WHO ARE WE...AND WHERE ARE WE GOING?

Join us as we revisit our mission and vision for Wildflower Church, led by Smart Church Consultants
Connie Goodbread, Natalie Briscoe, Gerry Carr
Friday, February 28, from 6 to 8 p.m., Intergenerational Potluck and Get Acquainted
Saturday, March 1, from 9:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Covenant, Values Discernment, Mission/Vision
  Light Breakfast and Lunch will be Served
  Fellowship Hall
  Childcare available Saturday upon request.

SPRING HIKE

Our first hiking outing will be Saturday, March 15, at 2 p.m. We will meet at the Loop 360 access point of the Barton Creek Greenbelt. It is on the north side of Loop 360, between MOPAC and Lamar. We plan to have a one-hour hiking group and a two-hour group. Contact Cathy Cramer if you plan to attend or have any questions. (catcramer@gmail.com or 512-636-8345)

DAYLIGHT SAVINGS TIME BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 9

Remember to set your clocks forward one hour before you go to bed on Saturday, March 8, to make sure you don’t miss church on Sunday, March 9!

GOING AWAY PARTY FOR CHRIS

Please mark your calendar for a very bittersweet event—the Going Away Party for our beloved ministerial intern, Chris Jimmerson—Sunday, May 4, after the worship service, in the Fellowship Hall. Chris will be graduating in May and moving on with his career. We want to send him off with love and best wishes! If you would like to assist in planning this party, please contact Cathy Cramer at catcramer@gmail.com or 512-636-8345.

SPRING CAMPOUT

Don’t miss our spring camping trip March 28-30 at Blanco State Park! The campsites are full, but the park is only an hour away—day-trippers are welcome to join us for the day on Saturday, March 29! See you there!
Rev. Kate Rohde is recuperating from surgery. Look for her column in April’s issue.

UBARU SUMMER CAMPS 2014

Save the dates! UBarU Summer Camps for 2014 promise to be extra special. Work Week is for everybody, families welcome. It is June 15 through June 21. Elementary Camp, for grades 3-6, is June 29 through July 5. Junior Camp, for grades 7-9, will be July 6 through July 12. And Senior Camp, for grades 9-12, will be July 13 through July 19.

And New for 2014! The new Rev. Dwight and Marie Brown Center will be completed in time for the 2014 Camps! Campers and staff will enjoy our new sleeping rooms and shower facilities.

A week of camp at UBarU is a time to make new friends and reconnect with old friends. We will swim in the beautiful limestone swimming tank, ponder the Milky Way on clear evenings, do some community service, walk the labyrinth, and take field trips to enjoy the gorgeous Texas Hill Country. And of course, we spend some time having fun while we deepen our UU faith.

INEQUALITY FOR ALL
a film directed by Jacob Kombluth

A documentary that follows former U.S. Labor Secretary Robert Reich as he looks to raise awareness of the country’s widening economic gap.

Final showing: Sunday, March 23, 7 p.m., at the home of Frances Osborne
Reserve your spot with Cathy Cramer, catcramer@gmail.com

"It provoked much discussion in my family!" ~ Liz Hiles-Fisher
"Explained succinctly and with a bit of wit!" ~ Larry Thompson
"Great statistics and information!" ~ Sarah Nicklaus

Winner of Special Jury Prize
SUNDANCE Film Festival

Nominated for Best International Documentary File
ZURICH FILM FESTIVAL 2013

"Well done!" ~ Tom Moran
"A Must See Movie!" ~ The Huffington Post

Audience Award Winner Best Documentary File
TRAVESE CITY FILM FESTIVAL 2013

U.S. Documentary Special Jury Award for Achievement in Filmmaking
MARCH WORSHIP SERVICES

March 2 – Rev. Kate Rohde

*Working Together.* As a church, as families, as communities, as cities, we all have to figure out the best way to work together towards the common good. My recent stay at the hospital showed me that it is not enough to have well meaning, competent people helping you out. If they don’t work together well, they can kill you.

March 9 – Steve Brooks

*For Pete’s Sake: The Life and Songs of Pete Seeger* Speaking about the late Pete Seeger and leading sing-alongs of his best-loved songs.

March 15 – Rev. Kate Rohde

*Amazing Grace and the Prodigal Daughter.* It took me half a lifetime to understand the parable of the prodigal son, and the next half I have been trying to live into its lessons. Now, some new thoughts on the story.

March 21 – Rev. Kate Rohde

*The Problem of Evil.* Our Liberal Tradition, founded in an optimistic view of human nature, has often had a difficult time in dealing with questions of human evil. We often gloss over the theological and social problems it represents. For me, it has been the theological question since I was a small child.

March 28 – Rev. Kate Rohde

*The Middle Way.* A lot of people like to think of UUism as at the far end of some spectrum, but I think of us as a Middle Way. (Looking for a good service to bring a friend? This one might be a good pick.)

THE WILDFLOWER WORSHIP TEAM NEEDS YOU!

One sure thing we Wildflowers can count on is, that everyone has opinions about various aspects of the Sunday morning Worship Service. What works for you? What would you like to see done differently? What new ideas could we bring to the table? Starting in June, our Sunday services will need to be planned, in large part, by its members. The roles will vary in scope and degree of contribution, but there will be a number of roles to fill. Just like our Spring gardens, it’s time to start sewing the seeds. If you are interested in how YOU might contribute, please consider coming to a WILDFLOWER WORSHIP PLANTING SESSION, to be held on Sunday, March 9, at 1 p.m., in the Sanctuary. For more information, contact Laurie Willis at lauriekwillis@earthlink.net, or 512-507-4327.

JIMMERSON’S JOURNEY

It is difficult to believe that this month, I will be attending my final course at Meadville Lombard Theological School. Graduation is planned for mid-May, when my internship with Wildflower Church will come to a close also. I am so grateful for the time I have spent here and the learning and support from which I have so greatly benefitted. Watch for information coming soon on some farewell events.

In the meantime, terrific things are happening at Wildflower. I have been working with Kate, the board and the transitions team. I am so enthusiastic about the Smart Church Consulting Team we have brought in to work with Wildflower on creating an exciting and bright future. I have also had the pleasure of teaching RE classes related to hospitality and immigration with children and youth of all ages, and will be doing a few more classes in late March and early April.

I attended a fascinating workshop at our Unitarian Universalist Ministers Association chapter retreat called “Who are our Neighbors?” The workshop examines a theory of intercultural competency that sees our capacity for seeing cultural differences and developing the ability to communicate equally and deeply with people from cultures other than our own as potentially evolving through a series of developmental stages.

Most Unitarian Universalists tend to be at a stage called “minimization”—though we recognize there are different cultures and ethnicities, we tend to look for what we all hold in common. That can be great and help us do great work with others. Our challenge is that we may sometimes see commonalities in what is really only somewhat similar, and we may fail to embrace true differences. Accepting those differences and then adapting to their creative potential can help us develop even stronger competency in intercultural relationships.

~ Chris
What is a UU? Youth in grades 6-8 are invited to join us in learning how our UU Faith helps guide us to make a difference in the world. This year, we will be exploring our Sixth principle building a better world. Specifically focusing on helping to spread the word about the work of Unitarian Universalism. We will learn how we can make a difference in the future of our World.

What are we going to do? Participate in a social action project to help grow the new San Gabriel Fellowship in Georgetown. We will travel to Georgetown on Saturday morning after breakfast. In the afternoon, there will be music and fun activities.

- Learn interesting facts on how each family can make a difference in social justice issues in our communities
- Experience songs, games and projects that are UU focused
- Practice the seven principles in a safe and affirming community
- Meet other awesome Unitarian Universalist middle school youth
- Have a World of fun!

What to expect: Arrive Friday evening between 6 and 8 p.m., for registration, snacks, and settling in. Opening Circle will begin at 8 p.m., followed by socializing and a night-time worship. *Lights out at 12 p.m.* Breakfast Saturday morning at a local Austin restaurant (registration fee will cover the cost). Saturday’s schedule will include activities, games and fun. Pizza at 5 p.m. on Saturday followed by closing circle and good-byes.

Registration: You must pre-register; we must know of all participants prior to the conference. The cost is $30. This event is not appropriate for those youth who have already taken part in high school YRUU events. There will be a 1 to 5 ratio of adults to youth.

*Make Checks payable to Live Oak UU Church.* Mail registration forms and checks to:

Live Oak Unitarian Universalist Church  
Attn: Patty Bissar, DRE  
3315 El Salido Parkway  
Cedar Park, TX  78613

**CHRIS JIMMERSON WILL TEACH GRADES K-5**

We welcome Chris Jimmerson as a guest teacher in our elementary religious education classes. He will work with the curricula called *With Justice and Compassion: Immigration Sessions for Children’s Religious Education.*

Chris is working with each age group at the church as a part of his internship. We hope you can join him.

Grades K-5: March 2, March 30 and April 6
PARADOX PLAYERS BRINGS GRANNY D TO FIRST UU!

Touting “You’re never too old to raise a little hell,” 90-year-old Doris "Granny D" Haddock in 2000, blazed a 3,200-mile trail across America for campaign finance reform, precipitating the passage of the McCain-Feingold Act. Currently touring nationwide, actress Barbara Bates Smith and musician Jeff Sebens will present "Go, Granny D!" on Friday, March 7, at 8 p.m. in Howson Hall, First UU Church, 4700 Grover Ave. Paradox Players is proud to sponsor this one-woman show (with musical accompaniment). Admission is free; no reservations required. Granny D continued her bipartisan reform efforts in countrywide voter registration drives, issuing her final challenge in 2010 at age 100: "Democracy is a running game. You huddle and you go back in. You keep going." Here's the late Molly Ivins' take on Granny: http://freepress.org/columns/display/1/2000/127

"This show totally rocks!" said Quaker Pastor Philip Raines of Winston-Salem, North Carolina. Blog reviewer Michelle Grasty wrote, "This show will make you laugh and think and beg for more." Sponsor Felecia Shelor said, "A full house of Liberals and Conservatives all loved the play."

WOMEN’S RETREAT

Lady Wildflowers,
It is time for the Crown to passed on to the next retreat Queen! The time has come to begin the search and planning for our next location for the 2014 Retreat. For those that are interested, please contact Nancy Amos at 512-626-4878 or Poohsden@aol.com.

HEART OF TEXAS MEN’S RETREAT – FRIDAY-SUNDAY, APRIL 4-6, 2014

Every Fall and Spring, men from UU churches across Texas gather for a weekend retreat at UBarU Retreat & Conference near Kerrville (ubaru.org). Come and enjoy fellowship in the Texas Hill Country. Rest, relax, enjoy delicious meals and use the time as a break from your normal routines and schedules. The retreat will be facilitated by Rev. Mark Skrabacz. Mark will guide us in a thematic inquiry and processes of introspection to deepen our life’s path and build community among our fellow UU men.

We will begin gathering Friday afternoon to share an evening meal and end mid-morning Sunday. There is plenty of bunkhouse room or, if you want, bring a tent. All buildings are heated and air-conditioned. The only thing you will need to bring are your own towel, sheets, blanket (or sleeping bag), and pillow, as well as any snacks and libations you would enjoy. Activities may include poker playing, volunteer projects, music, hiking around UBarU's beautiful rugged 142 acres, and fellowship. As anyone who has attended one of these retreats during the past decade will tell you, the event offers a pleasant, relaxing time to unwind and just get away for a couple of days while enjoying fellowship with other UU men. If you can't make it for two nights you are welcome for one. We encourage participation from all UU men across Texas. Please spread the word!

Sign up now and plan on it. The cost, which covers lodging and meals, is $110 if received by Friday, March 21; after early registration ends that day, the cost goes up to $125. Send a check, payable to Mark Kilpatrick, to: Mark Kilpatrick, 1618 Westlake Drive, Austin, TX 78746.

For those in Austin, checks also can be brought to the next Men’s Fellowship Breakfast Group gathering, scheduled for Saturday, March 8, at First UU Church Austin, 4700 Grover Ave. This event is held the second Saturday of each month.

For more information, please contact Mark Kilpatrick at texanmkk17@aol.com.

We look forward seeing you!
ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The following course begins in March. Let us know at adultprograms@wildflowerchurch.org if you would like to attend this course.

Beginning a Daily Practice. Facilitator: Michael Heinich. Particulars: Sunday mornings, from 9:30 to 10:45 a.m., Parlor, March 9, 16, 23 and 30; childcare provided. How do we create a simple practice to start rediscovering ourselves and bring sacredness into our life? Asking questions such as: What does Sacred mean to me? What is a personal Practice? What is a ritual? This class will explore different tools to develop our own daily practice such as Chanting, Personal Mantras, Meditation/Prayer. We will explore how to create a sacred space to assist our practice. The sessions in this course build upon one another.

LIFE ENRICHMENT COURSE WINTER QUARTER 2014

YOGA FOR HEALTH AND RELAXATION. Facilitator: Hester Denniston. Particulars: each Wednesday morning, from 9 to 10 a.m., Fellowship Hall. Are you curious to explore yoga or would you like to continue doing so in the company of your fellow Wildflowers? Hester Denniston is a certified yoga instructor who will facilitate a “gentle” yoga class on Wednesday mornings. Donations are gratefully accepted.

PRESIDENT’S MESSAGE (continued from pg. 7)

Earlier in this note I promised to write about progress on governance. The biggest and most visible change we made so far was the sweeping amendments we made to the Bylaws concerning committees. The intent of that was to give the Board more flexibility in how the volunteer work of the church is monitored and coordinated. Both Gerry King and Kate Rohde are taking a particularly active role in this redefinition. The Task Force placed a draft document concerning a Coordinating Team before the January meeting of the Board. The Board accepted the draft as directionally correct, acknowledging that the Task Force has more work to do on the topic. The Task Force is also working on the concept of a Covenant Team, which would work to maintain covenantal relationships at Wildflower, among other things acting as an ombudsman for those who feel they are not being treated fairly. A consequence of the amendments we passed in December is that Wildflower is no longer bound to have a Committee on Ministry. I would be surprised if there were to be a groundswell of support to bring it back, so one of the roles of the Coordinating Team will be the monitoring work that was previously done by the CoM. It’s a bit of a jigsaw puzzle, making sure that all the necessary functions are covered, but in a more open and flexible configuration than we have had before. The Board has approved a Philosophy of Governance document from the Task Force that describes the Board as a higher level, more policy-focused body. Implementing these changes will take time, experiment, and adjustment. Our plan is to have made the basic changes by the end of June, when the tenure of both Rev. Rohde and the current Board expires. Then it will be up to future Boards to ensure that the structures continue to fit the needs of the church. Meanwhile, we are reorganizing the Policies and Procedures to make it easier to find what is a policy and to allow committees to have more control over their own procedures. We are working on policies to better define the role of the minister in order that we can more easily identify when an inappropriate boundary has been crossed. The Personnel Committee is also working on policies governing the expectations we have of all employees toward the end of creating a safer church.

Those of you who have made it through to this part of the message can understand that this is all rather dry work. Communicating the various works-in-progress in context is especially difficult. Those doing the work are engaged in it not because they have a passion for making rules, but because they understand that it is part of the housework of maintaining beloved community. My thanks go out to all who are involved.

Blessed be.

~ Matthew
It’s been a busy month. I’ll start out this message with a train-of-consciousness review of what I have been involved with. Just about a month ago as I write this, we had our long-awaited forum with consultant Deborah Pope-Lance. A week later, at the January Board Retreat, the Board reflected on what was revealed at the forum and on how we would move forward in a variety of areas. We also had a reflection session after services where anyone could voice further questions or comments about ministerial behavior and boundaries. On a more positive note, eight of us drove down to New Braunfels for an all-day Hot Worship Workshop. That has led to numerous discussions about how we improve our Sunday services, making them more meaningful and more engaging. We had our usual Executive Committee meeting and Board meeting for the month. The Governance Task Force met twice during that period to work on concepts new to Wildflower of a Covenant Team and a Coordinating Committee. I write more about those later. We had a conference call with Connie Goodbread and the Smart Church team in preparation for the Smart Church weekend, February 28 through March 2. I hope you are able to attend. I’m sure it will be a significant turning point for our congregation. The Board and I have been in numerous conversations about ministry after June. Kurt Cadena-Mitchell is leading a task force to educate and elicit from the congregation a sense of how we would like to proceed. I want to send my personal thanks out to Kurt and the team for undertaking this in a fairly constrained timeline. The Board plans to make a decision at the April Board meeting so that we can present it at the May Congregational Meeting and so that we can align with the UUA hiring process if need be.

On a related topic, you are all aware by now that Kate Rohde had emergency surgery on February 17. I am hopeful that, by the time you read this, she has fully recovered. I do want to thank Chris Jimmerson and Jan Austin who stepped in on short notice to arrange a lovely service for the next Sunday, headlined by the engaging Nell Newton. While I’m giving thanks, I’ll send some out to the Transition Team for leading the Church Family Systems class. I think many of your church leaders found it a useful framework to understand how we relate as a community. The last meeting I want to mention here is the open-microphone Conversation with the Board that was held the same Sunday as Nell spoke. With all the focused meetings we’ve had over the past few months, we really haven’t had enough time to just let people speak their minds in public. Attendance was a bit thin, so I suspect I’m not the only Wildflower who is growing weary of meetings. However, it is clear that there was a lot of passion, including frustration and anger, in the room. We need that passion, that energy, in order to move forward. To those who came with creative ideas, let’s build on your ideas. To those who came with things they would like to change, let’s see how we can become creative in making the changes that will make us better.

So, there’s an incomplete sampler of my recent meetings. There are two other pieces of business I have to share with you. One is that on February 17 I sent a registered letter to Rev. Peter Morales concerning what Wildflower considers to be the UUA’s ongoing responsibilities toward Eliza Galaher. Our intention is to put a copy of this letter in each of the History Team notebooks. The second item is that we did not certify our membership number to the UUA in time to qualify for voting at General Assembly. As far as I am aware, the significant consequence of that is that Wildflowers will not be able to vote at GA. We can still attend and participate in sessions, but we will not be able to vote. I believe that we would not have been able to vote anyway since we have not made any payments to the UUA since last summer, but that is really not an excuse for not certifying. I apologize for having let this slip through the cracks.

(continued on page 6)
Interim Minister
Rev. Kathryn Rohde
minister@wildflowerchurch.org

Ministerial Intern
Chris Jimmerson
intern@wildflowerchurch.org

Director of Religious Education
Penny Burnette
dre@wildflowerchurch.org

Choir Director and Pianist
Elke Baitis
choir@wildflowerchurch.org

Office Administrator
Dotti Sizer
office@wildflowerchurch.org

Bookkeeper
Cindy Steel
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 1 block west of the intersection of Oltorf and I-35)

Please visit our website for the latest information:
www.wildflowerchurch.org

Phone: (512) 428-9464
Email: office@wildflowerchurch.org

Office
1314 E. Oltorf
PO Box 40395
Austin, TX 78704-7659

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 April issue is March 15.
Send submissions to office@wildflowerchurch.org.
Newsletter editor: Dotti Sizer; Newsletter copyeditor: Holly Gonzalez

WILDFLOWER ON FACEBOOK
Did you know that in addition to our website, Wildflower Church has a presence on Facebook? You can view photos from Wildflower events, get updates on upcoming sermons, and participate in discussions by clicking on the ‘like’ button on our page. To access our Facebook page, go to: https://www.facebook.com/WildflowerChurchATX

BOARD OF TRUSTEES
Send questions and/or comments regarding church matters to board@wildflowerchurch.org
Kurt Cadena-Mitchell, Linda Edgar, Michael Ignatowski, Ross Jones, Gerry King, Matthew Markert, David Michael, Carolyn Olsson, Larry Thompson