

## UUs OCCUPY AUSTIN ON THE SIDE OF LOVE

On October 24, dozens of Unitarian Universalists from throughout Austin convened at the City Hall plaza to offer our thanks and support to the Occupy Austin movement. Many UUs have been showing up regularly at Occupy Austin, and an effort is building to bring ongoing support to the occupiers. Look for notices in Wildflower's weekly news about how you can help keep the movement alive. Remember, in the words of Walt Whitman: "Henceforth I ask not good fortune; I myself am good fortune!"



## THE GREAT WEIGH IN RETURNS FOR YEAR FIVE!

Wildflowers, it is time for the harvest! Time to gather in our thanks for all that we have, and to show our thanks by having our annual food drive, affectionately known as the Great Weigh In, on November 20. Why is it called The Great Weigh In? Because every year, we encourage people to bring their weight in nonperishable foods. Now, because



we did an emergency food drive for the St. Ignatius Food Pantry in September, we are not asking you to bring your full weight, especially if you are unable to! What's most important is that you bring as much nonperishable food as you are able. On November 20, all food will go to the Faith Presbyterian Food Pantry. We will be sending more details about what kinds of food are being prioritized. For now, one thing we do ask: please do not buy items in weights of more than five pounds, as that makes distribution more difficult for the food pantry. Thank you so much for your ongoing generosity, and on weighing in again and again on the side of love!

Peace and gratitude,  
~ Eliza

## CONGREGATIONAL POTLUCK ON NOVEMBER 13



Please join us immediately after service at 12:30 p.m., on Sunday, November 13, for a potluck meal and fellowship. Bring a delicious dish to share—entrée, salad, bread or dessert.

Volunteers are needed! Please contact Holly Brewster at [fellowship@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:fellowship@wildflowerchurch.org) to volunteer. And, in case you forget anything, please remember to label all dishes and utensils with your name and contact information so we can get it back to you.



**Rev. Eliza  
Galaher**

## WALKING TOGETHER—IN THANKSGIVING

In the poetry anthology, *Encounters: Poems about Race, Ethnicity, Identity*, E. Ethelbert Miller writes, “Our streets filled with good news, we must write the headlines ourselves.” This makes me think about last summer, when a colleague of mine talked about “ethnic” churches versus “missional” churches. The ethnic church asks, “Who are my people?” The missional church says, “We have good news to bring.” It is implied in Wildflower Church’s mission statement that we see ourselves as both an ethnic and a missional church, in that we are deliberately inclusive in determining who “our” people are, and that we bring the good news of committing to transform ourselves and the world around us through acts of compassion, love, and social justice. So, my question to our beloved community is, what headlines will we ourselves write? The power of the Occupy Wall Street movement has come to Austin. Will we ourselves make this headline news? Wildflower members have been working with Austin Interfaith to bring justice to Austin by advocating for Capital IDEA, for an expanded health care clinic in Dove Springs, and for the rights of DREAMers all across the country to receive citizenship. Will we make our good news headline news? Or will we content ourselves to be tucked into the back pages of history? I say, we are a small community, but a mighty one—if we but so choose. So let us give thanks to one another for all we are able to do and, in the words of the prophet Walt Whitman, may we also say, “Henceforth, I ask not good-fortune—I myself am good-fortune.” Thanks and blessings to all of you.

~ Eliza

## IF YOU NEED TO TALK, WE’RE HERE TO LISTEN

“Deep listening is miraculous for both listener and speaker. When someone receives us with open-hearted, non-judging, intensely interested listening, our spirits expand.”

~ Sue Patton Thoele

Members of Wildflower’s Listening Ministry do not consider themselves trained counselors, nor do they try to take the place of our minister, but instead, act as skilled helpmates who practice the art of compassionate community by listening to the thoughts and concerns of individuals trying to work through various life challenges. Current members include: Janie Bolger, Debbie Groves, Gary Lichtenstein, Jean McDermott, Frances Osborne, and Karen Schrupp. If you are in need of a caring, attentive presence or want to know more, please contact Reverend Eliza at [minister@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:minister@wildflowerchurch.org).

## GIVING ON THE SIDE OF LOVE



**Cathy  
Cramer,  
Stewardship  
Chair**

I have good news and bad news this month. The good news is, we had an incredible turnout of over 200 people for our Stewardship Celebration, and we raised an extra \$150 in our donation can to help us stay on budget for Stewardship expenses! Also, 137 households have now submitted their 2012 pledges, and over 40 households increased their pledge from last year!

The bad news is that Wildflower is not immune to the economic recession that plagues our country and our world. As of this writing, our pledge total for 2012 is \$181,466. Unfortunately, that is about 35,000 short of our \$217,000 goal, and is about \$30,000 short of our current 2011 budget. In fact, while 40 households increased their pledges, there were also 40 households that have had to decrease their pledges from last year, which shows just how tight things are. But fear not. While the numbers are not what we had hoped, this is not a crisis. We have a loving, vibrant community at Wildflower, and we will continue to have that. We will work together to make sacrifices where necessary, and in doing so, we will grow even closer.

~ Cathy

**NOVEMBER WORSHIP SERVICES**

**November 6 – Rev. Galaher**

*Choirs of Wailing Shells*

In this Veterans Day service, Rev. Galaher will explore the consequences of generations of American youth being sent to war. Many of us have been witness to the post-service journeys of Vietnam War veterans. What of the young veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan wars? What are their needs now? What will their needs be as the years, the decades, pass? *Lay leader:* Eva Andries. *Service Coordinator:* Helen Burnette

**November 13 – Rev. Galaher**

*They'll See How Beautiful I Am: Exploring Race, Ethnicity and Identity through the Arts*

How do we keep our eyes, ears, hearts and hands open to diversity in our daily lives? Where do we embrace it and where do we shield ourselves against it? In this service, Rev. Galaher will use poetry, music, and visual arts to raise awareness to the diversity of voices and identities of this country, and to our need to always be expanding our horizons regarding the question, who is my neighbor? *Lay leader:* Roger Stricklin. *Service Coordinator:* Allen Fisher

**November 20 – Rev. Galaher**

*The Great Weigh In, So Faithful*

In this our fifth annual intergenerational Great Weigh In Service, we ask all Wildflowers to bring at least half their weight in nonperishable foods to the service (many of us gave half our weight in an emergency food drive back in September), and to celebrate the spirit of thanksgiving together. If you cannot bring half your weight, have no fear. Bring as much as you are able! *Lay leader:* Laurie Willis. *Service Coordinator:* Jan Austin

**November 27 – Lois Smith, Wildflower Member**

*What Has Become of Us?*

Check future announcements for more details. *Lay leader:* Gary Lichtenstein. *Service Coordinator:* Jan Austin.



**SOUTHWEST UU WOMEN'S CONFERENCE, FEBRUARY 24-26, 2012**

"Exploring the UUniverse of Women's Spirituality," with speaker Meg Barnhouse! Please join Southwest UU Conference Women at the Hilton Houston NASA Clear Lake, TX. The 2012 SWUW Conference will be held in the Hilton overlooking Clear Lake and across from NASA Space Center, located 25 miles south of downtown Houston, 17 miles from Houston's Hobby Airport and is a perfect place to relax, rejuvenate, reconnect and join us in Exploring the UUniverse of Women's Spirituality. Contact convener Lynn Young at [conference@swuuw.org](mailto:conference@swuuw.org) for information. We'll share details here and on our [Facebook](#) page as plans progress!



**ANNOUNCING FIFTH ANNUAL AMY YOUNG MEMORIAL SERVICE TRIP DATE AND PLACE**

The fifth annual Amy Young Memorial Service Trip is now in the planning for March 10-17. We will return to Turley, Oklahoma. Because we had a successful, rich, and rewarding experience including children and teens last year, we are again opening the trip up to children and teens, as well as adults. Requirements include having health insurance and, if you're a minor, having a parent or guardian with you. So if you're interested in expanding your sense of community, as well as your assumptions about how you can contribute to the good of humanity and the good of the earth, save the dates and come along!

Peace and thanks,  
~ Eliza



**Penny Burnette**

On Sunday, November 20, Wildflower will participate in the Great Weigh In. Each family is challenged to bring a family member's weight in food. This is a wonderful social action project for the entire family.

Children love to help with this project at church unloading the groceries from cars and carrying it to the sanctuary. At SASAC we had the extra step of unloading and reloading trucks after the service. What a luxury, this year, to just carry it over to the food pantry kitchen! Still a great job for the kids.

Have a discussion with your kids at the dinner table about families that don't always have enough to eat. Let them know about programs that are available to help, like the Capital Area Food Bank and church food pantries. Donations are given to these programs by businesses and families like ours.

Getting the kids involved in the purchasing of the food is a great idea too. Let them help you pick out food they think other kids would like to eat. Instead of the giant box of plain corn flakes, choose a cereal that is nutritious but delicious too, and more fun. Ask them to choose other kid friendly, but nutritious foods. What are some of your children's favorite foods? What do they think other children would want?

Get the whole family involved in the Great Weigh In this year and let us all count our blessings for an abundance of food on our own tables. Happy Thanksgiving!

~ Penny

**CRE MEETINGS**



Children's Religious Education meetings will be held on the fourth Sunday of most months from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., in the middle school classroom. Childcare will be available in the CDC building. We will not have a meeting in December 2012.

**NURSERY**

Infant care will soon be available for Wildflower members. The infant nursery, located just north of the Fellowship Hall, is being painted and decorated and will be ready for use! The nursery is for babies, six weeks and older. They can stay with the two caregivers or a parent is welcome to be with their baby. There will be a rocking chair and plenty of cribs for naps. The service can be heard through speakers in the room. We will offer toddler care as always in the CDC building in the classroom on the right that has so many wonderful toys and activities.



**YOUTH NEWS**

Hi, I am Laura Miller, the new Acting Youth Director this year. My family and I have attending Wildflower for three years. My husband, Eric, and I have been involved in the Religious Education programs (adult, children's and youth) almost as long as we have been attending church. I have three children, Daniel, Leah and Naomi. I am also a substitute teacher for Austin ISD.

We have three Youth Advisors this school year: Katie Landolt, Tonya Lyles and John Worsham. I am very grateful for their help this year! This Fall, we are beginning a new curriculum, A Chorus of Faiths. The program's main goals are to learn about religious pluralism, what it is and why it matters to Unitarian Universalist, and to inspire and support youth to make interfaith work a part of their lived faith now and in the future.

We also plan to have FUN! Our first social event of the year was a breakfast at Denny's. It was wonderful to have time to socialize and find out how everyone's school year had started out. We just returned from a rally at First UU San Antonio, and next up is a lock-in at First UU Austin and a Wildflower Youth Retreat at U-Bar-U. It should be a fun and full fall.

~ Laura



Pre-K girls show off their UU necklaces



John Worsham enjoys a discussion with high schoolers

**UU CIRCLE OF FRIENDS  
SINGLES RETREAT  
NOVEMBER 11-13**



The UU Circle of Friends is planning our second annual Singles Retreat for November 11-13, at U-Bar-U. The weekend is a chance to relax, have fun and meet other single UUs from the area. The theme this year is "A Single Purpose." There will be a weenie roast with s'mores along with music around the campfire (if no burn ban in effect) on Friday evening and a related documentary will be available for viewing. Other good food, entertainment (music and games) and activities (hiking, swimming, massage and labyrinths) will be available. More details will be sent out in the near future, but check our website to register at <https://sites.google.com/site/uusinglesretreat/>. If you have questions, Mary Ann (512-587-8373) or Marilyn (512-644-1814).

**LIFE ENRICHMENT CLASS**

**Women's Life Writing II**, facilitated by Betty McCreary, is a four-week section where women come together on Sunday afternoons, from 2 to 4 p.m. to write about our lives and share our stories with other women in the group. This will not be about writing technique and is completely non-judgmental. Betty attended the Story Circle Network and was empowered by her own self expression and humbled by listening to the stories of others. She has facilitated such a group for over two years. To contact Betty, call 512-899-9445.



**WILDFLOWER CHOIR**

The Choir meets every Wednesday in November, except November 23. "Sing and Rejoice!" Those two words really do seem to go together, don't they? Find out why by coming to a Wildflower Choir rehearsal any Wednesday night at 7:30 p.m. in the Multipurpose room at FPC. In addition, you may find that you can participate in and contribute to the worship service on Sundays. Come give it a try and you, too, can "sing and rejoice." For information, contact Elke Baitis, Choir Director, at 512-228-7699.

**MEETINGS OF UU GROUPS THAT  
DRAW MEMBERSHIP FROM AREA UU  
CHURCHES/FELLOWSHIP**

**Heritage Book Club** meets Friday, November 11. The Heritage Book Club welcomes people who enjoy rich dialogue around a different book each month. We meet at 7 p.m. for a pot luck dinner and start the discussion at 8 p.m. For location information or directions, call Tom Moran at 512-233-6488. Having read the book is not a prerequisite for participation.

**Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Austin Philosophical Discussion Group.** This group informally examines the philosophical ideas and assumptions that influence our contemporary worldviews. The exact topic and date for the meeting is set at the previous meeting of the group. Meetings are on a Tuesday evening each month at 5930 Republic of Texas Blvd., Austin TX 78735. For more information, contact Mike Pore at 512-892-4790.

**WILDFLOWERS PARTICIPATED IN NAMI  
WALK ON OCTOBER 8**



## ADULT PROGRAMMING

Visit our table at FPC or email [adultprograms@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:adultprograms@wildflowerchurch.org). All classes will take place in the Parlor at Faith Presbyterian Church. The courses will also be integrating the theme of Standing on the Side of Love.

\*\* indicates that childcare is available; please email [adultprograms@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:adultprograms@wildflowerchurch.org) or indicate when you sign up for the course that you would like childcare.

We have had an active fall course schedule and now all of the courses have either ended or are already launched. For information, email [adultprograms@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:adultprograms@wildflowerchurch.org).

## Continuing Courses

**Explore the Sacred Female Within: Cakes for the Queen of Heaven.** Facilitated by Diane Purcell on Sundays afternoon from 2 to 4 p.m., on November 6, 13 and 20, in Classroom I at FPC.

**\*\*Unitarian Universalism 101: The Liberal Religious Impulse.** Facilitated by Helen Burnette on Sunday mornings from 9:45 to 10:45 a.m. through December 4, in the Parlor at FPC.

**The Great Turning: Catalyzing a Revolutionary Shift in Perceptions and Action toward the Healing of the World.** Facilitated by Joan Harman on Thursday evenings from 7 to 9 p.m., through November 10, in the Parlor at FPC.

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY HAPPENINGS

**Wildflower Minds Connect** meets Tuesday, November 1 and 15. People who have been diagnosed at any time in their lives with a mental illness are invited to join Wildflower Minds Connect. We will meet to encourage deep connections with one another as well as foster an environment of sharing, support, and encouragement. We meet the first and third Tuesday of each month from 7 to 8:30 p.m. in the Parlor at FPC. If you have any questions, please contact Danna Luther at [danna@dluther.com](mailto:danna@dluther.com) or 512-567-6997.

**7/12 Recovery Ministry** meets Monday, November 7 and 21. 7/12 Recovery Ministry meetings are based on 12-step programs and the 7 principles of Unitarian Universalism, and are open to all Wildflowers whose lives are (or have been) affected by addiction or compulsive behaviors. We meet twice a month, on the first and third Monday evenings, 7 to 8:30 p.m. in Classroom I at FPC. Contact Helen Burnette, [burnette.helen516@gmail.com](mailto:burnette.helen516@gmail.com) or Bobbie Erb, 512-825-1373, for more information.

**Buddhist Meditation and Study Group** meets Thursday, November 10. If you are interested in Buddhism and in developing a meditation practice, this group can be a resource and support for you. Participants study and discuss books by Buddhist teachers, and meditate for 25 minutes at each meeting. The group usually meets twice a month, on the second and fourth Thursdays from 11:30 to 1 p.m. in Classroom I at FPC, however will not be meeting November 24 due to Thanksgiving. Contact Helen Bur-

nette at [burnette.helen516@gmail.com](mailto:burnette.helen516@gmail.com) for more information.

**Conversation Café** meets Saturday, November 19, from 10:30 to 11:30 a.m. at the Hampton Branch of the Austin Public Library, Oak Hill, 5125 Convict Hill Road. Don't miss this opportunity for meaningful conversation and great fellowship. We welcome your presence. There are no books to read or assignments, just interesting conversations. The group meets the third Saturday of each month. For more information, contact Joan Harman at 512-454-3160 or [wildflowerconversationcafe@gmail.com](mailto:wildflowerconversationcafe@gmail.com).

**Earthseeds** meets Sunday, November 27. Earthseeds is an open group that welcomes anyone interested in earth-based spirituality. Members are nature lovers, ritualists, environmentalists and in touch with the Divine Earth. The meeting occurs the fourth Sunday of the month in the Fellowship Hall at FPC. An ingathering begins at 4:30 pm, a ritual, potluck and pagan-related discussion follows and the meeting closes around 8 pm. Contact Frances Osborne [osborne35@hotmail.com](mailto:osborne35@hotmail.com) or 512-347-1705 for more information.

**Grow Your Inner Wildflower** meets Wednesday, November 9 and 23 at 6:30 pm in members' homes. It is a self-development and support group that shares emotional support, practical coping skills, and strategies with the goal of empowering members toward personal growth, positive changes, and healing. Topics discussed include assertiveness, relationships, loneliness, stress, co-dependency, and emotional issues. Members will conduct exercises and activities that allow them to practice the concepts discussed. If interested, contact Marilyn Stone at 512-644-1814 or [marilyn934@yahoo.com](mailto:marilyn934@yahoo.com).

**Soul Collage® Group** meets Sunday, November 20. Soul Collage® engages participants in using images to explore the inner landscape of their soul. This creative and intuitive process allows people to access their inner wisdom, explore feelings and thoughts about life's purpose and foster a deeper spiritual connection. Intrigued? New members—men and women—are welcome! The group meets in members' homes. If you're interested in learning more and discovering the location of this month's group, contact Pat Laird, [pflaird@austin.rr.com](mailto:pflaird@austin.rr.com), or 512-282-2551.



**A PHOENIX**

When tragedy strikes, especially an unexpected one, many emotions can flood the soul and almost none are pleasant. Disbelief, fear, anxiety, sorrow, rage, confusion, helplessness, stress, loneliness, emptiness, depression and hopelessness. It is easy to believe that “life’s a bitch, and then you die.” And then something happens that is so beautiful and gives such hope that tears of joy are irrepressible.

**Eva Andries** I have had this experience recently with the tragic and unexpected death of a family member who left five children under the age of 11. These children had lost the other parent to cancer not two years previously. In the course of all the phone calls and emails among family members in the wake of this tragedy, a small glow of hope began to emerge.

A beloved uncle, who had always wanted children but had none, decided to move back to Texas to help the grandmother care for his great niece and nephews. He said, “I have been praying for a meaning and a purpose in my life and I have always wanted children. Now, maybe I have five.” He will be joined by a sister, who also has always wanted children but had none and who will also be moving back to Texas to help.

A phoenix rises from the ashes. Desperate human need inspiring the most unselfish love. Tragedy becoming renewal and hope.

In covenant,

~ **Eva King Andries**  
President, Board of Trustees

**GIVING LIFE THE SHAPE OF JUSTICE: TOP TEN REASONS FOR ATTENDING GA 2012**



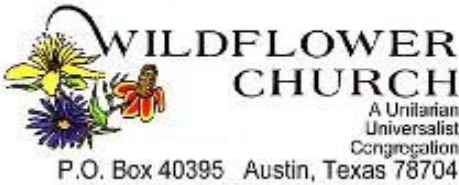
10. You'll meet old friends and make new friends from all over the country.
9. You'll renew your spirit.
8. You'll feel the power of justice, compassion and love.
7. You'll stand on the side of love.
6. You'll represent freedom of conscience and the democratic process.
5. You'll be inspired to make the world a better place for all.
4. You'll learn to deepen your understanding and expand your vision.
3. You'll embrace the worth and dignity of every person.
2. You'll speak out for justice, equity and compassion.
1. **You will give your life the shape of justice.**

**COME TO PHOENIX, AZ  
JUNE 20-24, 2012**

**COVENANT OF RIGHT RELATIONS**

- We, the members of Wildflower Church, covenant:
- ☸ to extend the welcome, hospitality, and acceptance at Wildflower Church that we would wish to receive
  - ☸ to keep the well being of the whole Wildflower Church community at the forefront of our work to practice caring for one another, especially in times of need
  - ☸ to contribute to the mission of Wildflower Church while practicing self-care and staying mindful of our own needs
  - ☸ to practice mutual responsibility and shared leadership
  - ☸ to inform ourselves and others about church roles and resources
  - ☸ to engage in direct, respectful communication and active listening, particularly in times of conflict and misunderstanding, and
  - ☸ to honor and celebrate our differences.

In the spirit of openness and transparency, thus do we uphold this covenant.



**Minister**

Rev. Eliza C. Galaher  
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**Director of Religious Education**

Penny Burnette  
[dre@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:dre@wildflowerchurch.org)

**Acting Youth Director**

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**Office Administrator**

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**Bookkeeper**

Cindy Steel  
[bookkeeper@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:bookkeeper@wildflowerchurch.org)

**Sunday Worship Service and  
Children's Religious Education  
11:30 a.m.**

Sunday services held at the  
Faith Presbyterian Church  
1314 E. Oltorf  
Austin, Texas  
(Located west of the intersection of  
Oltorf and I-35)

**Website:** Please visit our website for  
the latest information:  
[www.wildflowerchurch.org](http://www.wildflowerchurch.org)

**Message Phone:** (512) 428-9464  
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**Wildflower Church Mission**

*Wildflower Church is a deliberately inclusive, open-minded religious community in the Unitarian Universalist tradition. We joyfully nurture one another in our lifelong spiritual journeys, and we commit to transforming ourselves and the world around us through acts of compassion, love, and social justice.*

**Newsletter Submissions**

The deadline for the December issue is November 15.  
Send submissions to [newsletter@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@wildflowerchurch.org).  
Newsletter editor: Dotti Sizer  
Newsletter copyeditor: Holly Gonzalez

**BOARD OF TRUSTEES**

Send questions and/or comments regarding church matters to [board@wildflowerchurch.org](mailto:board@wildflowerchurch.org)  
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Rev. Eliza Galaher (ex officio)