

The Torch



VOLUME 54 NUMBER 3

AUGUST 29, 2011

First Unitarian Church nurtures and challenges the spiritual and intellectual journey for all generations and actively engages in building a progressive and just world.

Legacy Campaign Update

Submitted by Ed Dieringer
Legacy Campaign Chair

Salt Lake City Planning and Zoning required approval of three issues prior to allowing application for a building permit. Approved just two weeks ago were:

1. The combination of the three different parcels of land that the Church currently uses into a single parcel of land.
2. A conditional use permit which allows the church to build the planned addition for improved access to our facilities.
3. An exception allowing our addition to be 4 inches taller than currently allowed height in order to accommodate the elevator requirements.

During our public hearing, some concerns were raised which I would like to address here:

1. Our conditional use permit is very specific to our current building plan. To perform any building beyond our current addition plan, will require an amendment and additional public hearing(s) before any other future building could take place.
2. Our current building plans are posted at www.slccu.org at the



Legacy Campaign page.

3. SLC stated that there are no expected upgrades required to the neighborhood's electrical and sewer. Therefore, there is no expected increase in rates for neighbors. This expansion and remodel is for improving functionality of our campus only.
4. We are aware of, and must work on, the global parking issues in the neighborhood around our church. By improving access to/from the Friendship Manor parking, we should help redirect car and foot traffic patterns on Sunday morning. However, the complexity and importance of neighborhood parking concerns requires us to be committed to a continued effort to help our neighbors with solutions to address problems created by church and non-church goes alike.

What's next?

1. We are finalizing our design for the new addition, Eliot Hall remodel, and grounds.
2. We will apply for a building permit for these items next week. We expect to have a permit in hand about the first of October, 2011. Depending on weather and other unforeseen complications, we begin construction as soon thereafter as possible.
3. The construction will include:

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THE TORCH

First Unitarian Church of
Salt Lake City

Rev. Tom Goldsmith
Minister

Mary Kroener-Ekstrand
Director of Religious Education

David Owens
Director of Music

Hal Gonzales
Church Administrator

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The Torch is published approximately every other week during the regular church year & once per month during the summer.

Editor:

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September 12, 2011

Submission Deadline:

September 6, 2011
by 10:00 a.m.

Events to be listed should occur after September 13th to ensure timeliness.

To subscribe/unsubscribe, notify Jennifer at 801-582-8687 ext. 5 or torch@slcuu.org

Reverently Yours

Rev. Tom Goldsmith



I've had yawns that lasted longer than this summer. I've held my breath underwater longer than this summer. I've given sermons longer than this summer... where did it go? Is it a trick of aging where time

accelerates twice as fast as each preceding year, so when you reach a ripe age, every season represents a nano-second, and it all just passes you by? Surely there was not enough time for cucumbers and tomatoes and other garden delights to mature for harvest. And yet the produce stares at me, ready for delicious consumption. So I guess the summer really has reached its grand finale.

Other clues: School's back in session, people are getting serious about politics again, college football is about to begin, and Unitarians are heading back to church. Just as we can track the migration of birds and wildlife as they make their way to new destinations as the seasons ebb and flow, so too can we track the end of summer when a flock of progressives head to the pews and choir rehearsals resume and the minister begins exercising his larynx for the weighty topics that the congregation expects to be addressed.

But it all begs the question: Just who do these progressives think they are to take a summer off from religion? And the question is complicated by the conservative's intensifying efforts to deal with God directly in the heat of the summer, asking the Almighty for a bit of rain in the parched lands of Texas. Although the temptation remains strong to consider God leaning to the left by denying a single raindrop to the impassioned prayers from the right, progressives are not in the business of second-guessing God's proclivity towards any of the candidates or political parties. It is enough to know that His son was an infamous socialist

who held the heretical belief that all people were equal or at least must be treated as such.

The nub of the problem in understanding Unitarian summer tendencies lies in the fact that we believe religion is with us daily, not just as a Sunday morning tour de force. We lead religious lives not just fifty-two times a year, but everyday, fighting and struggling to make the world more just. So when we break from church, it does not mean we break from our religious commitments.

This summer has also made transparently clear the urgency of eco-justice, where all nine candidates who have declared their intent to run against the incumbent president have categorically denied the science of climate change. Furthermore, regulatory agencies that tried to make the air and water somewhat safe and healthy have been cast as demonic influences, stifling God's wish for capitalism to flourish. So it is indeed time for Unitarians to head back to their progressive oases and kick back some coffee while discussing how we're going to redirect the moral conscience of this nation. Let me be clear that most of us in our congregation were busily engaged all summer long in the religious struggle to sustain the earth, our home. The appreciation for a community of progressives is only heightened at this time of year when we realize how much stronger our efforts are when we engage in the moral issues as a larger force and presence.

So get ready! Summer's over, regular worship services are ready to resume on the heels of a remarkable Summer Forum, directed by Harold Straughn. We should all feel indebted to Harold for reminding us that the religious issues of the day never really dissipate with the warmer rays, and that the clock has signaled now for all of us to return to the spiritual work that beckons our love and commitment. TRG

Among Ourselves

First Unitarian Church extends its love and condolences to the family of Martha Schack, who was our oldest member who died at 97 years old. Her memorial will be held in early November here at the church. Please look for further details about the memorial service from the pulpit and The Torch.

Tim DeChristopher Update

Submitted by Joan M. Gregory
Coordinator, Environmental Ministry

As of August 21, 2011 Tim is being held at the Davis County Jail in Farmington, Utah. Check the Davis County Correctional Facility Inmate Roster for verification: http://www.co.davis.ut.us/sheriff/divisions/jail/current_inmate_roster/default.cfm. Dylan Schneider continues to be responsible for scheduling visits for Tim. Her contact information is: Dylan Schneider, dylan.rose.schneider@gmail.com, (801) 635 9848. Please do not plan a visit to Tim without scheduling with Dylan.

Herlong Federal Prison, Herlong, California: Tim is expected to be transferred to Las Vegas for a short time and then to the Herlong Federal Prison [<http://www.bop.gov/locations/institutions/her/index.jsp>] in Herlong, California (1 hour north of Reno, NV). We do not know the exact date of Tim's transfer. It is still OK to send letters to Tim at the Davis County Correctional Facility, recognizing that if he is transferred, the letters will be returned to you rather than being forwarded to him. The address for Tim at the Davis County Correctional Facility is:

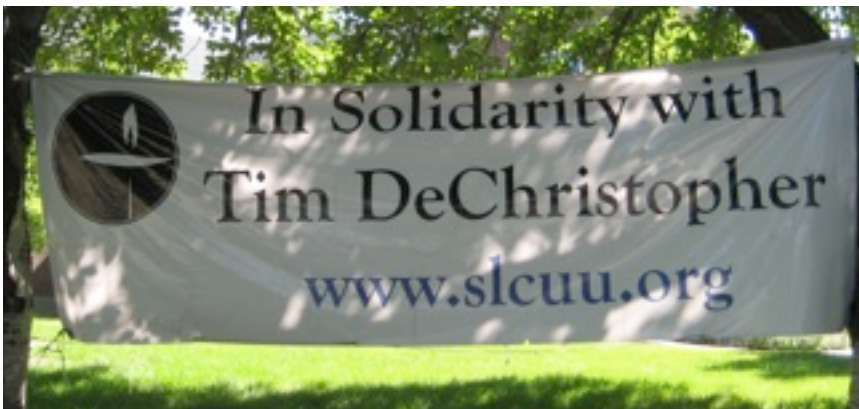
Tim DeChristopher (201106916)
c/o Davis County Correctional Facility
PO Box 130
Farmington, UT 84025

Remember that there are strict guidelines that must be followed in writing letters, check <http://www.peacefuluprising.org/tim-dechristopher-faq-20110816> for the details.

What Tim is Reading: Would you like to hear about what books Tim is reading, maybe even discuss them with others via email? If you would, Hans Ehrbar has set up a mailing list of people reading the same books Tim is reading. To subscribe go to: <http://greenhouse.economics.utah.edu/mailman/listinfo/tim>. Two books Tim has already completed are: "The Power of Now" by Eckhart Tolle and "The Next American Revolution" by Grace Lee Boggs.

Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund: Financial support is always appreciated. The best way to support Tim financially while he is in prison is by donating to Tim's Legal Defense Fund which is being used towards supporting both Tim's legal defense (appeal) and his well-being (i.e., to cover incidental expenses – like purchasing blank paper, envelopes, and stamps for letter writing and condiments for "spicing" up the food). Funds donated to the Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund are NOT tax deductible. Donations may be sent via the web, by going to: <http://www.bidder70.org/> and choosing the red DONATE button or by making out a check to: Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund and sending it to: Tim DeChristopher Legal Defense Fund, c/o Pat Shea, 252 S. 1300 E., Suite A, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102.

More information is available at: <http://www.peacefuluprising.org/tim-dechristopher-faq-20110816>



Have You Seen Me?

Our Tim DeChristopher banner was last seen at a potluck in support of Tim at the church in late July. If you have possession of the banner or know who does, please contact the Environmental Ministry: green@slccu.org

Religious Education: News for the Village



Dear All,
I've just put my children on the school bus for the first day of school. Though the autumnal equinox is still weeks away, the rhythms of fall have begun at my house. As we get ready to launch another church year, I look forward to seeing old friends and new at First Unitarian!

Sunday school classes will begin on Ingathering Sunday, September 11th at 9 and 11 am, and YRUU will begin that evening at 6:30pm. Our curriculum theme for RE programs for children and youth this year is UU heritage and identity. I am excited to be trying out some new materials recently published through the Unitarian Universalist Association's Tapestry of Faith program, which will offer us new ideas and engaging activities to explore how our faith tradition can guide our living and shape our spirituality. This year, we also hope to offer Our Whole Lives sexuality education programming for 5th/6th graders and for 10th-12th graders. We will also be hosting a YRUU CON (youth conference) in March, which will offer us exciting opportunities for leadership development among our youth and advisors.

We are still in the planning stages for our Adult Religious Education course program for the fall. As always, we expect to offer a range of courses to foster inquiry, shared interest, and dialogue within the congregation. We hope that you will join in to challenge your spiritual and intellectual journey within the context of our caring and supportive faith community. Look for more information in the next Torch, in the Order of Service announcements, and at the Activities Fair in September. Classes will begin in mid-October.

Religious Education Registration:

Children and Youth - Please fill out and submit a form online. The form can be found on our church website. Returning families should also have received a link to the form in your email. You can fill out the form at the RE Table in Eliot Hall before or after a Sunday service as well.

Adults - The brochure for our adult programs and the online registration will be available in mid-September. Fall courses will run from October through December. Watch for an announcement in the order of service and the Torch.

Volunteering: Volunteers are the lifeblood of our program! We want and need your involvement! If you are asking yourself, "Why should I volunteer?" here are a few possibilities...

- Support something I believe in.
- Have fun!

- Deepen my understanding of UU principles and faith traditions
- Share my skills and learn new ones.
- Meet new friends and feel connected within the church community.
- Do something worthwhile with my time and energy.

Please stop by the RE table in Eliot Hall on a Sunday or send an email to Mary at dre@slcuu.org if you would like to volunteer for any of the following capacities...

- Serve on the Adult RE Committee - plans and supports our programming throughout the year,
- Propose and teach/facilitate an Adult RE Course - share your knowledge and experience with members of our congregation,
- Serve on the RE Council - plans and supports our programming throughout the year,
- Teach or assist in a Sunday School class for children/youth,
- Serve as a Coming of Age mentor for 7th and 8th graders,
- Serve as a Youth mentor with YRUU (Sunday evening High School youth group).

At this time in the fall, I always feel a sense of energy and possibility in our religious education programs. I hope that you will get involved and help bring those possibilities to fruition!

In Service,
Mary

RE Teacher Training, Saturday, Sept 10

If you are signed up to teach a religious education class for children or youth this year, please plan to attend our teacher training meeting on Saturday afternoon, September 10 from 1-3pm. You will have an opportunity to meet fellow teachers, get oriented to policies and procedures at our church, learn about the philosophy and curricular approach of our new Tapestry of Faith programs, and gather ideas and energy to bring to your Sunday school classroom. See you there!

Introducing Our New Youth Advisor: Jeremy Heering

We are thrilled to announce that we have hired an outstanding candidate to serve as Youth Advisor for our YRUU program. Jeremy Heeringa has been an active volunteer in our Religious Education program for the last year, serving as both a junior high OWL teacher and a

Continued on page 5

Endowment Fund News

Generous contributions have been Janet and Hugh Gillilan in memory of:

*Wayne Trenbeath
Priscilla Mayden
Martha Schack
Henry Plenk*

Contributions to the Endowment Fund provide ongoing support to the church, and acknowledgement cards are sent to those honored. Consider a gift to honor an act of courage, a lifetime accomplish, a birthday, or other significant events.

YRUU Coordinator (continued from page 4)



chaperone on the recent YRUU Mission trip to Hopi and Navajo reservation lands. Professionally, he is a middle school Language Arts teacher working in a charter school with an emphasis on expeditionary and experiential learning. He describes himself as an advocate for youth empowerment who seeks to minimize himself so that the youth can thrive and grow. Jeremy has

demonstrated his commitment to First Unitarian Church over a period of several years through regular

attendance at our worship services, active participation in learning opportunities such as the Building Your Own Theology course, and volunteer service to the church both in the religious education program and in coordinating young adult activities with his wife, Mary. Given Jeremy's background and experience as an educator, the positive relationships that he has already developed with the youth in our programs, and his active personal engagement with developing his own UU faith, we are thrilled to have him on staff as our Youth Advisor and are confident that he will provide outstanding leadership in our YRUU program in the years to come.

Small Group Ministry Registration

Please drop off registration at the church office or mail it in. For those unfamiliar with the program, it offers discussions once a month on religion, morality, and human stories. It is not a political discussion group, book group, or therapy group. It's Small Group Ministry in which we have an opportunity to connect with one another more meaningfully.

Which night or day do you prefer (Please check two):

Nights: Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____ Fri _____

Days: Monday _____ Tuesday _____ Wednesday _____ Thursday _____ Fri _____ Sat _____

Name _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____ EMAIL _____

Check if you wish to be considered as a possible facilitator _____



Congregational Briefs

Fall Highway Cleanup

Please set aside a couple of hours on Saturday morning, September 24, to keep Utah beautiful by joining our group of volunteers to remove litter along a 4-mile stretch of State Road 65 extending from Mountain Dell towards East Canyon. Meet at THE church at 9:00 AM to carpool, or at 9:30 AM at the Parleys Canyon UDOT maintenance facility adjacent to the Mountain Dell golf course. The state requires that participants be eleven years of age or older.....BUT, there is no upper limit. Bring gloves and a positive attitude. We should be finished by 11:30 AM. For any questions, or to sign up, contact Frank Steffey at 801-277-2509.

Open Minds Book Club

The next meeting is Thursday, September 15 at 7:00 p.m. at the church. We will discuss the book Cleopatra: A Life by Stacy Schiff. The book for October 20 is Year of Wonders: a novel of the plague by Geraldine Brooks. All are welcome.

Calling All Ushers & Welcome Table Hosts!

4 ushers + 2 welcome table hosts per service = 12 people per Sunday for 42 weeks (10 weeks off for summer forum) = 504 volunteers needed.

If each of our 362 members would serve one or two Sundays a year we would have this effort covered. What is even better is to volunteer one Sunday a month as a team with someone you like!

Greeting our members, friends, and visitors is a joyful activity. The Welcome Team is the 1st point of contact for visitors and sets the tone for the Sunday morning experience. These are important positions and an easy way to give back to your community. You are coming to church anyway, get involved with a committee that is Sunday-centric. That means no evening committee meetings!!

No need to worry about how it is done. There are step-by-step written procedures and on-the-job training will be offered each Sunday beginning August 21.

Contact Christine Ashworth to sign up NOW! email: welcome@slcuu.org, cell: (801)589-1919

Crossroads Community Co-op

First Unitarian Church is an official host site for the Community Food Co-Op of Utah, helping people get access to affordable, nutritious food. September orders need to be ordered by September 2nd, and can be picked up on September 17th between 9 and 10 a.m. here at the church. For more information, please contact Nancy Lindsley at crossroads@slcuu.org or 801-583-8566.

Mountain Desert District Conference Oct. 7-9

The Mountain Desert District annual meeting will be held in Colorado Springs October 7th -9th. Regular registration is due by September 15th. Please see <http://mdduua.org> for more information.



We're having our Annual Auction online this year! For more information, please go to <http://www.slcuu.org/auction>. Questions? Email auction@slcuu.org

September 2011

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
August 28 Sunday Service 10 am only (see below)	29	30	31 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	September 1	2 Co-op orders due	3 Folk Dance 6 pm
4 Sunday Service 10 am only	5 Labor Day Church offices closed	6 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	7 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	8	9	10 RE Teacher Training 1-3 pm (pg. 4)
11 Ingathering Sunday Services 9 & 11 am (see below)	12 Board of Trustees meeting 5:30 pm Room 201	13	14 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	15 Open Minds Book Club 7 pm (pg. 6) Last day to register for MDD conference (pg. 6)	16	17 Co-op pick up (pg. 6)
18 Sunday Services 9 & 11 am Activities Fair	19 Torch Submissions Due 10 am	20	21 Choir Rehearsal 7:30 pm	22	23	24 Fall Highway Clean Up 9 am (pg. 6) Contra Dance 6 p.m.

Sunday Services

Sunday, August 28, 2011 (One 10 a.m. service only)
 "Reflections on a Sticky Summer"
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, September 4, 2011 (One 10 a.m. service only)
 "On the Edge of Class Warfare"
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith

Sunday, September 11, 2011 (9 and 11 a.m.)

Ingathering Sunday

"A Decade of Increasing Anti-Intellectualism"
 -Rev. Tom Goldsmith

We will be going to our regular two service Sundays beginning Sunday, September 11th. Please join us at 9 or 11 a.m.



First Unitarian Church
569 South 1300 East
Salt Lake City, Utah 84102

Non-profit Org.
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Salt Lake City, Utah
Permit No. 812

Return Service
Requested

Legacy Campaign Update (continued from page 1)

- a. The addition with bathrooms, elevator, and larger/access-friendly door at the Northeast side of the Sanctuary.
 - b. New cement work and fencing to improve access to the premises.
 - c. Improving our kitchen facilities and social hall.
 - d. Placing French doors on the west side of the social hall facing 1300 East.
 - e. Placing solar panels on the south facing roofs of the church.
4. I expect that this project will take at least a year to complete from whenever it starts.

In the meantime, I am available for anyone with further questions at legacycampaign@slcuu.org or 801-487-6484.

a.

Focus on the Floor Fundraiser

To the congregation of First Unitarian Church,

Two local music/dance groups, Zivio and Loose Shoes, have, for many years, enjoyed playing for regular monthly international folk and contra dances in Eliot Hall, which is know to have one of the best dance floors in Salt Lake City.

Several of the dancers became aware of the Legacy Campaign's proposed remodel of Eliot Hall and wanted to participate in the fundraising effort. The "Focus on the Floor Fundraiser" Dance was held on July 30th as our way of showing appreciation for past use of Eliot Hall and to encourage the church to replace the existing floor with a new, high-quality wood floor suitable for dancing.

Please accept our donation of \$3,750 to contribute to the Legacy Campaign with our heartfelt thanks for the continued use of this wonderful dance floor. We look forward to dancing on the new floor for many years to come.

Sincerely,

Gwen Trefts

Focus on the Floor Committee:

Jan Root, Karen Bradkis, Shireen Mooers, Sara Vandermolten, Joan Gregory, Gwen Trefts, Gillian Tufts