picnic; or members of the congregation who can afford it can make donations for food they want to take. We need volunteers to do this once a month – you go to the church kitchen immediately after the sermon to get the food, and put it on the table, then you stay at the table to answer people's questions, collect money, etc. until Gilmour Hall is fairly empty. Then you clean up and return any leftover food to the Homeless Ministry refrigerator. Contact Geneva Nelson if you can help.

Through Our Students' Eyes: The Endings of Various Eras

by education maven Careena Cornette

Although it feels like the calendar year just started (a quarter of our way in), the end of the school year is steadily approaching. For those of us who finished our schooling, ahem, before our UUSP students were even born, this doesn't feel like such a big deal. Not too far into adulthood, I learned that a year stops meaning "a few hundred cafeteria meals with your friends" and starts meaning, "wow, has it really already been a whole twelve months since Cousin Fred visited?" But for our young 'uns, a semester still feels like forever and a day; a school year might also feel, somehow, more permanent than it really is.

This month, some friends and I are saying goodbye to a favorite acting job. A certain organization has been sending anti-drug/anti-alcohol presentations out to elementary schools for many years, but unfortunately the end of the contract period (and possibly the program itself) has come. For the co-workers who've been with the program longer than I, it is a serious blow. The familiarity of Load-In was an easy routine: sound system and cords, costume and prop boxes, poles and canvas, done. The repetition was surprisingly calming, and the prospect of getting into our new dayjob teaching routines is frightening.

How, then, do children feel when they can see the end of something familiar looming in the distance? If being a first grader is the only time you can clearly remember, and you have always walked from Ms. Smith's classroom to the cafeteria to the P.E. court and back (going to the Music Room, instead, on Tuesdays and Thursdays), you're heavily invested in that routine.

Seeing the stress among my co-workers, and feeling my own sadness for the loss of a particularly comfortable gig, I look out over the seas of Kindergarten audiences, and ask myself, "How do they feel about losing the familiar?" Think on your own adult losses: moving, new jobs, different relationships, or just the closing of a bridge on your regular commute. How do these types of changes effect children, who have so much less life experience and so few coping mechanisms? Something as simple as a different babysitter can be disproportionately stressful.

I invite you to take a moment to reflect on the comforts found in your week by week routine, and to then ponder how it feels to have them changed. How did it feel when you were a child? How do today's children have different types of routines than in previous decades? Does equating a child's change of babysitter to an adult-level stress like switching jobs give us more sympathy for childlike irrationality? Or should we put things in perspective and remember that pioneer children had much more difficult emotions on their plates (sometimes in place of food)? At any rate, the cast of our little show will probably "have a good cry" when it's all over...whether that reflects adult rationality, or not.

Ghost Tour Fun(d)raiser Monday April 2, 6 p.m.

Peer into the shadows and mysteries of Florida's "Sunshine City" on a candlelight walking tour of St. Petersburg! Hear true ghost stories of wandering spirits, haunted mansions, phantom lovers and age old curses...forgotten tales brought back to life. Join UUSP member and professional Ghost Tour Guide Geneva Nelson for a leisurely stroll along St. Petersburg's quaint streets and beautiful waterfront (about 1 mile). Meet Geneva at 6 p.m. on Monday, April 2 in front of Hooker Tea Company, 300 Beach Drive, St. Petersburg, 33701, for a 90-minute walking Tour. The entire tour is wheel-chair accessible. Buy tickets from Geneva before or after any Sunday service at the Sharing Abundance Table in Gilmour Hall, or contact Geneva to arrange to buy tickets at a different time if you need to.

Adult tickets: \$15 (or \$10-\$14 on a sliding scale if you can't afford full price); ages 4-12 tickets: \$8 (or \$6-\$7 sliding scale). CASH ONLY. Children under 4 are free. A portion of the ticket sales will be donated to UUSP, and Geneva will donate 10% of her salary and tips that night to UUSP. There are no refunds once you purchase tickets, but they can be exchanged for a regular 8 p.m. tour on another night, subject to availability. We are limited to 22 tickets, so plan to purchase yours soon! Our last Ghost Tour (at John's Pass) was a sellout and a big success, so please plan to join us if you enjoyed it and want to go on a different tour, or if you missed the last one!

Worship Ministry – Planning for Summer 2012

The Worship Ministry will meet at 7 p.m. Monday, April 23 at church, primarily to plan the nine summer worship services that will be led by lay persons and/or guests during July and August.

Summer services generally are more informal and varied in both format and nature than the services during our “regular” church year, September through June. Members and friends have a chance to write and present their own sermons or to read a favorite sermon that they have heard elsewhere. They might offer poetry, dramatic readings or musical messages. Services can celebrate our diversity of beliefs and focus on traditions such as Native American ceremonies or Pagan celebrations, or they might be organized around topics or themes, such as a service exploring the life of a noted UU.

Many people “church shop” during the summer months, so it is also important our Sunday services maintain the high quality and standards we appreciate year-round.

We need many volunteers to fulfill this mission. We need people to serve as worship associates to organize services. We need speakers. We need musicians. Please remember that participating in summer services is about more than just giving your time and energy; it’s an opportunity to explore your own theology and spiritually, and to build community with others who are traveling their own spiritual paths.

Please mark 7 p.m., April 23 on your calendar, rev up your creativity and enthusiasm, and join us to make Summer 2012 a memorable time at UU St. Pete.

Margie Manning, Worship Ministry chair

Key mUUsical Themes From A Person Of Note

We need to have some fun around here. Here’s the idea...a Cantata Sunday featuring the Adult Choir, Children’s Choir and Hand Bell Ringers sharing 7 musical messages in between 7 readings narrated from the pulpit. The theme?...ideas I’ve shared over the past 4 years from the pulpit and music stand...a sort of “thank you” to the music ministry and the other half of the congregation for our past 4 years at this special place. Gratitude, peace, social justice, spirituality, our interconnected web, our church home and love will be the featured concepts portrayed through song and sermon extracts.

So, mark your calendars for the APRIL 22 Sunday service. Bring your relatives, friends, neighbors...anyone who enjoys music or who might resonate with our liberal message. Sound like fun?

Waves of love, Jim

GRAND OPENING

of the new Gilmour Art Gallery
Gilmour Hall

Opening Reception Saturday, April 7th 7-9pm.



This month featuring the work of Watercolor Artist Katy Shields whose body of work will include lotuses and Chinese calligraphy.

FREE TAX HELP

THE AARP FOUNDATION TAX AIDE PROGRAM

CAN HELP most taxpayers (regardless of age)

PREPARE AND ELECTRONICALLY FILE

YOUR 2011 FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN

Please bring the following with you when you come:

- Copy of last year's income tax return(s);
- W-2 forms from each employer;
- Unemployment compensation statements;
- SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social Security benefits;
- ALL 1099 forms (1099-INT, 1099-DIV, 1099-B, etc.) showing interest and/or dividends and documentation showing original purchase price of sold assets;
- 1099-misc. showing any miscellaneous income;
- 1099-R form if you received a pension or annuity;
- All forms indicating federal income tax paid;
- Dependent care provider information (name, employer, ID, Social Security number);
- All receipts or canceled checks if itemizing deductions;
- Social Security cards or other official documentation for yourself and all dependents.

AREA SITES from February 3-April 16, 2012

--Gulfport Library

5501 28th Ave S
Gulfport, FL St Petersburg, fl
Hours: MON 10 AM - 2 PM
FRIDAY 10 AM - 2 PM

--Gulf Beaches Library

200 Municipal Dr
Madeira Beach, FL
Hours: TUE 10:00AM-1:30PM
THU 10:00AM-1:30PM

--St. Petersburg Main Library

3745 9th Ave, N
Hours: WED 10:00 AM – 3 PM
THURS 10:00 AM - 3 PM

--Sunshine Center

330 5th Ave
Saint Petersburg, fl
Hours: FRIDAY 9:00 AM – 2:00 PM

TO LOCATE OTHER TAXAIDE SITES GO TO www.aarp.org/taxaide or call our toll-free number 1-888-AARPNOW

Would you like to learn more about Unitarian Universalism?

Are you exploring whether UU St. Petersburg is the right place for you to become part of our family?

On Sunday, April 1, Rev. Jim and the Board of Trustees will be offering UU 101, a class explaining the basics of our value-based faith, major programs offered by UU St. Pete, and how we govern ourselves.

Class will begin after service in Conway Hall and last about 90 minutes. A light lunch will be offered. If members want to attend, please bring a dish to share. Childcare offered upon request. Call our office at 727-898-3294 or office@uustpete.org to register. If you have any questions, please contact Dave Coale dcoale@tampabay.rr.com or Pam Green pamelatgreen@gmail.com.

The Greening of America

The National Green Pages is a directory listing thousands of businesses that have made firm commitments to sustainable, socially just principles, including the support of sweatshop-free labor, organic farms, fair trade, and cruelty-free products. Brought to you by Green America. Here is their website; <http://www.greenpages.org/>

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UUSP Mission Statement

“Providing a compassionate and welcoming community, inspiring spiritual and intellectual growth, and serving as a beacon for social activism and service.”