

# *East Suburban Unitarian Universalist Church*



Sunday Services - 10:30 AM  
Religious Education - 10:30 AM

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## *ESUUC Sunday Services*

**Sunday, June 7, 10:30 am** - *“Coming of Age Closing Ceremony”* - Sponsors, parents and the entire congregation will celebrate the culmination of the past year of preparation for our COA students, in this very special service facilitated by **Dr. Waun** and RE Director **Kate Begg**.

**Sunday, June 14, 10:30 am** - *“The Butterfly Effect”* - Everything we do has an impact on the world, whether we realize or understand it or not. Would we pay more attention to our actions if we thought about this more, or would we live the way we always have? **Dr. Waun** will present. We will also honor our wonderful Sunday school teachers today.

**Sunday, June 21, 10:30 am** - *“Juneteenth”*-- On or about June 19, 1865, the last slave in America learned that the Emancipation Proclamation was the law of the land. Contemporary African-Americans mark the anniversary of this date as “Juneteenth,” and celebrate in a variety of ways. Brenda Shiring discusses the history of Juneteenth and its relevance to modern African-Americans, including a look at a local celebration.

**Sunday, June 28, 10:30 am** - *“Our Tapestry of Faith Journeys, Part I”* - What can we learn from the spiritual traditions symbolized on our church tapestry? Five panel reports will be presented by ESUUC members: UU Chalice, Celtic Christianity, Judaism, Buddhism, and Islam. The awesomely talented Justin Markel will provide musical interludes.

**Sunday, July 5, 10:30 am** - *“The Bucket List”* - **Dr. Waun** will bring a bucket. Each person who comes to ESUUC this Sunday will be given an index card to write one or more things you would like to do before you kick the bucket (as in the movie with Jack Nicholson and Morgan Freeman). As you place your card in the bucket you will be invited to share why you chose to write what you did on your card. **WE WILL HAVE A DEDICATION CEREMONY FOR OUR NEW LABYRINTH AS PART OF THE SERVICE TODAY!**



## ***Pastor's Column: Lessons from Mother Robin***

*by Rev. Renee Waun*

About a month ago there was a robin building a nest in the tree directly behind my back deck. I watched as the bird carried twigs and feathers and other soft construction materials to the site. Then I didn't see the bird for about 10 days, and I felt bad because I thought maybe the neighborhood blue jays had feasted on the robin's eggs, so the mother had to abandon the nest. I spent a few days wondering if the mother bird would grieve about something like that, or if birds just take such things in stride.

Then I noticed that mother robin had returned and started sitting on the nest all day and all night. Apparently she had built the nest first and then had to wait for the right time to come back to lay her eggs. Then she was extremely attentive and patient. I contemplated what her experience must be like, sitting there for hours on end, in light, dark, sun, wind and pouring rain. Wow. What patience. When did she eat? How did she sleep?

Then came the baby birds and a complete change of routine for her, as she hunted for food all day, until finally the fat nestlings got crowded out of the nest, learned to fly and went off on their own. The whole process seems to symbolize the creative process that so many of us go through in our lives: conception, preparation, anticipation, patience, manifestation, responsibility, teaching, perseverance, interdependence, freedom.

May we, like the robin, move through our summer days with some of these same qualities that will bring us new life, joy and a heightened awareness of that which is natural, good and holy. Have a great summer, everybody!

### ***News from the Treasurer***

**By Chris Priano**

Liquid assets, 7/1/08: \$ 4,311.14

Liquid assets, 4/30/09: \$ 9,522.95

Increase (decrease) in liquid assets: \$ 5,211.81

Net inflows: \$ 5,211.81

Prepaid mortgage funds, 4/30/09: \$12,327.08

Mortgage principal balance, 4/30/09: \$ 28,843.50

The mortgage balance shown in last month's newsletter should have been \$ 29,388.81.

As of this writing, we're sitting at about 81% of current fiscal year pledges paid, but we still have two more months to go. Thus far, I haven't had to dip into our prepaid mortgage funds by skipping mortgage

payments to help our cash flow. However, we're getting to the time of year when pledge income slows, even as our monthly operating expenses remain static. Many pledging members and friends have already satisfied their 2008 – 2009 pledge. For those who haven't, please make every effort to pay your current pledge in full by the end of June (sooner, if possible). ESUUC depends upon your support so that we can meet our modest financial obligations. Thanks!

## ***Religious Education***

All Classes:

June 7 COA Final Ceremony - No RE classes. Kids attend the service.

June 14 Flower Communion - As part of this service, all those who have so generously volunteered their time to RE will be recognized. No RE classes. Kids attend the service.

This ends the RE year for 2008 to 2009. Have a great summer!

## ***Religious Education Director's Farewell!!***

**By Kate Begg**

In a few short weeks my nine year stint as the RE Director for our congregation will come to an end. It has been a good journey. I have learned so much, and have had the distinct joy and pleasure of working with our children and the many great volunteers who give so much of themselves and make this program work. I extend my sincere thanks to each one, and to all of you, the members and friends of our congregation. I am extraordinarily grateful, and humbled by all of you. Your generosity and support has never wavered, and your commitment to RE has been a sustaining force. I thank you from the depths of my heart. As I pass the baton to a new RE Director, I wish for them many years of enjoyment with our children, and all the faith and support you have given me. There is no greater legacy.

With all my best to all of you,  
Kate Begg

## ***Annual Meeting***

We are happy to announce our annual meeting will be held Saturday, June 13<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30p. At this meeting we will be acknowledging various people's contributions to the church, electing several Board of Trustee members and deciding on the budget for the next fiscal year. We will also be having dinner so please bring a dish to share.

At the meeting you will be provided with a finalized agenda and reports from the various committees about their accomplishments this year and their plans for next year.

In the interest of raising awareness and improving the quality of the discussion about the various issues that we will be voting on a special informational meeting will be held Sunday, June 7<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 p.m. (after services). New members are especially encouraged to attend.

If you have any questions or concerns feel free to contact any of the current members of the Board. We're looking forward to seeing everyone in a few weeks.

Sincerely,  
Leona Dunnett  
ESUUC President

## ***Caring and Concerns***

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.” - Leo Buscaglia

As a Community, we share our positive energies to help those who are having difficult times...

Gayle Pamerleau whose mother passed away on Easter Sunday.

Chris Clifton whose sister found a lump on her collarbone

Nancy Fitzgerald as she continues to care for her mother in Florida

Congratulations:

Coming of Age Youth for completing their religious education requirements

Sydney Dunnett on her new look

The Pittsburgh Penguins for winning the Eastern Conference.

Each month, we will post this column for birthdays, anniversaries, honors, illnesses, or memorials.

Please contact Susan Goodis at [Caring@ESUUC.org](mailto:Caring@ESUUC.org) or call 412-609-1232 with events you wish to have included in our newsletter. Thank-you.

## ***Extra, Extra Tell All About It***

Have you ever wanted to let the community know about an event here at ESUUC, whether it's to invite others to come or to tell the local community about something we've done? You can and it is easy to do! Just submit your ideas for an article to Natalie Mendik [defeemendik1@windstream.net](mailto:defeemendik1@windstream.net) or give her a call at 724-387-1259. She is volunteering her time and talent to help us get news out! You don't even have to write the article. Just give Natalie some details and she can do it for you. Of course, if you prefer to write the article, Natalie will pass it along to the local newspapers. Just remember papers often cut parts of articles to fit into the spaces they want to fill. Please submit articles at least one week prior to when you would like it published to ensure ample time. If you have a photo opportunity you can talk to Tabitha Riggio and she will take your photo and submit it to the Penn Franklin. Tabitha can be reached at [tabithariggio@windstream.net](mailto:tabithariggio@windstream.net) or 412-480-5142. The P.R. committee could really use a chairperson to help pull things together. Any help that you can give will be greatly appreciated and I do not think this chair position will take a large time commitment. Please contact me with any questions you may have. 724-339-2354 or [MelissaAlcorn@yahoo.com](mailto:MelissaAlcorn@yahoo.com)

Blessed be,

Melissa Alcorn-Ferry

Vice President

## ***Sunday Refreshments***

One of the most popular Unitarian traditions is the social hour after each service. At ESUUC, each adult member (or couple) takes a turn bringing refreshments – on average, about one turn a year. That way, everyone has one week to show off their culinary skills, and the rest of the year to enjoy!

To ensure fairness, we assign each adult member or couple a date on which to bring refreshments. These don't have to be homemade or fancy; store-bought treats work well, too. If you haven't brought refreshments before, or are unfamiliar with how things are set up, you may want to come in the weekend before your turn to see how it's done. There are also instructions in the kitchen on how to use the coffeemaker and hot water pot. If you are still confused, or need assistance, contact Brenda Shiring at [brennyren@yahoo.com](mailto:brennyren@yahoo.com). Don't think she'll let you off the hook, though, as we all seem to like to eat!

If the week you're assigned doesn't work for your schedule, please switch with someone else for that month.

June 7	Jenifer Ewart
June 14	Sharing Sunday
June 21	Susan Goodis & Matt Mathis
June 28	Alan and Jennifer Halperin

## ***Global Connections***

The latest news from Uganda is that they have been "live chatting" with a fifth grade class in Tampa, Florida that wanted to make the world a better place by forming a relationship with some children in Africa.

The teacher contacted Dr. Waun through the ARSF website, and she helped to set it up. They use Safari Live software at the American school, making it easy to do the chats, as long as the connection holds up at the Ugandan end. The American students are able to use a webcam so Ugandan students can see them, but so far we haven't been able to set up the laptop they are using in Uganda with a webcam. But we are working on it!

It has been a huge success. In Tampa, the Principal, Assistant Principal and several other teachers have been observing the conversations, which have included topics such as birthdays, family members, skin color, hair texture, favorite foods and homework.

## *Congregational Committees*

### Committee – Chair (email)

Aesthetics – Jean Robl and Maureen Lilly Building and Facilities – John Graham Caring & Concerns – Susan Goodis Committee on Ministry – Gayle Pamerleau Community – Brenda Shiring Drumming – Bill Dunham ( <a href="mailto:drumming@esuuc.org">drumming@esuuc.org</a> ) Finance – Chris Priano Landscaping – Laurie Montgomery	Membership – Marylyn Devlin Music – Alan Halperin Religious Education – Kate Zingarelli Signs and Symbols – Leona Dunnett Sunday Programs/Celebrations – Mary Kukura-Straw Welcoming Congregation – Matt Mathis
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## *Newsletter Deadline*

July/August 2009 newsletter deadline: **June 21<sup>st</sup> (double issue)**

Please email your articles to [newsletter@esuuc.org](mailto:newsletter@esuuc.org) or call Mary Warwick (724) 327-3092 and leave a message with your news, stories, and other information.

## *Get the Weekly Email News*

If you would like to receive a weekly email that includes items not in the newsletter and reminders of upcoming events for the week, please send an email from the address you would like subscribed to [esuuc\\_news@esuuc.org](mailto:esuuc_news@esuuc.org). You can also send a message to that address if you would like it included in the weekly email announcement to the congregation.

## *Calendar*

Friday, May 29

12:00pm Relay for Life

Saturday, May 30

12:00pm Relay for Life

12:00pm NON CHURCH EVENT

Sunday, May 31

10:30am Sunday Service

Wednesday, June 3

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Saturday, June 6

5:00pm CoA Potluck Dinner (time TBD)

Sunday, June 7

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

12:00pm Town Hall Meeting

Friday, June 12

6:30pm Wedding Rehearsal

Saturday, June 13

1:00pm Pre-wedding setup

3:00pm WEDDING

6:30pm ESUUC Annual Dinner

Sunday, June 14

10:30am Sunday Service

Wednesday, June 17

1:00pm Current Events Group

Sunday, June 21

10:30am Sunday Service

11:00pm Newsletter Deadline for July/August Issue

Sunday, June 28

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Adult RE - Thank God for Evolution

Wednesday, July 1

1:00pm Wednesday Book Club

Sunday, July 5

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

Sunday, July 12

10:30am Sunday Service

Wednesday, July 15

1:00pm Current Events Group

Sunday, July 19

10:30am Sunday Service

Sunday, August 2

9:30am Choir Rehearsal for today's Service

10:30am Sunday Service

12:00pm Program Committee

Wednesday, August 5  
1:00pm Wednesday Book Club