

Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge
Many Beliefs . . . One Community . . . A Better World

9:30 and 11:15 AM Sunday Worship

Classes & nursery for our children provided at the 9:30 & 11:15am Services *Classes for Middle and Senior Youth provided at the 11:15am Service*

SEPTEMBER 2014

Wholly Unitarian Universalist (Our program theme)

This newsletter and other recent newsletters are available on our website, www.unitarianchurchbr.com. Click newsletter archives under quicklinks on our homepage.

..... *Invite your friends and family*



Sunday, August 31 *JAZZ* Worship Services

with Willis Delony, Bill Grimes, and the *HeartVoice Trio*.



Sunday, September 7

Adams, the UU Theologian for These Times

One of Steve Crump's professors in seminary, James Luther Adams, enjoyed telling the story of his father's reaction when Jim became a Unitarian minister. His father said, "I pray that you will be a failure. Otherwise you will have to answer not only to your own lost soul, but also for the souls of others whom you may have led astray." Let us become acquainted with this pillar of thought and love within our ranks.

We're featuring hymns by UU composers for the morning.

Also on September 7, Congregational Meeting 12:45pm

Motion: To approve the conceptual master plan design for the exterior campus, to authorize the award of a contract for creation of construction drawings and the solicitation of construction bids. In support, an expenditure of \$75,000 is authorized from the Great Expectations Capital/Growth Fund.

Motion: To approve the creation of the positions of Executive Director and Technology Ministry and to approve the funding plan for support of the positions on a annual declining basis from the remaining staff support funds of \$253,000 in our Great Expectations capital/growth fund combined with a congregation commitment to support fully these positions from the annual budget after five years.

Motion: To approve the proposed budget for fiscal year 2015.

Sunday, September 14

Don't Blame Me, I Voted for the Loser

With the midterm elections fast approaching, **The Reverend Nathan Ryan** will explore how to be a religious person in partisan times. Our choir offers music by UU composers Jim Scott and Clif Hardin.



Sunday, September 21

What Keeps You Going

What sustains? What gets us through something difficult? We offer an inspirational, true story for Unitarian Universalists as summer turns to autumn. **Susan Brys** shares Chopin piano nocturnes.

Sunday, September 28

T is for our being together, minds and hearts.

H is for heart. A community without passion and spirit will dry up and die.

R is for resilience. A community must have staying power, demonstrate how to live

through the tough stuff, learn how to bend and change, and affirm that even in our disappointments, not all is lost.

I is for interdependence. **I** and **me** are not the center of community. We are endowed with freedom as unique individuals, primordially connected but not radically alone.

V is veracity. Speak the truth in love, bear witness to the truth, and be honest about mystery.

E is for equity. Treating one another with respect means increasing our capacity for listening, understanding, compassion, and forgiveness.

The congregation joins the choir in two celebration anthems.



Also, **Sunday, September 28, Vigil and Rally for Justice and Nonviolence** - time and location TBA

Next Month: **Hope and Tears for the Middle East** - Sunday, October 12

You Deserve Sidewalks - The choir sings the auctioned anthem, Sunday, October 19

Requiem for All Souls - Sunday evening, November 2, 6pm

Office Hours are Monday – Friday 8 AM – 5 PM

www.unitarianchurchbr.com

225-926-2291

Ours is a no-smoking, no-firearms campus.

CHURCH STAFF including Volunteers –

Outreach Director: *Becky Cureau* rcureau@cox.net

Social Justice Director: *Bobby Thompson* numbersnine@cox.net

Connections Director: *Dottie Kelly* uucbr_dottie@cox.net

Engagement Director: *Janina Fuller* janinawing@gmail.com

Executive Assistant: *Diana Dorroh* diana_dorroh@hotmail.com

IT Director: *Neal Stoltzfus* stoltz@math.lsu.edu

Office Manager: *Allison Hall* office@unitarianchurchbr.com

Director of Music: *Ila Stoltzfus* music@unitarianchurchbr.com

Director of Religious Education: *The Reverend Beth Williams* education@unitarianchurchbr.com

Pastoral Care Advisor: *The Reverend Earle Ramsdell*
eramsdel@bellsouth.net

Assistant Minister: *The Reverend Nathan A. Ryan*
(Off Fridays) nryan@uuma.org

Senior Minister: *The Reverend Dr. Steve J. Crump*
(Off Mondays) minister@unitarianchurchbr.com

OUR CHURCH BOARD -

President: *Nancy Gilbert* nancyg55@bellsouth.net

Vice President: *Melanie Mayeux* melaniemayeux@gmail.com

BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE –

Wade Adams wwadeadams@gmail.com

Cynthia Bryant cynthia.bryant71@gmail.com

Clyde Johnson cejaloft@aol.com

Maida Owens maidaowens@gmail.com

Sally Wood salharp@bellsouth.net

TEAM CO-LEADERS -

Kathy Judy & Ila Stoltzfus – Religious Services Team

Shannon Cavell & The Reverend Beth Williams – Religious Education Team

Art Scarbrough & Janina Fuller – Adult Growth & Learning Team

Holley Haymaker & Bobby Thompson – Social Justice Team

Charles Fryling & Becky Cureau – Outreach Team

Marguerite Davis & Dottie Kelly – Connections Team

Donna Yelverton & Janene Wacker - Congregational Care

*Find Us
On*



CALENDAR OF EVENTS

September 1: **Tai Chi** 6pm

September 2: **Yoga** 9:30am, **Congregational Care** 6pm

September: **Adult Choir & Recorders** 6:30pm

September 4: **GE Steering** 5pm, **Meditation** 7pm

September 5: **Yoga** 9:30am

September 7: **YAC Meeting** 10am,
Visitor Q&A 10:30am & 12:15pm,
Congregational Meeting 12:45pm,
Open Circle Book Club 7pm

September 8: **Tai Chi & Women's Book Club** 6pm,
PFLAG Board 6:30pm

September 9: **Yoga** 9:30am, **Ministries Staff** 2pm

September 10: **Adult Choir & Recorders** 6:30pm

September 11: **GE Steering** 5pm, **Meditation** 7pm

September 12: **Yoga** 9:30am

September 14: **Parents/RE Council** 12:45pm

September 15: **Tai Chi** 6pm

September 16: **Yoga** 9:30am, **Church Board** 6pm

September 17: **Adult Choir, Recorders & Roots** 6:30pm

September 18: **GE Steering** 5pm, **Meditation** 7pm

September 19: **Yoga** 9:30am

September 21: **Bible Skeptics** 5pm

September 22: **Tai Chi** 6pm

September 23: **Yoga** 9:30am

September 24: **Adult Choir, Recorders & Roots** 6:30pm

September 25: **GE Steering** 5pm, **Meditation & Non Fiction Book Club** 7pm

September 26: **Yoga** 9:30am

September 28: **Vigil and Rally for Justice and Nonviolence** time and location TBA

September 29: **Tai Chi** 6pm

September 30: **Yoga** 9:30am

CRUMP EXPRESSWAY

~ a column from our Minister, **The Reverend Steve J. Crump**

Wholly Unitarian Universalist is our program theme for 2014-15. Let's dig into our tradition and values. Let's find what is supportive and joyful as UUs. A little bit of our history will be sprinkled in along the way as we appreciate our forebears who cast great and lasting shadows. All the while, we'll be improving the exterior campus, creating parking, and beautifying grounds.

Remember the Congregational Meeting, Sunday,

Sept. 7: We are *not* voting on any tree or specific color in our design, but we need to start on the infrastructure drawings, the drainage, and parking allocations. Much of the early work will not be visible to the eye. Your church leadership seeks authorization from the congregation to spend *Great Expectations* funds to create construction drawings and to solicit bids. Eventually, we will seek approval to begin construction of our long-awaited parking lot.

Vigil and Rally for Justice and Nonviolence,

Sunday, Sept. 28, place and time yet to be determined. Michael Brown's death in Ferguson, MO, touched a nerve throughout our nation. We are neither the judge nor the jury, but Brown's death raised national issues of white privilege, the militarization of police, the vulnerability and anger of young African American men in our society, trust of government, and the Bill of Rights. This list is not comprehensive, but we have in mind an action for understanding and nonviolence. Watch for details.

Tolerance is not a wimpy word: I am unwilling to jettison the idea of tolerance. I often feel I am alone in this conviction. I've heard all kinds of substitutes—respect, acceptance—and I find that those words lack the depth of what tolerance meant to our Unitarian forebears. I think I have heard from those who find tolerance lacking. I, too, dislike the passive stance of forbearance. If tolerance means tolerating rising humidity when the AC is out or putting up with some relative who perennially spouts his annoying ideology at the holiday dinner table, then, no wonder, that sort of tolerance acquires a bad rep. The despisers of sexual minorities were among the first to denigrate the word *tolerance*. The rest of our culture seems to have gone along with that denigration. Here's my take on tolerance, informed by the early Unitarians of Transylvanians of nearly 500 years ago: Tolerance, narrowly conceived is a wimpy word. But tolerance, broadly understood, is not a word to be abandoned because tolerance means more than acceptance or grudging forbearance. What should we do, for example, when we cannot love our neighbor? What do we do when we cannot accept our neighbor or when we actually dislike our neighbor? Tolerance is a moral category and not, I submit, a wimpy word. When broadly defined and understood, it is a moral concept and was critical in Eastern Europe in the 16th century among several disagreeing religious groups. Unitarian King John Sigismund decreed the Edict of Torda in 1568.

(Continued on page 7.)

Assistant Minister's Column

by **The Reverend Nathan A. Ryan**

Here is a letter I wrote to the Metro Council last month after they failed to pass a fairness ordinance. Eight council members voted for continuing discrimination. Four opposed it. I received one considerate and heartfelt response to my letter from a councilwoman who voted against it.

Dear Metro Council,

I am writing you regarding your vote against the fairness ordinance. I wrote you before the vote in hopes that a plea from one of your city's clergy would help you vote for a more compassionate, less discriminatory city. It is clear my plea fell on deaf ears.

I am writing you today because your decision caused me great sorrow. Your vote left me heartsick as I left the council chambers. In the most basic sense, I cried that night. I think that reconciliation is an important part of a healthy spiritual life, so I am writing you, the elected body that caused me pain, to reconcile.

I would like to tell you that as a straight man I am writing you solely as an advocate for the LGBT members of my congregation who will now continue to live in fear and instability because of your vote. I would like to tell you that my pain is merely because you hurt other people. That would be the easier explanation, but it isn't sufficient.

Your vote hurt me personally. It hurt me because of what it stood for. Eight of you looked into the eyes of your residents. These are people who live in your city, who you are elected to represent and protect. They were telling you they experience discrimination, that they are treated unfairly because of who they are. You looked into their eyes and voted to continue to allow them to be discriminated against.

I know that votes for justice can be difficult and call on reserves of strength. I know that votes of justice can be difficult because you are leading people, sometimes people who don't want to go there, towards a more just world. This was not one of those difficult choices. You voted for discrimination despite the fact that the majority of your residents opposed it. You voted for discrimination despite being asked not to on behalf of the business community. The two of you who were brave enough to say why you voted for discrimination said because other people would still be discriminated against and because it might increase lawsuits by 3%. I still have no idea why the other 6 of you voted for discrimination.

I am sad because when I finally convinced my family to move to Louisiana, a state that I love dearly, I told them we wouldn't be moving to a place as oppressive as they feared. I told them that Louisiana values were celebration and inclusion. I told them that the state they heard of, one that was behind the curve, unjust, needlessly racist and homophobic, was a myth created by people not from here, who didn't know better. I told them that this was a great place to live. Your vote showed my family I wasn't telling the whole truth. I want to live in a city that treats all of its residents with compassion, with justice, with kindness. I want to live in the city that I promised my family we would move to. I want a city I can be proud of, not one that brings me to tears.

With a broken heart, The Reverend Nathan A Ryan

Religious Education News

From The Reverend Beth Williams

Religious Education Teachers and Advisers – We have a great group of lead teachers and advisers serving in our religious education program this year. Will you consider joining them? We still have openings in a few of our teams for lead teachers and advisers who are UCBR members, and always need assistants to help out occasionally. Please contact **The Rev. Beth Williams** at education@unitarianchurchbr.com or 225-400-1458.

2014-2015 Lead Teachers and Advisers

Flickers Nursery (Newborn – Age 2, both services):
Beth McWilliams, Chris O'Connor

Little Sundays of Surprises (Ages 2.5 – K, 9:30 service)
Ann Mengelson-Clark, CC Vickers

Big Sundays of Surprises (Grades 1-6, 9:30 service)
Darlene Dodson, Ally Vickers

Sparks Preschool (Ages 3-4, 11:15)
Deb Lemoine, Chris O'Brien, Ilana Gugich (**one more lead teacher is needed for this group.**)

Flames (Grades K-1, 11:15)
Jeri Becnel, Irene Kato, Laura Zuelke (**one more lead teacher is needed for this group.**)

Blazes (Grades 2-3, 11:15)
Nancy Grush, Sue Mitchell, Mary Ellen Slayter, Rachel Stahl

Mysteries (Grades 4-5, 11:15)
Shannon Cavell, Lynn Farmer, Julie Richard (**one more lead teacher is needed for this group.**)

Questioners Middle Youth (Grades 6-8, 11:15)
Wade Byrd, Mike Cavell, Marla Elsea, Dawn Haase-Davis

Seekers Senior Youth (Grades 9-12, 11:15)
Christine Assaf, Jerry Gilbert (**two more lead advisers are critically needed for this group. Advisers must be 25 or older.**)

Senior Youth will attend the full worship services of their choice approximately once per month. On most other Sundays they will begin their religious education program at 11:15 in their classroom.

YAC (Youth/Adult Committee) is having their next meeting, Sunday, September 7, 10am, Room 1 (Senior Youth Room). All Middle and Senior Youth, and their parents and advisers are invited.

Parents/RE Council Meeting - September 14, 2014, 12:45 pm, Room 7. Halloween and holiday planning will be on the agenda. All RE parents and teachers are invited. Bring a potluck dish to share. Contact **Beth Williams** at education@unitarianchurchbr.com if childcare is needed.

Senior Youth – start making plans for the HoT Rally, October 10-12 at Live Oak UU Church in Cedar Park, TX.

Save the date for some Halloween fun at the Annual All-Ages Halloween Party on Sunday, October 26, 5 - 8pm.

NOTES & BEATS

By Ila Stoltzfus, Director of Music

On Sunday, November 2, All Souls Day, at 6:00 pm, the Choir of the Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge will perform the Requiem composed by Clif Hardin.

Our choir first performed this secular Requiem in November 2011. Unitarian Universalist composer **Clif Hardin** set poetry of British and American writers to beautiful and unusual music. A small orchestra of strings, winds, harp and tympani accompanies and provides sonorities that support the voices and text.

The work celebrates life while taking the listener through the various stages of grief. The underlying theme is that we all share grief for the death of a loved one and eventually we will be grieved as well. The strength of our love eventually helps us in our grief.

In late January of 2012, three months after our concert, my younger sister died very unexpectedly. At least for me, her death was unexpected. In my own grief, I heard the words and music of the various movements of this Requiem we had just performed. Different strains of these movements would settle in my inner listening and provide for me some comfort and connection. I especially found comfort in the words from late in the work that ask “Joy, how far can you go? . . . As far as the shade . . . Grief, how far can you go? . . . As far as the dawn . . . Love, how far can you go? . . . Through all light and all shade, . . . deep beyond death.”

Many congregants who heard the concert and choir members who sang have asked me during these past three years ‘when will we perform the Requiem again?’

We hope that those of you who heard this music in 2011 will want to hear it again and bring family and friends. We hope that if you missed this event, you will want to join us to hear this beautiful music. The concert is free and open to the public, and a memorial offering will be given and received.

Please plan to join us for this beautiful and uplifting concert of Celebration and Remembrance of our loved ones, November 2, at 6pm.

Social Justice

Bobby Thompson, Director of Social Justice

Our church hosted a **Better Together** meeting August 19th to discuss our next steps in our effort to support keeping our community together. We believe that it will come to a vote in the spring if not this fall. Voter turnout will be key. To prepare for the election there will be a door-to-door campaign starting September 13th, at 9am at the Highland Presbyterian Church, 10024 Highland Rd, Baton Rouge, LA 70810 to urge targeted voters to go to the polls and vote. There will be breakfast, training, and materials provided. If you can and would like to participate notify Better Together at: wearebettertogetherBR@gmail.com. If can't walk but would still like to help please let them know that.

Together Baton Rouge needs volunteers to distribute food, September 6th at St. Michael St. Michael Episcopal Church 1620 77th Avenue Baton Rouge 70807. We ask volunteers to report at 7:45 AM.

Vigil and Rally for Justice and Nonviolence, Sunday, September 28, place and time yet to be determined. See Crump Expressway, page 3.

The Shared Offering for September goes to Star Sexual Trauma & Response - They provide support, education and advocacy to empower all individuals and families affected by sexual trauma, and engage and mobilize the community to prevent sexual trauma. 8281 Goodwood Blvd Suite I-2 Baton Rouge, LA 70806.

The fourth Sunday of each month we contribute half of our cash offering to a local non-profit.

Meetings

Congregational Care: September 2, 6pm, kitchen area

GE Steering Team: September 4, 5pm, church office

YAC: September 7, 10am, R1

Congregational Meeting: September 7, 12:45pm, Sanctuary

PFLAG Board: September 8, 6:30pm, church office

Ministries Staff: September 9, 2pm, church office

GE Steering Team: September 11, 5pm, church office

Parents/RE Council: September 14, 12:45pm, R7

Church Board: September 16, 6pm, church office

GE Steering Team: September 18, 5pm, church office

GE Steering Team: September 25, 5pm, church office

OUTREACH

Becky Cureau, Director of Outreach

Each year the **Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge hosts a CommUnity Prayer Breakfast**, which brings together more than two hundred members of the community representing Baton Rouge's faith communities, representatives of social service agencies, and civic leaders. All come together to support the Federation's goal of promoting peace in our community, expressed in the year's theme. The theme for this year and for the Prayer Breakfast is *Let Peace Begin With Me*. The program, which includes speakers, music, and audience participation, is a little over an hour long, followed by an opportunity for dialogue with speakers and other attendees for those who wish to remain after the formal program. The Prayer Breakfast will be held at Boudreaux's on Tuesday, September 16 at 7:00 a.m. Tickets are available through the church office at 926-2291 or by emailing rcureau@cox.net. The \$20 cost of the tickets helps support the Federation's programs, including the daily lunch program provided by the Holy Grill. The Holy Grill's long-time manager and cook, Tonia Causey, will be honored at the Prayer Breakfast for her twenty-seven years of service.

Are you remembering to have your **Albertson's Community Partners** key-tag or card swiped each time you make a food or pharmacy purchase? Don't have one? Stop by the Adult Activities table to get a new or replacement key-tag or card. As a participant in Albertson's Community Partners Program, our church receives a percentage of purchases, which help support our Outreach and Social Justice activities in the Annual Budget.

As the summer days wane into fall and the holiday season looms ahead, demands on the Baton Rouge Food Bank's resources will increase. Now is the time to fill the Food Cart with staple food items as we support the Food Bank's goal of providing food for the needy in Baton Rouge and surrounding areas. Look for the Food Cart in the breezeway or place your donations on a counter in the kitchen. And thanks as always for your generous contributions.



Branches

Invitation to Branches: Branches groups provide a way for participants to form deeper relationships and to explore life topics (e.g. love, loss, Christmas) - Intimacy and Ultimacy in a safe small group, with carefully chosen and trained leaders. Groups meet monthly for two hours, mostly in members' homes, and consist of 8 - 12 members. If you're a church member or Roots graduate, we have a place for you now. If not, we'd be happy to put you on the list to join the next Roots Class. Drop by the book table to sign up and ask questions.



Becky Cureau, Communications Chair,

We stand at the brink of undertaking phase one of the first goal of the Great Expectations Capital Growth Campaign, *Our Parking Lot and Peacestones: A Safe and Accessible Campus and Memorial Area*. Members had the opportunity to see the architect's design for the exterior master plan for this goal presented by architect **Marsha Cuddeback** and landscape architect **Jon Emerson** on August 17, and to raise questions and provide feedback. Similar opportunities were available on two subsequent Sundays. A recent mailing to all members included a reduction of the master plan with side-bar commentary, and background information for the vote to be taken at the Congregational Meeting on Sunday, September 7 to approve the conceptual master plan for the exterior campus, authorize award of a contract for the creation of construction drawings and solicitation of construction bids.

Part of the Campaign's goal of *Expanding Staffing to Increase Our Capacity for Growing Membership and Ministry* was realized with the hiring of our **Assistant Minister, Nathan Ryan**, over two years ago. Another vote at the Congregational Meeting will approve the creation of the positions of Executive Director and Technology Ministry, and funding plans to support the two positions. Rationale for these positions and their funding are included in the recent mailing to all members, as well as rationale for the Proposed 2015 Annual Budget, which will also be voted on at the meeting. These thoroughly detailed materials were provided to allow your informed votes at the September 7 Congregational Meeting.

What has brought us to this exciting place in the history of our church is the success of our Great Expectations Capital Growth Campaign and pledges that exceeded the Campaign's goal of \$1, 580,000 by members who caught the vision for our church's present and future! Continuing regular payments of those generous pledges will insure the full realization of all our Great Expectations. Timely payment of pledges to the annual operating budget likewise insures our continued stability *and* growth. You deserve to take a bow and to be proud of your caring support of our beloved and Wholly Unitarian Universalist faith community.



Are you a young adult (aged 18-35ish) member or friend of UCBR? Whether you're brand new to the church or a familiar friend we hope you'll join our young adult group, **GenUU**, for an activity. Contact group leader **Christy Howard** at christyrhoward@gmail.com.

From the Board

By Nancy Gilbert, Board President

Rationale for the Proposed 2015 Annual Budget
(recommended by the Board of Trustees for approval at the September 7, 2014 congregational meeting.)

Income	2014	2015
Non-Recurring /Great Exp.	\$67,568	\$93,400
Contributions	\$493,954	\$514,000
Self-Generated	\$25,600	\$23,000
Total	\$587,122	\$630,400
Expense		
Personnel	\$374,362	\$380,000
Exec Director	\$0	\$78,000
Prog, Adm. And Campus Maintenance	\$212,483	\$172,000
Total	\$586,845	\$630,000

Budget Rationale:

The challenge for the 2015 operating budget is to begin the task of developing a plan to completely support our anticipated additional positions (Assistant Minister, Executive Director, Technology Support) within our annual operating budget. This process began last year with the use of operating funds liberated when the mortgage was paid off.

The proposed use of the contribution increases in our operating budget will have a "snowball" effect (compounded at 4%). When coupled with the staffing support (\$335,000) from the Great Expectations Capital/Growth metered out on a declining basis, our congregation can fully fund all the positions within the annual operating budget at the end of the sixth year. Additionally, the 2014 Budget used non-recurring income funding of \$25,289 from the 2013 fiscal year surplus. This surplus will almost certainly not recur at the end of 2014. Many of the approximately \$30,000 of non-personnel increases made in the 2014 budget were rolled back without significantly affecting programs, administration or member services.



Roots

Roots is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism and our church led by our Senior Minister **The Reverend Steve J. Crump**. Our next 6 hour class will be on Wednesdays, September 17, 24 and October 1, 6:30 – 8:30pm. Sign up at the book table.

LUNCH BUNCH

All times are 1pm, on Sundays after church services.
Everyone is always welcome.

September 7 - **Dream Berrie**, 3851 S. Sherwood Forest
(after the congregational meeting)

September 14 - **Isabella's Pizzeria**, 10330 Airline Hwy

September 21 - **Leroy's**, 4001 Nicholson Drive

September 28 - **Serop's**, 7474 Corporate

Our September Circle Supper will be held Saturday, September 6, 6:30 PM, at the home of **Gloria Bockrath** and **Foye Lowe**. Sign up at the Fun & Fellowship table after 2nd service on Sundays or contact Sandy at sandrahu401@gmail.com or Tara at bayantara@gmail.com if you are interested in attending.

Continuing Activities

Everyone is welcome to attend & newcomers are encouraged.

Bible Skeptics: Sunday, September 21, 5pm, church office.
Reading: 2 Samuel chaps. 1-2 (Old Testament)

Open Circle Book Club: Sunday, September 7, 7pm, church office. The book is *The Alexandria Link* by Steve Berry

Tai Chi: Mondays, 6pm, Fellowship Hall

Women's Book Club: Monday, September 8, 6pm, church kitchen, Annual potluck and book selection party.

Humanist Film: resumes in October

Gentle Movement Class: Tuesdays & Fridays, 9:30am, Fellowship Hall

Adult Choir: Wednesdays, 6:30pm, choir room.

Everyone's Non-Fiction Book Club: Thursday, Sept. 25, 7pm, Game Room. The book is *Zealot* by Reza Aslan

Recorders: Wednesdays, 6:30pm, R3 (Advanced Group, 1st Wed.)

Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG): 3rd Thursday, 7pm, Fellowship Hall

Meditation: Thursdays, 7pm, R6



Calling all Members and Friends of the Church who are Artists and Craftsmen.

Another Arts and Crafts Fair is being planned for Sunday, November 9th.

We will be setting up in the Fellowship Hall, as well as in some of the hallways, when additional space requires it. So, all you makers of beautiful jewelry, scented soaps, note papers, delicious jams and teas, weavers, quilters, ceramists, painters, photographers- whatever is yours special thing- please plan to join us. Once again the timing should be perfect for holiday shopping. There will be no fee to participate but you will be asked to donate 15% of your sales to the Church. This, in turn, will be given to support the many community projects of the Interfaith Federation. Registration to participate will be required and the registration forms will be available in the early fall. Last year's Fair was a great success and, with your participation, this year's should even be better. Thank you from **JoAnn Fryling & Pennie Nichols**

Get to Know Our Church

We have a Lending Library contained within bookshelves in the hall between the Listening Room and the Office Manager door. There are books on African-American Studies, Death & Dying, Freethinkers, Gay-Lesbian Studies, Philosophy, Spirituality, Women's Studies and most of the major world religions including our own. We have recently added a section of Poetry and Humor, which is growing slowly. There are DVDs for borrowing and UU magazines which you may pass along to others or recycle.

These books are a valuable resource to aid us in our search for truth and meaning in our lives and learn more about our faith community.

To borrow a book is easy: write the date and your name and e-mail or phone on the card found in the pocket in the back of the book you want to borrow and then place the card in the file box under YOUR name. Please return the book when you have finished with it so it may be circulated to others. A basket marked "Returned Books" is by the shelves.

Thanks, Dottie Kelly

(Crump Expressway continued from p. 3.)

People living within the realm were to live under the law of tolerance and not revile, abuse, or kill disagreeing neighbors and citizens. OK, we should love one another. But active tolerance means engagement at the level of doing no harm when we dislike our neighbor, cannot love, or do not love our neighbor. Apparently, I am among the few who feel that tolerance has been sadly and narrowly defined and should be retrieved for its rich historical meanings and behaviors. It is nice when we all love or like one another, but what ethical principle should guide us when we do not? Active tolerance offers a historically rich, moral concept for our time. First, do no harm.
