



September 2009  
Volume 50 Issue 8

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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."

# SCOPE

Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg  
719 Arlington Avenue North

September 2009

## Waves Of Love From Jim

So, what happens now?

On Sept. 13<sup>th</sup>, our Opening Day, we'll explore answers to that question. It's **Homecoming Sunday** and Water Communion Sunday...so please bring some water that reminds you of your summer as we share thoughts on the upcoming year. Let's all return to our church home on that opening Sunday. Then, on Sept. 20<sup>th</sup> we'll ask the question "How Can We Talk the Walk?" As religious liberals we already walk the talk, now we need to create a system to verbally share that message...let's call it... **Uvangelism**.

**Future Sunday themes** include optimism ("Is Our Glass Half Full, Or What?"), political participation ("Are We Worshipping Obama?"), and social justice in St. Petersburg ("What Can We Learn From Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.?"). We'll explore explanations of our existence and the meaning of life as we ask "What Can We Learn From The World's Religions?" and "What Can We Learn From Humanism?" Together we'll discover what Jesus of Nazareth might really have said, how quantum physics is impacting spiritual thought in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, and why all polar bears are left handed.

As our Summer slowly fades into Fall, I'm grateful to *Pat* for creating a **summer schedule of worship services**. Further thanks to *Margie, Karen, Dave, Jean, Laurie, Linda, Victor, Jeff, Amali, Vandana, Rev. Carole Yorke and Hospice Chaplain Jim Andrews* for speaking at those services. Thanks to *Debby*, we'll launch a Concert Series this Fall, while *Geneva* is beginning another small group opportunity by creating the UUSP Free Spirits. *Dean* and *Victor* spent their summer making our dream of a handbell choir a reality while initiating yet another small group ministry...the Gilmour Gadflies. *Reggie* and his group fed our homeless, *Mike, Deb, Dani, Laurie, Theresa and Rebecca* repaired and redesigned and landscaped while *Waldo, Barbara, Dave* and 45 other fast food experts made money for our church by working at the Trop.

A part of the answer to "what happens now?" is the same as it's always been. We all started our relationship with this special place by living in the St. Pete area within driving distance of the church. We began as guests, newcomers, part of the crowd looking to journey with others while discovering our capacity for love. We then united with this congregation, understanding that the feeling of belonging is supportive to our own spiritual journeys and deepening to our understanding of our own gifts and talents. We then use our talents within the church to further our sense of being a part of this religious community. We love and support each other, knowing that, while we are together in a spirit of love, we are also on our own unique spiritual journeys. We then complete a spiritual circle of sorts, by returning outward again into the St. Pete area to pursue our passions outside of these walls. Ultimately, we strive to share those talents as a ministry... to make a difference in the world. We do these things in order to bring dignity, meaning, worth and joy to all our days.

Waves of love, Jim

**Staff**

The Rev. Dr.  
Jim Culver  
*Consulting Minister*

The Rev. Dr.  
Alec Craig  
*Pastoral Care Minister*

J. Peter Schultes  
*Office Manager*

Margie Manning  
*President*  
*Board of Trustees*

Ian O'Hara  
*Temporary Lead Teacher*  
*of Religious Education*

Richard McKenzie  
*Custodian*

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Reggie Craig  
Laurie Clement  
Teresa Kelly  
Victor Beaumont  
Dave Coale  
Heaven Cacamese  
Jim Dillon

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*Chair*  
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## President's Column

### Beginnings and endings

The Roman philosopher Seneca wrote, "Every new beginning comes from some other beginning's end."

So it is with the church year at UU St. Pete.

The Board of Trustees started this year at our July and August meetings with a wrap-up of our finances from last year. We knew the fiscal year that began July 1, 2008 and ended this past June 30 would be a tough one, and it was difficult, but not quite as bad as we anticipated.

We collected less money from pledges than we budgeted, but we also spent less than expected, thanks to our committees being frugal.

Still, we ended the year spending about \$14,000 more than we collected in revenue. That sounds like a lot, until you recall that when we started the 2008-09 year, we expected to have about a \$39,000 deficit and that we would have to make up for that by asking for extra money from our Endowment and from our designated music fund – two steps we ended up not having to take after all.

We did take about \$10,000 from the maintenance reserve to pay for a roof repair and we dipped into our general fund to cover the \$14,000 operating deficit. We could do that because we have had budget surpluses for several years prior to now, but we can't continue to rely on the general fund to cover us in the future.

There's not much more we can do in terms of spending cuts, so we have to concentrate on increasing our income. Please make every effort you can to pay your pledge. Please participate in our fundraisers, including volunteering to work in the concession booths at Tropicana Field, which this year will bring \$12,000 or more to us. Please remember the church's endowment in your estate planning.

The Board of Trustees has approved small increases in our building rental fees and we hope to market our beautiful church for more events. Each visitor we attract through concerts and other programs is a potential UU who did not realize a liberal religion such as ours existed and could find a spiritual home when they walk through the door. Increasing our membership will boost our budget, but more importantly, help us be a stronger voice for justice and compassion in our community.

Another take on Seneca's quote is the proverb, "Every end is a new beginning." We begin this church year with new ministers and church officers. The Board of Trustees has adopted new guidelines for our meetings so we can accommodate guests while also keeping on task with our agenda. Later this month, we'll have a Leadership Retreat, establishing new priorities for the upcoming year and new ways of working together.

As we get the year rolling, the phrase that comes to my mind is, "We begin again in love." It's often used in reference to Yom Kippur, the Jewish Day of Atonement, a time of seeking forgiveness for past mistakes and renewing a commitment to leading a moral life.

See page 3 .....President

**President continued from page 2**

The phrase also was included in a proposed rewrite of the UUA principles, in which our association of congregations form a covenant with each other, pledge mutual trust and support, and add “When we fall short of living up to this covenant, we will begin again in love, repair the relationship, and recommit to the promises we have made.”

The UUA principles revision was rejected at General Assembly, but that doesn’t negate the wisdom of the sentiment. My hope for UU St. Pete is that we can begin this church year again in love, set aside prior disappointments or disagreements, and recommit to each other.

In love and faith, Margie Manning President, Board of Trustees

**Alec Craig’s Note**

Dear Friends;

In a preaching seminar years ago the instructor directed us to get a Bible, close your eyes, open the Bible, put a finger on a page and then write a sermon based on whatever line occurred. I have done just that. The line is from II Corinthians 9, verse 19: “For ye suffer fools gladly, seeing yourselves as wise.” A similar theme is found in Matthew 7:3.

Unfortunately humans often cling to incorrect interpretation of Exodus 21:24 (and yes you do have to look them up).

Our third principle begins with “Acceptance of one another...”. Given some very broad boundaries of tolerance, acceptance seems to be the wiser way to go to live somewhat compatibly in community. I have a natural inclination toward judgmentalism which puts me at odds with acceptance. What about you? I do strive to be accepting and my children have assured me that with the mellowing of age and ever-lengthening life experience I am increasingly less judgmental for which they are ever grateful, and so am I.

The new “Church Year” is upon us. How will we live in congregational life to strengthen the bonds among us, reach out to others and promote world community? The choice is always before us.

In Faith and Love, Alec

As a PS, you might entertain the thought contained in Isaiah 52:8!!!

**Alec Craig’s Office Hours**

I will be in the church one ½ day each week, probably a morning from 9:00 a.m. to 12:00 Noon, beginning after September 1<sup>st</sup>. At this time, I am not sure which day of the week works best for me. That will be announced at a later time. (As many of you know, I also serve the Spirit of Life Congregation in Odessa and need to balance both schedules to assure appropriate services.) I will also be available here by appointment for other times and will be happy to meet with individuals, couples or groups as needed.

Please feel free to call me for an appointment at my home, 727-393-3499.

Note: when no one else is in the church I prefer to meet with individuals in public places, such as a coffee shop.

In faith and love, Alec

!Escuche! Sus vigilantes levantan para arriba sus voces: juntos gritan para la alegría. Cuando el señor vuelve a Zion, lo verán con sus propios ojos.

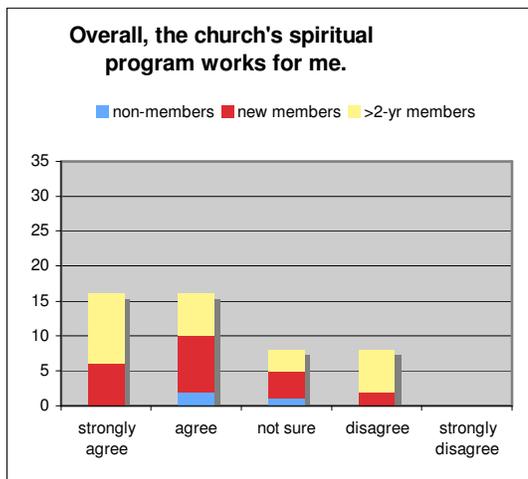
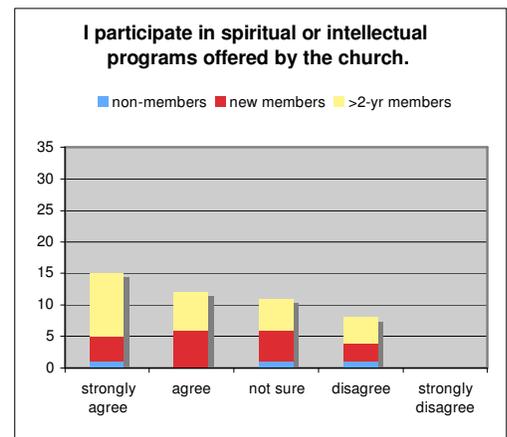
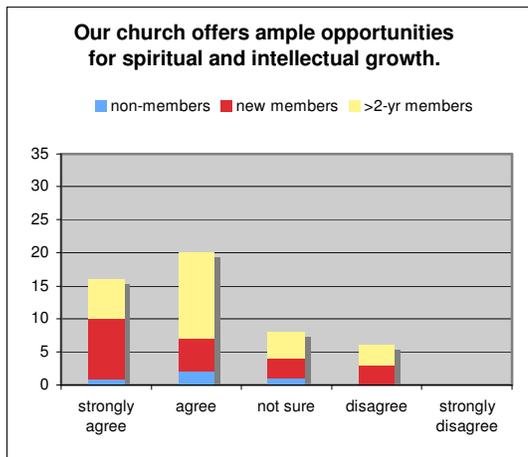
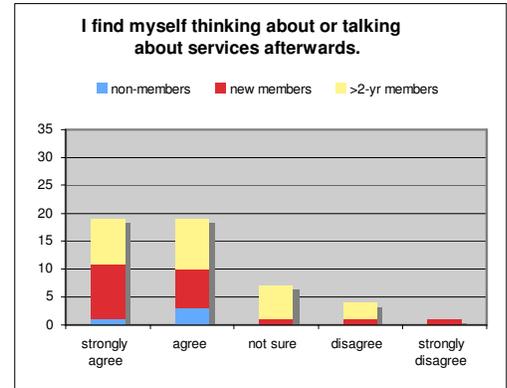
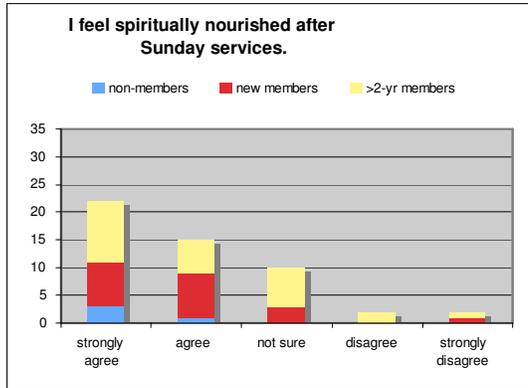
**The Free Spirits**

In this tough economy, are you having trouble being able to afford to go out much and have fun? Lots of folks are in the same boat, but there are many fun and interesting free, or very cheap, things to do in and around St. Pete. We are forming a new social group at the church called Free Spirits to get together and do fun free or very cheap outings. We’ll be scheduling a variety of activities. They could be anything from a bring your own picnic to the beach, any of the many free festivals in the area, free nature hikes, free movies, free tours of local attractions, and lots more. Some events will be more appropriate for adults, but many will be appropriate for all ages. The Free Spirits do not discriminate for financial reasons. You are welcome to come to our events even if you CAN afford to pay to go out! Find the Free Spirit Events scattered throughout SCOPE.

## Survey – “Spiritual and Intellectual Growth” Results

This article is the second in a three-part series reporting your responses to our congregational health survey. This month we focus on feedback related to our Mission Statement’s second theme, “Inspire spiritual and intellectual growth.”

Here is a graphic representation of the responses by question:



While mostly positive, the above responses were not as strong as those in the other Mission areas. Interestingly, long-time members tended to give lower scores to these questions than did new members and non-members.

Relative to survey averages, fewer respondents agreed when asked whether the spiritual program at UU St. Pete works for them overall. Fewer still indicated that they participate in the church’s spiritual and intellectual programs.

More respondents gave positive scores to the questions about UU St. Pete’s Sunday services. In particular, several of you added comments about the high quality of this past year’s Music Program.

The Covenant Groups that were introduced in 2008-09 were cited in the comments section as a highlight of our spiritual and intellectual ministries. Many of you stated that you are looking for more in the same vein of deeper spiritual discussions.

After much analysis of your responses and comments, the Committee on Ministry presented to the Board of Trustees a matrix of ideas to address concerns and build upon success stories. Please know that your voices have been heard, and please continue to contribute to our shared ministry. The work (and play!) of our church belongs to all of us.

Your 2009-2010 Committee on Ministry is Michael Howard (chair); McKell Moorhead; Alex Bolton-Schultes; and Michael Pohl. Outgoing members Karen Coale and Karen Frank were also heavily involved in the assessment process.

**UUA TRUSTEE TIDBITS**

Joan Lund, September 2009

In Tampa we have the good fortune of having Ron Hammerle as a friend. He has done much research on mega-churches, including attending Sunday services at several of them. He has come to a number of conclusions about what is universal with all of them and may be useful to us as we work to welcome guests and grow. This month I share some of Ron's findings. Thank you, Ron.

The single most effective step in growing a congregation is to bring a friend to church for either a topical interest group or a planned service. Mega churches are comprised and sustained by small, special interest groups. These small groups serve as leadership training places as well as provide fellowship. Most guests who become members do so because of their participation in small groups, rather than attendance at the regular service. Hymnals are not used; the words are projected on a screen and state of the art sound and video is present. The choirs of these churches consist of talented, well-prepared, semi-professional singers who are dressed casually. These churches feature contemporary, upbeat, melodic music and they use contemporary musical instruments, specifically not an organ. Although there is emphasis on making guests feel welcome it is not overdone...no proselytizing.

From Rick Warren, *The Purpose Driven Church*, which perhaps many of you have read, Ron has gleaned pearls of wisdom. It is important in leadership to be able to distinguish what is essential and what is not. In Warren's church each first-time guest receives a welcoming letter and an enclosed pre-paid postcard which contains three questions: 1) What did you notice first? 2) What did you like best? 3) What did you like least? Nearly 90% of the thousands responses to the first question received say the guest noticed the warmth and friendliness of the people. In addition Warren believes the church can drain the life out of people by committee work. There are no committees in his church, just different lay ministries. He says the difference is committees discuss it, ministries do it; committees talk and consider, ministries serve and care; committees discuss needs, ministries meet needs.

I visited one "mega-church" in August, Without Walls International in Tampa, totally devoted to the love and gospel of Jesus, led by a dynamic, charismatic woman. But the atmosphere was more like what I know of early evangelical revivals so perhaps attendance at another "more representative" church is in order. According to Ron, who also attended that Sunday, WWI is not a good representative mega-church. To be sure I learned little; it was loud, the congregants wandered in and out as the "spirit" moved them, and I observed no encouragement from the pulpit for congregants to think or question.

I wish all of you in our Florida congregations a good and meaningful year as you pursue excellence and your work in social justice. You can reach me at [jlund@uua.org](mailto:jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727. I look forward to hearing from you.

### Surviving Unemployment

On Saturday, September 12 there will be a seminar for family and friends who may be looking for a job or trying to cope in these tough economic times.

It will be at the Good Samaritan Episcopal Church, 2165 NE Coachman, Clearwater (*North on Belcher Rd past Drew St. Turn left next light, Coachman Rd*) from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. A Free Lite Breakfast and Lite Lunch will be served. Call 727-531-7704 for more info

(Sponsored by Good Samaritan, Hope Presbyterian, St. Catherine of Siena Catholic, St. John's Episcopal, Unitarian Universalists, **and** Unity Congregations)

### Articles to Scope:

You can submit via email to [pubs@uustpete.org](mailto:pubs@uustpete.org) or place your article in the *Scope* mailbox at the church office. The deadline for *Scope* is the 20th of every month.

**Please sign all submissions.** Due to space constraints, lengthy articles may be edited and non-time sensitive articles may be held for subsequent issues.

## Tropicana Volunteer Opportunity Updates

We're almost into September and we have to staff our Pizza and Beer/HotDog Booths just 10 more times until the season is over! Where did summer go? Of course, here in Florida it's still summer for a couple more months.

### September Dates

Tuesday, September 1 -- Hot Dog/Beer booth--4 PM report time

Thursday, September 3--both booths--report time is 4 PM.

**Sunday, September 6 against Detroit, report time is 11:00 AM with the game at 1:40 PM. Please let Waldo know as soon as possible if you are available! this is the Sunday of Labor Day weekend!! We cannot miss today!! We have both booths.**

Saturday, September 19--Hot Dog/Beer booth--4:00 report time

Tuesday, September 29--Pizza Booth--4:30 report time

Friday, October 2--both booths--4:30 report time

Sunday, October 4--Hot Dog/Beer booth--11:00 AM report time.

**As of today, we have received \$6,777.88 for games worked through July 28th plus tips of \$236.53 for a total of \$7,014.41. We are well on our way towards earning \$12,000 for t our Church's operating budget! Thanks to all of you who have worked so hard this year!**

**CHEER ON OUR RAYS! Go RAYS! GO TO THE POST SEASON!**

Your Pizzaman, Waldo

### Church Bulletin Bloopers

- Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles, and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.
- The outreach committee has enlisted 25 visitors to make calls on people who are not afflicted with any church.
- Evening massage - 6 p.m.
- The Pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday morning.
- The audience is asked to remain seated until the end of the recession.
- Low Self-Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 to 8:30 p.m. Please use the back door.
- Ushers will eat latecomers.
- The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.
- For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.
- The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

### First Sunday Potluck Lunch, September 13!

As is customary, we have moved our fabulous **First Sunday Potluck Lunch** to September 13, the second Sunday, to coincide with our annual Homecoming Service. This will be a special lunch to celebrate the start of the new church year with our two ministers, Rev. Jim Culver and Rev. Alec Craig, so let's make it extra-special! It's our tradition to bring a dish to share with others (6 to 8 people) - an entree, side dish, salad or dessert. Both vegetarian dishes and entrees are especially appreciated.

Please remember that the First Sunday Lunch is a reflection of who we are as a community, so let's show our guests and newcomers that the members of our congregation have real culinary skills! If you are unable to provide food, a \$3.00 donation is requested. Let Cheryl and Mark MacNeill know if you can volunteer to help serve lunch and/or cleanup afterward. Also, you can contact them if you have any questions at macneill2@verizon.net.

### Mystery Dinner Theatre

Mystery Dinner Theatre is coming this Fall! Hold Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup> open and join us for the initial cruise of the SS Gilmore. St. Pete UU tried hosting conventions to raise revenue and now, we are co-owner of a recently refurbished cruise ship - made possible by stimulus money as a shovel ready project. The results are a murder mystery, red herrings, less than skillful investigation; suspicion everywhere, inept staff and crew, fun and hijinks! The dinner is a potluck fundraiser as it was last year. If you attended last year's event, you know how much fun it was. If you weren't there last year, ask folks who attended to learn how enjoyable it was. More details coming soon. Please be ready to sign up beginning 9/13! Sign-up sheets will be available in Gilmour Hall.

### Our 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Monthly Concert Series!

UUSP 1<sup>ST</sup> annual Monthly Concert Series starts sooner than you think! The concert series will feature music of almost all genres, filling the sanctuary with sound! Starting the evening of Friday, September 18<sup>th</sup>, and continuing the third Friday of every month, we will feature local and visiting artists.

Our first performer is the internationally known/national recording artist Stacey Knights [www.staceynights.com](http://www.staceynights.com). Stacey fuses jazz, pop, rock and blues into an incredibly tantalizing mix.

What do we need from you? Well, three things...

Mark your calendar for every third Friday of the month, starting in September

Music loving volunteers! If you know anything about various types of music/artists or just love music, please join our already great group of people. Also, if you are willing to house artists coming from out of the area for the night/weekend (so they could join us on Sunday, too), please contact me?

Your vote on what our official name should be. There have been a few names flirting around and we'd like your vote. Since all of our proceeds are going to charity, incorporating "karma" in the name was suggested. So far we have "Karma Café", "KarMuusic" or "Muusic Fills The Night". (With or without the optional double-u's) Please email or call me with your choice or suggest a new one?

### Free Spirit Events

**Saturday, September 12**, 5 – 9 p.m.: Downtown Art Walk. Beth Fountain will meet you in the Globe Coffee Shop at 532 1<sup>st</sup> Ave N ( <http://www.globecoffeelounge.com> ) at 5pm. Many nearby galleries will be open till 9 o'clock that evening. Three such galleries include Florida Craftsmen Gallery at 501 Central Ave, the Arts Center two blocks west, at 719 Central, and Studio 620 at 620 1<sup>st</sup> Ave S. Maps will be available for those who want to explore some of the other 20 galleries open that evening. <http://www.stpetearts.org>

**Thursday, September 17**, 7 - 10 p.m.: Open Mic Night at Wings Bookstore and Coffee Bar, 460 46<sup>th</sup> Ave North, St. Petersburg, FL 33703 (727)-527-2222 <http://wingsbookstore.com> Most of the performers at this Open Mic are musicians, but they also have poets and other kinds of performers. UU St. Pete member Geneva Nelson will tell stories for all ages. Admission is free, and you can buy coffee, tea, and pastries there. If you need to arrive late or leave early, that's fine. Seating is very limited. If you want to sit with Free Spirits, arrive by 6:30 or RSVP to Geneva Nelson. If you want to perform that night, arrive before 7 to sign up and choose your 10-minute time slot.

**Sunday, September 20**, 2009, 5 – 8 p.m.: And, now, for something completely different. . .Every Sunday evening, the all female rock band Karmic Tattoo (<http://www.karmictattoomusic.com> ) plays for free on the patio at Gulfport's On The Rocks bar. (On Shore Blvd across from the Gulfport pier <http://www.myspace.com/gulfportontherocks> ) KT, with lead singer Lisa Noe, does a really good job with covers of music from the 80's and more current hits—you will recognize most of their songs. Sodas are \$1.25 and beer is cheap and cold. The crowd is predominately lesbian, with a healthy mix of straight folks. Probably not the place to bring young children. Beth Fountain will meet you there at 5pm on, and the band plays until 8pm.

**Saturday & Sunday, September 26 – 27**, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. See [http://creativeclay.org/site/?page\\_id=83](http://creativeclay.org/site/?page_id=83). Creative Clay, making the arts accessible to all in the community, announces its third annual folkfest st. pete, a street folk art festival featuring the work of folk, outsider and visionary artists and musicians from around the country. Folkfest st. pete will take place on Central Avenue between 11<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup> Streets, right in front of Creative Clay, 1124 Central Avenue in St. Petersburg. This year, folkfest st. pete has gone green! Included are local green organizations, recycling bins and new partnerships with local green initiatives. Geneva Nelson will meet you on Sat. at 10 a.m. near the music stag

More Events May Be Scheduled After Scope's Publishing Deadline. Check Each Sunday's Order Of Service, Infonet, Or Contact One Of The Free Spirit Coordinators For Updates.

**SEPTEMBER 2009**

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 10:00 AM Discussion Gp 11:00 AM Sunday Service (S) 12:30 PM Fair Trade Sunday	31 9:00 AM Open Yoga	1 6:00 PM Yoga G 7:00 PM Social Justice	2 5:45 PM Building and Grounds Committee C1 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal MU 7:17 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal MU	3 9:00 AM Open Yoga 6:45 PM Picnic in the Playground	4 9:00 AM Open Yoga 6:45 PM Picnic in the Playground 7:30 PM Yoga class with live music G	5 9:00 AM Yoga
6 Food Collection Sunday 10:00 AM Discussion Gp 11:00 AM Sunday Service (S)	7 Labor Day	8 7:00 PM Worship Committee CD	9 6:00 PM Yoga G 7:00 PM Board of Trustees --Conway	10 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal MU 7:17 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal MU	11 9:00 AM Open Yoga 6:45 PM Picnic in the Playground 7:30 PM Yoga class with live music G	12 8:00 AM Unemployment Seminar 9:00 AM Board of Trustees Retreat 9:00 AM Yoga 1:00 PM Board of Trustees and Program Council Retreat
13 First Sunday Lunch Potluck 10:00 AM Discussion Gp 11:00 AM Sunday Service (S)	14 9:00 AM Open Yoga	15 6:30 PM Migrant Subcommittee FO	16 6:00 PM Women's Forum 6:00 PM Yoga G 7:30 PM Beginning Yoga	17 5:30 PM Program Council C1 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal MU 7:17 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal MU	18 9:00 AM Open Yoga 6:45 PM Picnic in the Playground 7:30 PM Concert Series	19 9:00 AM Yoga
20 Food Collection Sunday SCOPE Deadline 10:00 AM Discussion Gp 11:00 AM Sunday Service (S) 6:30 PM Gámuir Gaedies	21 9:00 AM Open Yoga	22 First Day of Autumn	23 6:00 PM Yoga G 7:30 PM Beginning Yoga	24 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal MU 7:17 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal MU	25 9:00 AM Open Yoga 6:45 PM Picnic in the Playground 7:30 PM Yoga class with live music G	26 9:00 AM Yoga
27 Share the Plate 10:00 AM Discussion Gp 11:00 AM Sunday Service (S)	28 9:00 AM Open Yoga	29	30 6:00 PM Yoga G 7:00 PM GLBT Subcommittee 7:30 PM Beginning Yoga	1 5:45 PM Building and Grounds Committee C1 6:30 PM Handbell Rehearsal MU 7:17 PM Adult Choir Rehearsal MU	2	3 9:00 AM Yoga

This calendar is taken directly from the UU Saint Petersburg website. Everyone should consult the website calendar frequently for updates and changes. We recommend that group leaders and committee chairs check all the information pertaining to there groups to ascertain accuracy.

## Revised Amendment to the Church Bylaws on Membership

At the last Annual Meeting on April 26, 2009 a proposed amendment to our church Bylaws concerning membership was presented. After some discussion, a motion was made, seconded, and passed to postpone further discussion until it could be reviewed in more depth. At the following Board of Trustees meeting, Victor Beaumont was asked to form a subcommittee including Amali Zawadi, Membership Chair, and Sally Carville, Treasurer, to draft a new version and present it to the congregation. They have completed their assignment and the new version is printed below (**changes are bolded**).

Amali, Sally and Victor request that you review this new version of the proposed amendment. They will schedule several meetings during the following months to gather your comments. If there is general consensus on the wording, a congregational meeting will be scheduled in the October timeframe to put the amendment up for a vote.

### ARTICLE I - MEMBERSHIP

#### Section 1. Qualification.

Any person who has reached the age of **fourteen (14)** years and is in sympathy with the purpose and methods of this Church may become a member by signing the Church Membership Book **in the presence of a minister or a member of the Board of Trustees**. In order to maintain membership, Members are expected, **as they are able**, to participate **in the life of the church by attending church functions, serving the church community, and supporting the church financially by making an annual pledge of record**. **Membership shall be open to all qualified persons regardless of race, color, gender-identity, physical ability, affectional or sexual orientation, or national origin. There is no credal test for membership.**

#### Section 2. Vote.

The right to vote at any meeting of the Church shall be reserved to those persons who have been members for a period of sixty (60) days. **The right to vote on any matter, question or proposal involving the creation or continuance of a financial obligation on behalf of the Church shall be further reserved to those voting members who are eighteen (18) years of age or older and have made a pledge of support for the current fiscal year.** In order to maintain their right to vote, members must keep the Financial Secretary of the Church informed of their addresses, both permanent and during any periods of extended absence from their permanent addresses.

#### Section 3. Service.

Eligibility to serve as an Officer, Trustee or as a Trustee for Endowments shall be reserved for voting members of the Church who are eighteen (18) years of age or older.

#### Section 4. Revocation of Membership **and Removal of Inactive Members.**

Membership may be revoked for just cause by action of the Board of Trustees. Notice of any proposed revocation shall be given by mail, at the last known address to the member no more than thirty (30) and not less than seven (7) days before the meeting of the Board of Trustees at which such action will be considered. The time and place of such meeting shall be included in the notice.

**Members who have not resigned but who are thought to be inactive may be removed from membership if they fail to respond within sixty (60) days to a written inquiry. The inquiry must state that failure to respond will result in removal from membership. Notifications under this section may be made only by a committee designated for that purpose by the Board.**

#### Section 5. Resignation.

A member may resign by notifying the church office.

## Group Contacts

### Building & Grounds

Mike Nashleanas 290-6212

### Care Committee

Vacant

### Children's Religious Education

Morgan Gresham 327-6075

### Committee on Ministry (COM)

Michael Pohl 327-6075

### Communications Working Group

Morgan Gresham 327-6075

### Finance

Vacant

### Hospitality Team

Cheryl MacNeill 323-1439

### Membership

Amali Zawadi 475-0830

### Music

Jim Culver 616-318-4664

### Personnel

Jean Powell 528-6429

### Scope

Peter Schultes 898-3294

### Social Justice

GLBT Subcommittee  
Ellen Mefford 452-3236  
Homeless Subcommittee  
Reggie Craig 631-1031  
Migrant Subcommittee  
Karen Coale 898-8038

### Worship Committee

Pat Robinson 418-7004

### Yoga

### Church Officers

John Flournoy,  
Clerk

Sally Carville,  
Treasurer

Kathy O'Farrell,  
Assistant Treasurer

Michael Manning,  
Financial Secretary

David Spangler,  
Asst. Financial Sec.

### **Greetings from your Migrant Subcommittee**

In late October **Migrant Families will begin returning to the Plant City area** from working northern harvests. We plan to once again visit camps where they work and live -- bringing children's clothing. So as you or your grand kids put aside the clothing they have outgrown – consider giving their gently used clothes to these kids.

Please place these donations in the alcove between the kitchen and Gilmour Hall under the sign: **Children's Clothing**. Our first visit to the camps will be on **Saturday, November 7<sup>th</sup>**, and we will be sorting your donations on **Sunday, October 25<sup>th</sup>** after service and coffee and conversation. Please mark both dates on your calendar.

We are also supporting **an immigrant family who lives here in St Petersburg**. This family was recommended by Luis Echeverri and John Dubrule who have supported the mother as part of their work at Gulfcoast Legal Services. The food you donated in May and June was given to this family of seven. Three members of the Migrant Subcommittee met the mother, Maria, and her youngest, Christopher an adorable 3 year old, when we brought the food to her home in July. The August Share the Plate will help defray the expense of five of her children returning to school this month. Maria left an abusive situation and came to St Petersburg seeking a safer environment to raise her children. She works fulltime as a domestic in one of the local hotels.

Just before Christmas we will once again participate in the **Holiday Gift Distribution** in Plant City – providing new underwear or socks to each child who is registered. Last year that was over 600 kids. The Share the Plates for September, October and November will help fund these necessities as will your donations to the Giving Tree during a December service.

Though **Immigration Reform legislation** has been put on the back burner until 2010 – the need has not diminished. We will continue to bring to your attention some of the on-going injustices that such legislation could prevent. At the October 18<sup>th</sup> service Walter Lara, a student from Argentina, will speak about his experiences and how the DREAM Act can help other students like him.

We understand that the Administration's agenda is very full – and that priorities need to be set. Unfortunately so much is broken and needs to be fixed.

The above is a sampling of the work organized by your Migrant Subcommittee. We encourage your participation in any of the events, and we welcome your ideas and thoughts. Please join us at one of our **monthly meetings where we do our planning**. They are held in Conway Hall at 6:30pm on the third Tuesday of each month. Our next meeting is on **September 15<sup>th</sup>**.

#### **Social Justice Collections**

Mark your calendars and bring your donations.

Non perishable Food – 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Sundays

Share the Plate – 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of the month

## Musical Notes

So, what will be key to growing our music ministry even sharper this season? For starters, how about two new musical groups?

Thanks to *Victor and Dean* for getting married...well, actually for graciously encouraging their gifts to go towards the purchase of a set of **handbells**, another vehicle to strengthen our love for each other in community. Never played before? Don't read music well or at all? No worries...rehearsals begin Thursday, Sept. 3 at 6:30, followed at 7:15 by our Adult Choir rehearsal. Thanks to *Margie and the Board* for providing funding to purchase equipment that enables us to form **our own band**...UU2. These volunteer musicians will provide pop/rock/jazz music for gathering music, some hymn accompaniment and some choir backup.

This **Christmas Eve** we'll launch a new holiday traditional by coming together in another **intergenerational musical** featuring more kids and more families. This zany play, written just for our church, portrays UU interpretations of the birth of the baby Jesus scrambled with "'Twas The Night Before Christmas" and Dicken's "A Christmas Carol." Of course this brief musical will feature Mary, Joseph and lots of animals (none of them sheepish, however). Plus we'll need actors to be Santa, Scrooge, Vixen, Blitzen, Marley's Ghost, the Three Wise Women and many more. Christmas Eve will be all about our wonderful community coming together in this special place to experience a magical moment outside of Sunday morning.

Want to be involved in more schtick a la "Tut Tut?" We'll once again present a larger **intergenerational musical this Spring** as well. This year's concept...**an old time radio show**. More speaking roles, more small group ensembles and more child/teen involvement. We'll feature singing commercials, serial adventures, comedy shows, "You Were There" news flashes, and sound effects tables while listening to Flash Gordon, Bob Hope & Bing Crosby, George Burns and Gracie Allen, Groucho Marx, Girl Lombardo and Her Royal Floridians, the Shadow, and Jack Armstrong. For those wishing to be a part of the community yet wanting a lesser role, we'll also feature obnoxious ushers, popcorn sellers and audience cue card holders. Thanks to the directorial/production talents of *Anne Justiss*, we once again will experience the joy of intergenerational experiences this season.

Adult Choir, Children's Choir, Handbell Ringers, Guest Artists, organ postludes, piano medleys, band lead hymns, MIDI keyboard preludes, two intergenerational musicals...sounds like fun. Practices begin Thursday, Sept. 3...just let me know when you're ready.  
Jim

## Gilmour's Gadflies

**Who are the "Gilmour's Gadflies"?** The Rev. Dr. George Gilmour was minister of our church from 1932 to 1948. Gilmour Hall is named in his honor. We have taken on his name to honor his time as our minister. As gadflies we are a group of socially-progressive provocateurs who enjoy dining together while at the same time enjoying stimulating conversations, witty repartees, amusing anecdotes, and close fellowship.

**Who can join?** Anyone who attends the Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg is welcome to join any or all of the gatherings. There are no membership dues, no officers, and absolutely no rules, except to be sociable and enjoy a great evening out.

**How much does it cost?** The cost range of each event is set out in the Fall Schedule. It is "Dutch Treat." Each person pays their own bill.

**Are reservations necessary?** Yes. You can call or email your reservation up to two days prior to the scheduled date. Please call Dean Robinson at 727/322-828. Better yet, send an email to [gre8dean@hotmail.com](mailto:gre8dean@hotmail.com). If transportation is a problem, let me know so I can help you arrange a ride.

**Where are the gatherings held?** We meet at restaurants and wine shops located at different places around the Tampa Bay area. The web site is listed for each gathering to enable you to see the menu and check out the location.

### Fall 2009 Schedule:

September 20 at 6:30 p.m.  
Pierogi Grill  
1535 Gulf to Bay Blvd.  
Clearwater  
Lots of Good Polish Food  
Most entrees less than \$10  
[www.pierogigrill.com](http://www.pierogigrill.com)

October 18 at 6:30 p.m.  
Yummy House  
2202 W. Waters Avenue  
Tampa  
Authentic Hong-Kong Style  
Banquet  
Most entrees less than \$10

November 22 at 7:00 p.m.  
Karen & Dave Coale's  
111 26<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE  
St. Petersburg  
Red Wine Tasting Party  
Led by our own oenophile Dave Coale  
\$10 per person



Please watch for InfoNet announcements on the subject, description and presenter for the summer schedule of sermons.

## Months of Sundays



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of Saint Petersburg  
719 Arlington Ave. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL  
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