



WILDFLOWER CHURCH

A Unitarian Universalist congregation

*We offer a
spiritual home
for religious
liberals*

SETTING A VALUE ON WILDFLOWER



Gary Lichtenstein stirs up some enthusiasm for giving.

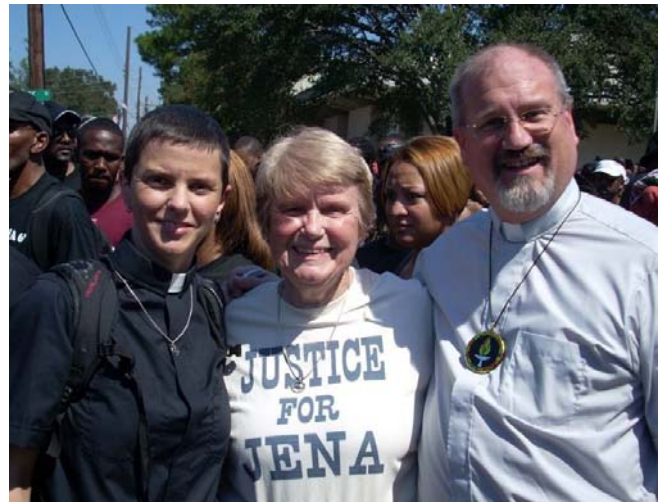
During the official Start-up weekend in September, we were asked to identify what Wildflower means to us. This is something that has been on my mind quite a bit recently with the kick-off of the Stewardship

campaign. What

does Wildflower mean to me? For me, the answer simple - it means a place where I can be myself and not only be accepted, but where I will be encouraged to be the most authentic me I can be. This church enriches me, supports me, encourages me. So, why is Wildflower Church important to you? What is it that keeps you coming back week after week? How would you fill that hole if Wildflower were not here? I cannot imagine my life without Wildflower. I wouldn't be the same person without this community. So, as the Stewardship Campaign continues, I find that my annual pledge has new meaning to my life this year. I am pledging to support the community that supports me. The proposed 2008 budget is \$144,412. Our goal is to fully fund the budget and we typically get some income through non-pledged donations, but we need at least \$122,850 to approve the proposed budget. Wildflower

leadership including the Board, committee chairs, and the stewardship committee have already submitted their pledges for 2008, providing us 40% of the pledge goal. That leaves 60% of the pledge goal still needed. Hopefully by now you have attended or are planning to attend one of the New Adventure Parties and had a chance to submit your thoughts and ideas as well as your pledge. If not, please contact Lois Brown, Chair of the Stewardship Campaign Committee to find out times and dates.

And don't forget to place your pledge into the battery to charge up Wildflower and determine what Wildflower means to you!



Wildflower Church's minister, Rev. Eliza C. Galaher (left), at the September 20th rally for justice in **Jena, Louisiana**, with her colleagues, Rev. Lyn Oglesby of All Souls UU Church in Shreveport, LA, and Rev. Fred L Hammond, who serves in Jackson, MI and Ellisville, MI.

For more photos and information see Steve Caldwell's blog: Liberal Faith Development at: <http://liberalfaith.blogspot.com/2007/09/jena-six-photo-diary-part-i.html>

Wildflower Music

We are off to a great start after our summer vacation. Thanks so much to all those who helped during the vacation and during the times in August when the choir didn't sing. Here's what you missed (or heard):

On August 5 our wonderful Wildflower Peace Train Band played.

Steve Brooks not only gave a great performance in the play on August 12, he also gave us a very welcome selection for our offertory.

On August 19 the Austin Chord Rangers sang for our service. This is an extraordinary group of singers who are capable of singing everything from barber shop to classical and we got a good sample of their talent. Our own Mark Briody is a member of this group and we really appreciate the group sharing their fine music with us.

On August 26 our own Steve Brooks, Dana McBride, and Patterson Barrett, joined by the Wildflower Choir gave us a moving musical tribute to the survivors of Hurricane Katrina and the great City of New Orleans, as well as a special tribute to Robyn Coe. No one can complain about falling sleep in our services! Seriously, we really appreciated Steve's sermon and the great music he helped everyone create that Sunday morning.

On August 29 Oliver Steck shared his talent on the trumpet with us. Throughout all of this, Elke Baitis brought us her usual magic in playing the piano, accompanying guest musicians and taking on the daunting task of conducting and accompanying the Wildflower Choir. Thanks so much to Elke. We are so lucky to have you with us.



Ben Saffer and Oliver Steck play Klezmer September 23
Photo by Holly Cooper

On September 2 Dana McBride, Eliza Gallagher and Patterson Barrett, joined by the Wildflower Choir presented music which carried out the theme of Eliza Galagher's water service. Thanks to all of them for sharing their talents with us.

On September 9 we welcomed back the full complement of the Wildflower Peace Train Band (Dana McBride, Patterson Barrett, Rob Bollinger, Pat Hammonds, and Allison Williams). This fine group is always a welcome addition to our services.

Elke Baitis, our wonderful choir director and pianist, really outdid herself during this time in meeting the needs of the diverse themes of the services and the needs of the musicians, vocalists and choir. In addition to her wonderful music, Elke does a lot of work behind the scenes that really contributes to our services. Thank you so much, Elke.

The choir has two new members, Mary Esther Young and Michelle Baker, and we are very happy to have them singing with us.

The choir practices every Wednesday at SASAC at 7:30 p.m. We also practice each Sunday morning that we sing. That practice begins at 9:30 a.m. It is really helpful to have as many people as possible at choir practices, even on those Wednesdays when we do not sing the following Sunday. This avoids repetition and changes in the way in which we sing together on Sunday. All choir members are urged to attend all practices. Anyone interested in joining us is welcome to join us any Wednesday night.

Martha Allan



Peace Train performing on September 9
Photo by Holly Cooper

WALKING TOGETHER- AND BUILDING A LAND

Thoughts from the Minister



Photo by Lucy Brotherton

Rev. Eliza C. Galaher

One of my favorite hymns in our grey hymnal is Hymn #121, *We'll Build a Land*. Maybe it's because every time I sing the lines, "where justice shall roll down like waters, and peace like an ever flowing stream," I hear the mighty, passionate voice of the late, great Martin Luther King, Jr., quoting from Isaiah and Amos as he comes to the end of his "I Have a Dream" speech. Maybe it's because the vision of "garlands instead of ashes" is such a beautiful, healing one. Or, perhaps it's because the musical composer of this hymn, Carolyn McDade, is one of the originators of our annual water ceremony, as well as the composer of another beloved hymn among Unitarian Universalists, *Spirit of Life*. Maybe I like this hymn because it serves as a reminder that one of our living tradition's many sources is "Jewish and Christian teachings which call us to respond to God's love by loving our neighbors as ourselves." I think, ultimately, I love this hymn because of what happens when I'm singing it with other people: in one moment, all these different reasons I've listed for loving the hymn come together, and it is as if our collective voices indeed have the power to build a land "where we bind up the broken," and where "peace is born."

As we continue to walk together in this new relationship as congregation and minister, let us remember that we are *all* doing the ministry of building such a land, as the hymn affirms. "That land" is the land of the South Austin Senior Activity Center, where we gather on Sunday mornings. "That land" is the community of Austin, where we all, in our own ways, practice loving outreach to others. And, "that land" is the wider circle of this country we live in, as well as of this hurting planet which calls not for the storms of war, but indeed for justice which will roll down "like waters, and peace like an ever flowing stream." Let the garlands we offer to the world be made of wildflowers.

Peace to all,
Reverend Eliza Galaher

Minister's Schedule

Mondays-Thursdays will be regular work days, and I will be keeping hours at the office. My hours actually in the office will cover a window of five to six hours, with time for work time in the evenings including meetings, pastoral visits, collegial meetings, outreach work, etc.

Fridays will be my day off. *I'll most likely only return phone calls if there is an emergency.* I'll be trying to stay away from the computer on Fridays as well.

Saturdays will be my reading/writing/study day, which is a working day. I will make room for meetings as I am able.

Sundays, are church days, and I will most often be there, even when I am not preaching. There may be some Sundays when I need to be elsewhere, but my plan is to be in the pew when not in the pulpit. Sundays often also include meetings, adult programming, and other church-related events. This day will also be open for pastoral meetings, or catching up on office work, correspondence, etc.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION FOR YOUTH & CHILDREN

Halloween Party for Children's and Youth RE October 27, 4-7 p.m.



Please join us for Halloween fun at the home of Lisa Fahlquist and Tommy Lukens.

We will have games, prizes, activities and treats. (weather permitting) Lots of volunteers and donations are needed, please contact Penny Burnette, 447-7994 or Lisa Falquist, 301-2289, if you can help.

Please RSVP by October 20 to Lisa at lfahlquist@austin.rr.com.

TRICK-OR-TREAT FOR UNICEF – OCTOBER 28

The children are invited to wear their Halloween costumes to church on October 28. We will trick-or-treat for UNICEF during the time for all ages time. Please make sure all costumes are appropriate.

THANK YOU!

A big thank you to Richard Pruitt and Pamala Carolan Nelson for visiting the 3rd-5th grade Spirit of Adventure class. Richard sharpened the kid's knowledge about carpentry and showed them some tools of the trade on September 16 and Pam talked to the kids about her fantastic vegetable garden and exploring the native plant world.

TEACHERS

Betty McCreary, Liz Hiles-Fisher, Tommy Lukens, John Worsham, Jennifer Barnes-Worsham, David Burnette, Lisa Fahlquist, Kristen Eveleth, Dana McBride, Lynn Joselyn, and Kathy Wells

CLASS SCHEDULE

10-7	Intergenerational	Everyone stays in the service
10-14	Pre-K, K-2 at Starbright	3-5, 6-8, 9-12 at SASAC
10-21	K-5 Combined for Games at SASAC	Middle School and High School stay in the service or join the younger class for games
10-28	Pre-K, K-2 at Starbright	3-5, 6-8, 9-12 at SASAC



Children of all ages listen to the Story for all ages at a Wildflower Sunday service.

Photo by Holly Cooper

PEACEMAKER BOOK DISCUSSION SERIES

Would you like to have more peace within yourself ... and in our congregation, country, and world? Join us in the Wildflower Peacemakers Book of the Month Series! The first book discussion will be **7 – 9 p.m., Wed., October 10**, at the church office, led by Rev. Eliza Galaher and Annice Ellington. We will have volunteers prepared to share what they found most meaningful in the books, so that you can participate even if you haven't read the book!

The first book will be **Gandhi: The Man**, by Eknath Easwaran, which is available from Amazon.com and local bookstores. It is a readable and fascinating account of Gandhi's deep spirituality and his very public engagement in peacemaking, which invites us to explore our own perspectives on spirituality and peacemaking.

Please let us know that you will attend – if there is enough interest, we will find a larger space – contact Annice Ellington, annice731@hotmail.com, or Judy Morgan, judymorgan711@yahoo.com

Future book discussions will be held on November 14 – *Speak Peace in a World of Conflict: What You Say Next Will Change Your World*, by Marshall B. Rosenberg; and December 12 – *Peace Is Every Step*, by Thich Nhat Hanh.

UU REVIVAL 2007

UU Revival 2007, the seventh held by the Unitarian Universalist Christian Fellowship since the first in New Orleans in 1999, will be held Thursday, Nov. 1, to Sunday, Nov. 4, at West Shore UU Church in Cleveland, Ohio. This year's event will feature three Saturday lectures on the New Paul Perspective by best-selling author and biblical scholar Dr. John Dominic Crossan, whose works include "God and Empire," "In Search of Paul," "The Birth of Christianity," and many more. Saturday only registration is also available at a reduced rate. Also included will be dynamic worship, communion, prayer and healing service, workshops, and small groups, and social activities. More information and online registration is available at [_www.uuchristian.org/revival/_](http://www.uuchristian.org/revival/) (<http://www.uuchristian.org/revival/>).

There will be no Revival scheduled for 2008 so don't miss this one. Early registration discount is good through Oct. 1. Revival is for all regardless of theological orientation. Contact: Rev. Ron Robinson, UUCF Executive Director, [_RevRonRobinson@aol.com_](mailto:_RevRonRobinson@aol.com) (<mailto:RevRonRobinson@aol.com>).

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

December 2, 2007

Freedom of religion and respect for the democratic process are important UU values for which people gave their lives.

Please attend the Winter Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting and exercise your right to vote and speak your mind on church-related issues.

AUGUST 2007 SUNDAY ATTENDANCE RECORD

	Aug 5*	Aug 12	Aug 19*	Aug 26
Adults in Worship	157	115	210	113
Teachers & Helpers	5	8	4	4
Children & Youth	15	14	15	16
Childcare	7	9	11	5
TOTALS	184	146	240	168

AVERAGE ATTENDANCE August 2007 – 185

*Eliza Galaher Preaching

CHILD DEDICATIONS

A Unitarian Universalist child dedication ceremony is a community recognition of and commitment to new life—most often infants and toddlers, newly adopted children, or young children whose families have recently joined the congregation. Generally held during regular church services, child dedications include vows of the parents and the larger family, a moment of naming in which the child is blessed with the presence of the chalice flame, a flower, and water, and finally a charge to the congregational community to be a loving, supporting presence for the child and the child's family.

While it's my understanding that Wildflower Church has traditionally performed dedications that included many families all at once, I want to offer that child dedications are like wedding ceremonies and memorial services, in that they are times meant to be celebrate a particular life, a particular moment in which we gather to support one family in this new stretch of their journey. Also, whereas in many mainstream churches such ceremonies are expected of families by the church, it is my belief that each child dedication should be a choice made by the parents. In that spirit, rather than families perhaps feeling obligated to participate when there is an announcement of a dedication ceremony, I would welcome parents coming to me and saying, "Eliza, we would like to have a dedication ceremony for our young child." This might mean waiting a while, as we will probably keep dedications to one a month, so as not to make them too routine a part of our Sundays. But, however many children we see dedicated this year, however many we commit ourselves to as a loving, welcoming religious community, may it be that we rejoice in their arrival, in the growth that is to come, and in the gift of their very being.

Rev. Eliza C. Galaher

RECRUITING EFFECTIVE BOARD MEMBERS

Do you want Wildflower's Board of Directors to consist of knowledgeable, effective members of the church? If yes, please serve on the Nominating Committee. The goal of the Committee is to ensure the long-term health and vitality of our church by nominating a slate of effective, skilled church members to serve on the Board.

How can you serve on the Nominating Committee?

- Any voting member of the church except current staff and Board members can run for election to the Nominating Committee.
- To run for election, voting members must submit a petition signed by at least five church members to the Board Secretary at least thirty days prior to the Congregational meeting.
- Members of next year's Nominating Committee will be elected during the Semi-Annual Congregational Meeting on December 2, 2007.
- If needed to form a three-person Nominating Committee, the Board will appoint additional members to serve for one year.
- Most of the Committee's work occurs during February-April.

The process of running for election and the responsibilities of the Nominating Committee are described in the church's bylaws (Article V, pages 67-68) and the Policy and Procedure Manual (Nominating, pages 67-68). Both documents are available on the church web site at www.wildflowerchurch.org. You can reach Sara Barker, Board Secretary, at sarbee@yahoo.com.

If you want more information, please contact Jean McDermott, chair of the current Nominating Committee, Committee members Pat Pore and Gay Patterson, or Carol Knight, Board President.

"Localism" Potluck

On October 28th there will be a "Localism" Potluck immediately following the church service. According to the New Yorker magazine "localism" or "locovore" eating as it is sometimes called is a movement to encourage sustainable agriculture by eating food that nearby friends or farmers raise and that don't have to be shipped half way around the world, guzzling fossil fuel to get to your table. The rules generally involve eating food grown within a radius of 100 or sometimes 300 miles of your home.

The "Localism" (local, sustainable or vegetarian) Potluck will be followed by a Global Warming Open Forum. Those attending will receive a free CFL (Compact Fluorescent Lightbulb) compliments of the City of Austin and the Department of Energy.

The potluck will feature our own "Green" silverware enabling Wildflower to be more sustainable. The silverware was graciously provided by Ellen Atha and is meant to be recycled. If you really want to get into the recycling bring your own plate and cup.

SUNDAY SERVICES

October 7: To Walk in the Sacred Way: A Blessing of the Animals. Bring a photograph, drawing, or other representation of your beloved animal companions as we celebrate, in an intergenerational service, our interdependent connections with the slithering, the two-legged, the four-legged, the many-legged, the winged and the finned ones of this earth.

October 14: The God Who Only Knows Four Words. With the end of the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan comes Eid el Fitr, the breaking of the fast. Rev. Galaher will speak to the gift of celebration which holy days like Eid el Fitr remind us to honor.

October 21: Lay-led service, TBA.

October 28: Now We Harvest for Tomorrow. Rev. Galaher will explore how these days of harvest can remind us that we are all stewards of the earth.

MINISTERIAL RELATIONS COMMITTEE

The Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC), formerly the Ministerial Search Committee, is now meeting on a regular basis with Rev. Eliza Galaher. The MRC's role is to assist in monitoring the overall health of the congregation's ministries, which is more than just the work of our new minister. Our shared ministry also includes our leadership and our members all working together to create mutual trust and support.

The MRC is also working with Eliza on developing the framework for a new Committee on Ministry which will replace the MRC in January. This will require changes to the bylaws and will be included in the agenda for the December 2nd congregational meeting.

Very important is that the current MRC and the new Committee on Ministry will be here to help Wildflower build and uphold covenantal relationships among the minister, staff, and the congregation. An additional goal will be for these committees to assist in clarifying role expectations and priorities for both the minister and our members.

Look for more about the new Committee on Ministry in the November newsletter.

Need A Hymnal?

If you are one of those who has had to do without a hymnal at services, you know we are growing and sometimes we don't have enough hymnals or blue hymn books.

Barbara Dickens will have a table at the back during coffee hour where you may order one (or more) for the church. If you wish, it can contain a label with your dedication to someone. We hope to be able to order 25 hymnals (\$30) and 25 blue books (\$17). Will you help?

Wildflower Committee Chairs

Standing Committees

Endowment	Bill Phillips
Facilities	George Neff
Finance	Bill Baker (acting)
Long Range Planning	Jane Wilson
Membership	Pat Laird & Larry Thompson
Ministerial Relations	Kathy Murphy
Nominating	Jean McDermott
Personnel	Carol Knight
Stewardship	Vacant

Program Committees

Adult Programming	Gerry King
Aesthetics	Gay Patterson
Building Committee	Jim Patterson
Caring	Gary Lichtenstein
Capital Campaign	Dagmar Grieder (co-chair)
Children's Religious Education	Lynn Joselyn
Communications	Vacant
Covenant Groups	Richard Pruitt
Denominational Affairs	Barbara Carrington
Fun and Fellowship	Ellen Atha
Hospitality	Mary Cullinane
Music	Jean McDermott
Social Action	Judy Morgan & Faye Maxwell
Stewardship Campaign	Lois Brown
Worship	Allen Fisher
Youth Religious Education	Jennifer Barnes-Worsham & John Worsham

SOCIAL ACTION

Hands On Housing

Alberta Grady has lived in her home for 55 years. She is 73, recently widowed, and lost one of her sons in a shooting. Real estate speculators have offered her money for her house so they can tear it down and build new developments, but have not offered enough for her to realistically relocate. Her desire is to live out her days in her home and to stay in her neighborhood with old friends, family and support. Her house, at 2923 East 16th Street in East Austin, needs exterior paint, exterior wood trim and landscaping as well as plumbing repairs.

Mark your calendar for October 13, the next date for Hands on Housing. Basic to experienced skills are needed. Please bring hammers, paint brushes, and pruning shears. A lunch will be provided on the 13th. Children are encouraged to attend the children's program.

The shifts on October 13 are 9-1, 1-4 and 4-7. On October 14, cleanup day, the time will be 9-10. Carpooling will be available for the first shift at 8:30, at 12:30 for the second shift and at 3:30 for the third shift. Please meet at SASAC on Manchaca for car pooling.

Please contact Karen Schrupp at 512-394-1169 or Ginger Lichtenstein at 512-263-1819 to sign up.



Rev. Eliza Galaher and AAIM Housing Director Kathy Weiner met to inspect the house that selected for Hands on Housing Saturday, October 13th.

Photo by Jon Montgomery

The Greening of South Austin

On Saturday, November 3rd an exciting event for Wildflower Church will occur. The "**Greening of South Austin**," a joint project of the Global Warming Committee, the Social Action Committee and TreeFolks will sponsor a Tree Planting. The native trees, called Mexican Plum, will be supplied by TreeFolks, a local Austin tree grant/education agency. TreeFolks will help with the supervision of the planting. The planting will take place at Woodlawn Baptist Church, 4600 Manchaca. We will be planting Mexican Plum Trees in the boulevard in front of the church. **WE NEED YOUR HELP!**

We will meet at the SASAC Parking Lot at 8:00 AM and go to Woodlawn Baptist Church. Please bring gloves, shovels, rakes and wheelbarrows. The rain date is Saturday, November 10. If you are able to help, please sign up with Ginger Lichtenstein at 263-1819 or Karen Schrupp at 394-1169. Please let us know by October 21. Hope to see you there!

WILDFLOWER TAKES ON GLOBAL WARMING

"Too many people think of Global Warming as only a distant or possible threat. It's neither. It's happening now." Colin Rowan, Austin Environmentalist quoted in the Austin American Statesman of Jan 27, 2007.

October 28 will be Social Action Sunday, this month focusing on Wildflower's involvement in the issue of global warming/climate change. The Social Action Forum will include discussion of starting a churchwide project on "Greening of South Austin" and a Wildflower Statement of Conscience on global warming. A "Sustainable Potluck" is being organized by Ellen Atha focusing on foods that are sustainable. Pledge sheets will be provided for members to indicate actions they will take in the coming year. Brochures will be provided from Austin Energy and other sources addressing global warming in homes, apartments, transportation, tree planting, and other areas. The Global Warming Planning Group is Ellen Atha, Ginger Lichtenstein, Tom Moran, Jeff Hampton, Karen Schrupp, Judy Morgan. If you'd like to help with this effort, please contact Karen at kasa1947@hotmail.com, or Judy at judymorgan711@yahoo.com.



Carol Knight

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Dear Wildflower Congregation,

During the past twenty years, churches with high expectations regarding time, effort, and money have grown more in membership and financial strength. And, when their leaders functioned from an attitude of abundance, congregants responded generously, creating a self-fulfilling prophecy.

According to church literature, people born after 1965 seek meaningful spiritual journeys but they don't expect the journey to be easy. And, because they want a faith that expects commitment, they are more likely to join churches with high expectations regarding membership.

This is borne out in conversations I've had with visitors and members younger than about 43 years of age. One told me that people her age are looking for a church that will help them find meaning in their personal lives and teach their children religious values.

She said people her age are used to paying for what they want, they want to know how much to pay, and they want to be able to pay easily. She also said people her age are used to doing lots of research and then making their decisions quickly. Which means, after finding a church they like, they want to join with no waiting period.

How can we learn from our younger members by supporting higher expectations in terms of time, effort, and money? Some suggestions from Michael Durall for creating a generous church-wide "charitable identity" include:

- Establish a climate in which charitable giving is the hallmark of a life well lived.
- Recognize that being a generous person is one of life's great privileges.
- Give away a larger than average share of the church's income to outreach and social justice, like other vital congregations do, instead of spending all of it on the church itself.
- Resist the UU paradox of claiming to be liberal theologically but acting as if we're archconservatives financially.
- Ask congregants to give 10 percent of their income whenever possible, or make a plan to reach 10 percent within a three year period.

With your participation, we can continue our journey to becoming a generous congregation by supporting higher expectations and giving away more of our money to support social justice.

Gratefully,
Carol Knight, President

*This article is extensively based on *The Almost Church Redefining Unitarian Universalism for a New Era* by Michael Durall; Jenkins Lloyd Jones Press at All Souls Unitarian Church, 2004.

COVENANT GROUPS AND INTEREST GROUPS

PARENT'S GROUP

Meets to discuss family and parental issues in a safe, confidential setting. Usually meets at noon on the second and fourth Sundays in the Snack Room at SASAC. Childcare is provided. Babies are welcome to attend with parents. Open to new members. Contact Liz Hiles-Fisher at 417-2582.

SPIRITUAL PILGRIMS COVENANT GROUP

For exploring, sharing, and supporting each other on our spiritual journeys, using selected books for discussion and a period of meditation. Meets 7-9 p.m. on the first and third Fridays in members' homes. Contact Barbara Dickens, 448-4120.

ELDER COVENANT GROUPS CONTINUE TO BLOOM

Rosemary Maclsaacs facilitates the Wildflower Bluebonnets, which meets at SASAC, and Richard Pruitt facilitates the Hibiscus group, which meets in members' homes. Whether you choose Hibiscus or Bluebonnet, or both, you can count on making

close friends and participating in discussions on almost any subject you can imagine.

WILD MEN

The Wildflower *Wild Men* meet twice each month at 7 p.m. in the church office, 1714 Fortview, Suite 106. We welcome all men interested in getting to know other men of the congregation through interesting discussions of topics generated among the group. For further information contact Richard Pruitt, 440-1098, or Gary Barnhart, (512)278-0000.

WILDFLOWER CUUPS

Wildflower Pagans meet on major sacred days, following the ancient wheel of the year. Other meetings include occasional potlucks in homes and ritual planning sessions. For upcoming meetings and events contact Holly Cooper at hollysmail@austin.rr.com.

COMPASSIONATE FRIENDS

Meets on the third Sunday of each month, noon-1 p.m. We welcome one and all. The meeting room location will be listed in the calendar inside

Want to Schedule an Event?

Helen Burnette prepares and maintains the newsletter calendar and the calendar distributed each Sunday in the Order of Service. She also books space for Wildflower activities at the South Austin Senior Activity Center, and the church office.

your order of service for that Sunday. Contact: Nancy York, 892-2062 or 453-6246.

MYSTICAL & THEOSOPHICAL STUDY GROUP

Meets first and third Sunday at 2 p.m. each month at the church office, 1714 Fortview, Suite 106.



SoulCollage® Affinity Group

SoulCollage® provides insight and connection to your inner wisdom and playful spirit. It invites you to play with collage – allowing images to move themselves into amazingly powerful cards. The group will meet on third Sundays, 1:30-4:30 p.m. in member's homes. The September meeting will be at the home of Carol Knight, 34 Pillow Road. RSVP to Pat Laird, 282-2551, pflair@yahoo.com. Additional information is available at www.SoulCollage.com.

HERITAGE BOOK CLUB

Our book for 8:00 p.m. Friday, October 12, is "Be-Witched!: How Birds Can Change a Life", by Marjorie Valentine Adams, a long time First UU member. Eleanor Morris will host. Eleanor's address is 4818 Hale Dr. in SW Austin. Her telephone number is 892-1850.

You may borrow a copy of the book from Mary Jane Ford. If you were at the meeting when she nominated it, you may purchase a copy from her for \$15.00. You may purchase the book from either Mary Jane or from Marjorie Adams for \$25.00.

Mary Jane Ford: 926-4122 email: mjaneford@grandecom.net

Marjorie Adams: 899-9304

For those who read ahead, the November book is The Flamenco Academy by Sarah Bird.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

If you are a newer member of Wildflower, or a visitor contemplating joining us, this information will be useful to you to know better what we are about:

Religious Education: Classes address topics such as Unitarian Universalism, sacred texts, world religions, and liberal religious theology.

Adult Programming: Life Enrichment Classes explore topics such as cooking, yoga, meditation, dreams, parenting, relationships, marriage enrichment, etc.

Adult Programming: Affinity Groups meet monthly to explore common interests.

“Articulating Your UU Theology.” Five sessions: November 4, 11, 18, 25 and (skipping one Sunday), December 9. Please notice the change in dates. Meeting time is noon to 2 p.m. This group will meet in our new church office at 1714 Fortview Road, Suite 106. Have you a question or two on Unitarian Universalism? Do you know an “elevator answer” to what is a “UU”? New and even some longer-time members will benefit from this ARE group to be facilitated by Rev. Eliza Galaher.

“Henry David Thoreau.” Three sessions: Feb. 10, 17, and 24, noon to 1:30 p.m. in our church office. Facilitator: Rev. Eliza Galaher.

Not yet scheduled. “Cakes for the Queen of Heaven;” “Moral Values for a Pluralistic Society” (a Study/Action Issue of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations from the 2005 General Assembly in Fort Worth, TX); “World Religions” (Huston Smith; a ‘sampler’ of various religions); “Unplug The Christmas Machine” (to be offered in October '07. This course is about planning to have Christmas the way you want it to be, and not be a tool in the Christmas machine) and “Weaving The Fabric of Diversity.”

Upcoming/Needs: Pat Laird, our reigning Queen of Annual Wildflower Women’s Retreat, is stepping down from her throne after this 2007 event. If you want to wear the crown, please contact Gerry King, chair of Adult Programming, or Rev. Eliza Galaher.



*The Membership team of Wildflower Church
invites you to our*

Wildflower Connections Classes Sundays, September 30, October 7 and 14 11:45 a.m. to 12:45 p.m.

This series of three classes will take place at the church after the service. Child care will be provided if you notify us in advance.

Connections Classes are a time to learn about how our church is organized and how you can find your place in this warm and loving community. Connections Classes are highly recommended for all who want to be an active part of Wildflower Church, whether or not you are interested in becoming a member.

Session 1 – September 30

History of Unitarianism, Universalism, and Unitarian Universalism
Focus on both polity and theology UU governance—congregational polity, both within each congregation and as community of autonomous

Session 2 – October 7

History of Wildflower
Adult and Children’s Religious Education Programming

Session 3 – October 14

Learning More About Committees
Caring, Stewardship, Worship, Social Justice

We hope that you can attend all three classes. Please RSVP to Pat Laird, 282-2551 or pflaird@yahoo.com or Larry Thompson, 292-6684 or larrycthompson@gmail.com so we can get a count of those attending including children needing child care.

SOCIAL ACTION SUNDAY OCTOBER 2: A CHANCE TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE

You can participate in the following ways:

- 1) Bring food items to donate to the food pantry.
- 2) Bring used batteries to be recycled.
- 3) Bring used printer cartridges to be given to the Food Bank.
- 4) Bring used compact fluorescent bulbs to be disposed of safely.
- 5) Donate to the Second Offering to benefit a local charity.
- 6) Come to the Social Action Forum, 12 noon to 1 pm. This month the focus will be on Global Warming – see article elsewhere.

VOLUNTEER FAIR - NOVEMBER 4

Please attend Wildflower's Volunteer Fair after church to learn more about our church's wonderful programs for children and adults. And, please volunteer a few hours to support the program you most want our church to continue offering. We need you!

August 2007 Financials

Accounting Fund Balances as of August 31, 2007

Operating Fund [unrestricted]	58,808.33
Total Unrestricted Funds	58,808.33

Restricted & Designated Funds

Ministry Fund - Designated	20,959.50
Capital/Building Fund - Designated	66,196.86
Capital/Building Fund - Temporarily Restricted	11,914.74
Endowment Fund - Temporarily Restricted	19,049.38
Total Restricted & Designated Funds	118,120.48

Total Fund Balances This Month	176,928.81
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Total Fund Balances July 31, 2007	178,282.55
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Fund Balances Increase (decrease)	(1,353.74)
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August Receipts

Pledge Payments	\$9,850.00
Misc. Sunday Contributions	1,357.25
Memorial Fund Contributions - Undesignated	10.00
Total August Contributions	11,217.25

Other Income

Investment Income (Loss)	104.63
Total August Receipts	11,321.88

Total August Disbursements	12,675.62
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Increase (decrease) in All Funds	(1,353.74)
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OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

Travis Ell	10/03
Carol Meredith	10/08
Ira Worsham	10/08
Frances Osborne	10/09
Judy Walker	10/09
Kathleen Grobe	10/11
Patterson Barrett	10/12
Peter Knight	10/13
Bill Phillips	10/14
Gerry King	10/15
Rabia Clark	10/16
Arwen Heil-Rayne	10/16
E. Marie Baker	10/22
Louise Messano	10/22
Jules Langert	10/28

ANNIVERSARIES

Penny & David Burnette	10/11
Jeannine Tinsley & Roger Stricklin	10/15
Jane and Larry Wilson	10/19
Mary and David Taylor	10/23
Sonia and Travis Ell	10/25

AUGUST FLOWERS

August 5; from Jan Austin

August 12; from Gerry King in loving memory of his daughter, Lukia.

August 19; from Alice Sessions for her son Michael's birthday

August 26; from Karen Schrupp for her son Andy Davidson's birthday

Call Jean McDermott at 441-5754 about signing up to bring flowers. Don't miss this great opportunity!

October 2007

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2	3	4	5	6
		7p-Stewardship(O)	2p-Elder Bluebonnets Gp(S)	7p-Executive Comm (O)	7p-Spiritual Pilgrims (homes)	9a-WildMen Gp (O)
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
9:15a-Membership Comm (S) 10:30a-Worship Service* After Worship-Coffee and Conversation 11:45a-SWAP Dance Lessons (S) \$5 12n-Connections Class, Part 2 (S) 2p-Mystical & Theosophical Studies (O)		7p-Stewardship(O)	2p-Elder Hibiscus Gp (homes) 7p-Peacemaking Book Disc. (TBA) 7:30p-Choir (S)	7p-Board (O) 7p-WildMen Gp (TBA)	8p- Heritage Book Club (homes)	8:30a-Hands on Housing (TBA) 9:30a Worship Comm (TBA) 10a-5p-Picture Taking for Directory (O) 6:30p-Dessert & Video Night (homes)
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
10:30a-Worship Service* After Worship-Coffee and Conversation 11:45a-Social Action Comm (S) 12n-Connections Class, Part 3 (S)	Newsletter Deadline	7p-Stewardship(O)	2p-Elder Bluebonnets Gp(S) 7:30p-Choir (S)		7p-Spiritual Pilgrims (homes) Women'sRetreat begins	Women's Retreat
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
10:30a-Worship Service* After Worship-Coffee and Conversation 1:30p-Soul Collage (homes) 2p-Mystical & Theosophical Studies (O) WOMEN'S RETREAT CONCLUDES		7p-WildMen Gp (O)	2p-Elder Hibiscus Gp (homes) 7:30p-Choir (S)			
28	29	30	31			
10:30a-Worship Service* Social Action Sunday After Worship-Coffee and Conversation 11:45aSocial Action Forum			2p-Joint Elder Gps meeting (S) 7:30p-Choir (S)			

* childcare provided



WILDFLOWER CHURCH

A Unitarian
Universalist
Congregation

P.O. Box 40395 Austin, Texas 78704

Minister:

Rev. Eliza C. Galaher

**Sunday Worship Service
Children's Religious Education
10:30 a.m.**

Most Sunday services held at
3911 Manchaca, Austin, TX
South Austin Sr. Activity Center
(Manchaca between South Lamar &
Ben White Blvd, about 2 blocks
north of Ben White (Hwy. 290))

Please check our web site for the
latest information:

www.wildflowerchurch.org

Message Phone:

(512)428-9464

Email:

mail@wildflowerchurch.org

Office:

1714 Fortview Road #106
(This office is not always staffed.)

Mail:

PO Box 40395
Austin, TX 78704-7659

November Editor

Holly Cooper
Holysmail@austin.rr.com

Deadline: October 15

Thanks to all the volunteers who
contributed to this issue.

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

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