

September 27, 2009  
October 4, 2009

Established  
in  
1899



# The Dallas Unitarian

The First Unitarian Church of Dallas

» committed to achieving racial and cultural diversity «

SUNDAY-MORNING WORSHIP  
Services at 9:15 & 11:30

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 27

**Sermon:** "Ever Blessing, Ever Blessed"  
**Rev. Aaron White**

How do we become open to the gifts of the world in good times and bad?

**Music:** Cellist, Gayane Manajian Fullford and Pianist Alan Dyer will provide music.

*The fall Blood Drive takes place this Sunday; stop by the Community Service table for more information.*

*Religious Education classes for children begin in their designated classrooms.*

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

**Sermon:** "Choosing the World"  
**Rev. Dr. Daniel Chesney Kanter**

It began with an itch...it ended by knowing life isn't perfect. What is it you expect from this world? What does spiritual discernment have to do with your life?

**Music:**

9:15 – The Sanctuary Choir sings.

11:30 – Kindred Voices sings.

*Religious Education classes for children begin in the Sanctuary.*

*October's First-Sunday Collection benefits Habitat for Humanity. More information can be found on p. 3.*

*A Welcome Lunch for new members and visitors will take place after the 11:30 service; details on p. 4.*

## From the Associate Minister Rev. Aaron White

We're ready to be members, too! Kate and I have made the decision to join this church. Even though I am employed as the Associate Minister here, this is not a decision that we make lightly. Ministers in our association vary in their opinions about joining the churches they serve. This, however, was an easy decision for us to make.

We are becoming members of this congregation because we are proud to say that we belong to this community. We are proud of this place that challenges its members to ask difficult questions, to be transformed in love, and to do the difficult work of serving the world.

We are joining, also, because we want to contribute to this church's mission and its vitality. When new members join here, we are asked to do four things: show up and be present (when possible) in the life of the church, give generously of our financial resources and spiritual gifts, deepen in our spiritual life, and commit to serving the causes of social justice.

Our family is ready to contribute in this way—not only because we enjoy pledging to this church and seeing its effects in the world, but because we know our lives will be better because of our participation in this place.

If you are new to this community and feel as though you, too, are finding a home at First Church, consider joining Kate and me as new members here. If you've been here a while, I'd challenge you to think about what this place means to you and what impact our church has made on your life. So much is happening in the life of this community. Let's join together in making this the most transformative year we've had yet. I know that this is the church we would have joined even if I weren't working here. We are very happy to be home!

Aaron



From the Minister of Pastoral Care, Rev. Dr. Xolani Kacela

## How Is It With Your Children?

It's back-to-school season. If you are a parent, chances are you are watching your children with your eyes wide open! Are they following the dress code? What homework is due? Do they have enough money for lunch? And if you have teens, are they smoking and drinking on the sly?

These are all questions concerned parents ask. It is good to begin asking early in the school year, so you don't wake up one day near term-end, panic, then phone the teachers for the first time, and demand accountability. All you'll get then is a silent "Whatever!" followed by a ring tone.

Children are people, too. While we parents love to brag about our kids' accomplishments and lament their trials, we need to remember that children are persons with their own "interior," or spiritual lives. The way parents and other adults relate to children significantly impacts their spirituality.

I recently read that no two children grow up in the same family. Each child's experience of his or her parents and family is so unique, it's useless, or foolish, to expect two children to be the same. My sister and I were very different. She has entirely different memories of childhood than I, yet the experience of each of us is as valid as the other's.

There is only one proper way to answer the question "How is it with your children?": to listen to them *carefully*, so you can find out **how they are experiencing you**. Careful listening takes a lot of effort. It might even be a full-time job. If you can't answer the question this moment, you might need to do some deep listening. And if you can, it might help to do a little bit more!

Blessings,

Xolani



## Alzheimer's Support Group

The First Unitarian Alzheimer's Support Group meets on **1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of the month. The meetings are held in the church library from 2:00-3:30 pm.** All persons are welcome, especially those who are family members or caregivers of Alzheimer's & Parkinson's patients. Our support group is now endorsed by the Dallas Alzheimer's Association. Persons from the community are welcome.

If you have any questions, please contact Rev. Xolani Kacela (214-884-1211, [xkacela@dallasuu.org](mailto:xkacela@dallasuu.org)).



## Navigating Grief

Monday Evenings, October 5-26, 7PM IN RM 204

Rev. Dr. Xolani Kacela WITH Nancy Bateman

**A healing experience through reflection and shared interaction**

The losses we suffer throughout our lives can be extremely painful and are often accompanied by grief. Navigating Grief is designed for those challenged by recent loss or coping with old losses which are unresolved.

**\$40 Fee ~ Participants should plan to attend all 4 sessions**

Sign up at the Welcome Center on Sunday or email [xkacela@dallasuu.org](mailto:xkacela@dallasuu.org)

## WOMEN'S DAY ALLIANCE



The Bridge Group will meet on **Tuesday, September 29, in Channing Hall, at 10:00 a.m.** Kay Fuselier (972-690-5920) will be hostess.

The **General Meeting will take place on Tuesday, October 6, in Raible Chapel.** Following the business meeting at 10:30 a.m., Professor Ravi Batra will discuss his book *The New Golden Age*. There will be a catered lunch afterwards in Channing Hall. To reserve a lunch (\$9), call Nelda Davis (972-717-4267).

Check out our new web site at [www.wdauu.org](http://www.wdauu.org) for more information about the Women's Day Alliance.



**LGUU 4th-Sunday Potluck Dinner**  
Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>, at 6 p.m.

All LGUUs, their family, friends, and guests are invited to join us for an evening of food, friends, and fellowship! **Our hosts will be Clinton Swingle and Brian Mumey** (2674 Dorrington Drive, Dallas, 75228, 214-320-1789). Bring a dish to share. Soft drinks are provided, and you may bring your own beer or wine if you wish.

## Save the Date

**All-church Picnic on October 18th!**

For more information call Jenny Weil, Director of Stewardship, at 214-884-1243.

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## From the Board of Trustees...

### Mission/Vision/Strategic Planning Meetings: Q&A

#### Why are we having these meetings?

It is time to review our 10-year-old mission, vision, and goals for the church. Our church has grown and changed, and it is vital that our future path reflect who we are now and who we aspire to be in the future. In our meetings we will answer questions about our church's current strengths and values, envision our hopes for our future, and articulate programs and initiatives that reflect our aspirations. The ideas we produce will be used by the Board to write new statement of our mission, vision, and goals. A volunteer team of congregants will use these new documents to craft a Strategic Plan that will carry the church forward to 2015.

#### Do I need any special skills or experience to participate in these meetings?

You do not need to be skilled in any aspect of mission-writing or strategic planning, nor do you need experience in either of these areas. The thoughts and ideas that will ensure the success of our meetings and our products are already inside you. The meeting format includes specific questions to stimulate your thinking and tap into the knowledge you already possess. Your expertise resides in your passion for and commitment to the church and your desire to contribute to its future. In the words of one of our meeting facilitators, *"My vision for the sessions is to tap into the brilliance of the collective congregation."*

#### Will my ideas make a difference?

Yes, indeed! Our church needs to hear all our voices as we work to define who we are, who we want to be, and where we want to go. Using the Appreciative Inquiry process we will invite equal participation from all attendees. You will record your thoughts and ideas for sharing with other participants and for use by the Board in writing our statement of mission, vision, and goals. Just as the beautiful tapestries that hang in our sanctuary incorporate many separate colors into a cohesive, dynamic whole, so our planning for our church's future must include a wide range of voices.

#### What are we going to do for three hours?

Three hours sounds like a long time, but the Appreciative Inquiry process that we will use ensures that you will remain engaged and interested. During the course of the session, you will have time for personal reflection, sharing with a partner and small group, and contributing in a larger group of 10-20 participants. Trained facilitators from our congregation will assist the process as we define our church's strengths and values, envision our ideal future, and discuss possibilities for achieving that future.

#### When are the meetings? Select one of the following dates:

- Saturday, September 26, 9:00 a.m. – noon
- Saturday, October 3, 9:00 a.m. – noon
- Saturday, October 10, 2:00 – 5:00 p.m.

#### Where are the meetings? Channing Hall, First Unitarian Church of Dallas

Refreshments and childcare will be provided. You may register online at [www.dallasuu.org](http://www.dallasuu.org) or at the Welcome Center in Channing Hall.

**Imagine Our Future. Be Part of the Conversation.**

The honor of your presence is requested at the

Installation of

The Reverend Aaron Scott White  
as Associate Minister of  
First Unitarian Church of Dallas

Sunday, the eighth of November  
at half past four in the afternoon

The First Unitarian Church of Dallas  
4015 Normandy Avenue, Dallas, Texas

Reception to follow

### First Sunday Collection, October 4<sup>th</sup>, Benefits Habitat for Humanity

First Unitarian Church members helped build another Habitat for Humanity home in April and May of this year. We had a great crew of volunteers and we built a fine home! Now it is time for us to pay off the **balance** of our financial commitment to Habitat for Humanity for the project—another \$8,000. The First Sunday Collection to be taken October 4<sup>th</sup> will be used for this purpose. Thanks to all for your continued support.

## SUNDAY MORNING



### Adult Forum—10:30 a.m., in the Library “Islam”

*September 27:* “Muhammad—Prophet and Statesman”

*October 4:* “God’s World—the Quranic Worldview”

The second largest and fastest-growing world religion, Islam is barely known in the West. Islam’s significant impact on world affairs, throughout history to today, is little recognized, and radical extremists grab headlines and propagate misunderstanding and distrust of this enduring faith religion. This video-lecture series, featuring Professor John Esposito of Georgetown University, will help us understand Islam’s religious, historical, social, and political character.

### Spiritual Conversations—10:30 a.m., in Raible Chapel

*September 27:* “To a Poor Old Woman,” by William Carlos Williams

*October 4:* “A Leaf,” by Bronislaw Maj

Spiritual Conversations opens with a reading or poem and continues with a period of silent reflection. Conversation begins slowly as we share our reflections on the reading and the spiritual experience it inspires. Copies of the reading are provided.

### Adult Discussion-Group—10:30 a.m., in the Parish House

*September 27:* “Transylvanian Unitarianism”

*October 4:* “Bertrand Russel”

In spontaneous group discussions, participants exchange information, share knowledge, and express personal views on a variety of religious, spiritual, and ethical issues. Handouts are provided each week to spark discussion.

### HUUmanist Discussion-Group—11:30 a.m., in the Library

*September 27:* “Health Care”

*October 4:* “Infant Minds II”

The Group meets weekly to seek in-depth exploration of the intellectual, moral, and spiritual bases of both the long UU tradition of non-theist religious humanism and of the humanist content in the even longer traditions of the theist religions of our culture.

## Welcome Lunch

Sunday, October 4<sup>th</sup>

12:45 in Raible Chapel

with Dr. Daniel Kanter  
Senior Minister

New to the church?

Been around a while &  
want to know more about  
this church?

Want to meet new folks?

Have questions?

Join Us!

Email [nryan@dallasuu.org](mailto:nryan@dallasuu.org)  
to reserve a spot.

## SENIOR MEN’S FELLOWSHIP

The Senior Men’s Fellowship, open to all men over 50, will meet **Thursday, October 8, in Channing Hall, at noon**, for a brown-bag lunch. Our new Associate Minister, Aaron White, will lunch with us.

At **12:45, in the Library**, Aaron will lead a discussion on the place of Unitarian Universalism in the American religious landscape. All church members and friends are welcome to join us for the discussion.

## Update from Dallas Area Interfaith

### Project Quest is coming to Dallas!

The exemplary high-skills job-training program in San Antonio (started by a DAI sister organization) is now being organized by Dallas Area Interfaith as a satellite campus called Quest Dallas.

The 1-2 year community college training will be for real jobs with living wages, benefits, and career tracks. Participants receive free tuition/books, childcare, transit, counseling, mentoring and, if needed, an accelerated 12-week remedial-education course.

DAI hopes to start Quest Dallas in

January, and is working on three fronts to make that happen:

1. Finding prospective candidates through house meetings in our member institutions;
2. Developing agreements with Dallas County and Collin County community colleges (the newest Dallas campus, Cedar Valley, will be the first campus for remedial and advanced training)
3. Finding the corporations/medical facilities that project future job openings and promise to consider the graduates' applications.

DAI earned this opportunity by making 20 trips to the 2009 Texas Legislature, advocating with the Texas Network for passage of the \$10-million JET Fund administered by the State Comptroller.

Project Quest is helping us get started by providing advice, curriculum, and startup funds. Soon, though, DAI will need to bring in private funds to match the state funding. Because DAI itself never accepts government funds, Quest Dallas will be a stand-alone, not-for-profit organization.



## From Religious Education for Children & Youth...



### Health Matters

Pick up any newspaper or magazine or visit the internet and you're sure to find an abundance of information about the H1N1 influenza. Information changes almost daily and the church staff strives to keep informed by visiting the Center for Disease Control website at [www.cdc.gov](http://www.cdc.gov). After careful thought and discussion, the following guidelines have been established. In order to avoid any confusion or misunderstanding, we are publishing them now, so that you are informed *before* a possible outbreak.

*The health and safety of our members is of paramount importance. If we are going to err, we will err on the side of caution. Should there be a widespread outbreak of measles, mumps, influenza, or other illness at your place of employment or your child's school, and a quarantine put in place for any reason, please let us know. This information will help us stay informed and make decisions about the possible cancellation of classes here. If your child is quarantined from attending school, please do not bring him/her to Sunday School until the quarantine has been lifted. Should the Dallas Independent School District close all schools, religious education classes for all children and teens will be suspended until the quarantine has been lifted.*

Thank you for continuing to use common sense: staying home for at least 24 hours after a fever, sneezing into a tissue or your sleeve, washing your hands, and using hand sanitizer. We want you here and we want you well in body and spirit.

### Lost It? We May Have It!



Jackets, glasses, dvds, scarves, books, tote bags, and umbrellas are just some of the items that are left at church each Sunday. If you're missing something, there are three locations where such items are stored; the coat closet in the Narthex, the Front Office, and the Religious Education Office. Please check these locations to see if your missing items are there. Unclaimed items will be donated to North Dallas Shared Ministries during their next clothing drive. Thanks so much and good hunting!

## From Adult Religious Education...



### CLARENCE DARROW'S SEARCH FOR JUSTICE

starring  
**GARY ANDERSON**  
nationally renowned Darrow portrayer

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4**  
**7 PM IN THE SANCTUARY**  
**FIRST UNITARIAN CHURCH OF DALLAS**  
**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC**

### BEYOND our DIFFERENCES

*A film by Peter Bisanz*

WEDNESDAY EVENINGS  
AUGUST 19<sup>TH</sup>–SEPTEMBER 30<sup>TH</sup>  
7:00–9:00 P.M., IN THE LIBRARY  
FACILITATED BY CHARLES McMULLEN

#### September 30: Father Kieran Creagh and Forgiveness

*Beyond Our Differences*, a film by Peter Bisanz, brings us significant religious leaders speaking to the faith and hope woven into contemporary experience. Despite the pervasive presence of war, poverty, oppression and disease, something else exists. What we share is sacred.

For more information, stop by the Welcome Center on Sunday or email [programs@dallasuu.org](mailto:programs@dallasuu.org).

## We're Honored!

First Church has received special recognition from the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the arm of our denomination devoted to protecting and promoting human rights and social justice around the world, for our "outstanding support" of the UUSC through its annual fundraising campaign, "Guest at Your Table." Our First Sunday collection this past March went for the UUSC's support.

## Nominations Needed for First Sunday Collections

The First Sunday Collection represents our faith in action, and we need your help nominating worthy organizations for 2010 January through June collections.

**October 1<sup>st</sup> is the deadline for completed applications.** Download the First Sunday Collection application form at [www.dallauu.org](http://www.dallauu.org) or pick it up in the church office. Turn it in there.

**Emergency Contact - Saturday, Sunday,  
Holidays & Evenings:** 972-898-1949

**Office:** 214-528-3990 - [www.dallasuu.org](http://www.dallasuu.org)

**Fax:** 214-559-4275

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**Associate Minister:** Rev. Aaron White  
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**Pastoral Care Minister:** Rev. Dr. Xolani Kacela  
ext. 1211 - [xkacela@dallasuu.org](mailto:xkacela@dallasuu.org)

## CARING COMMUNITY

All joy to **Susan and Harald Poelchau** as they celebrate the birth of their first grandson, **Jacob Harald Ehven**, on September 1. The baby and his parents, **Julie Poelchau and Adam Ehven**, live in Golden, Colorado.

We send get-well wishes to **Remy Nguyen**, who broke his leg recently; he is the son of **Joy and Huy Nguyen** and grandson of **Stephen Potter**.

Caring thoughts go to **Bruce Harris** as he cares for his son, **Brian**, who is healing from serious injuries sustained in a road accident.

**Mary and Gary Garcia** and their sons, **Grant and Cole**, are in our hearts as they mourn for Mary's mother, **Mattie Hughes**, 90, who died on September 7; Mattie had been in Hospice care for some time.

We offer sympathy to **Rusty and John Jagers** and their family on the death of Rusty's mother, **Rosinka Campbell**, 84, on September 7.

Our condolences go to **Don Templin and Sarah Saldana** as they mourn for Don's mother, **Betty Dambold**, 92, who has died. Betty had been receiving Hospice care.

Note: Dr. Kacela will conduct the memorial service for **Polly Moore** on Saturday, October 3, at 2:00 p.m., in Raible Chapel.

## UUS IN THE LIMELIGHT

British-born **Dennis King**, husband of **Pat Halford**, is the subject of a front-page article in the August 20 edition of *The Park Cities News*. You can read the article at [parkcitiesnews.com](http://parkcitiesnews.com) and on the bulletin board in the church office.

**Francis Fuselier** will be appearing in *Julius Caesar*, Sept. 23 through Oct. 18, for Shakespeare Dallas. Two weeks will be presented at Samuell Grand Park and two weeks at Addison Park. For more information, go to [www.shakespearedallas.org](http://www.shakespearedallas.org).

**Rosalinda Stone** has been awarded a prize for her painting "Delightful reclining," entered in the Juried Pet Art Show of the Irving Art Association.

Congratulations to our freemasons. Knox-Corinthian Lodge has elected **Rob Vivona** as Senior Warden and **Tom Purkey** as Senior Deacon.

## First Unitarian Church of Dallas

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