



## Building Community with Compassion, Service, Diversity, and Spirit

*We express compassion through caring, love and support for others.*

*We serve by promoting our principles and purposes through leadership, giving and action.*

*We are inspired by diversity to accept, respect and celebrate differences and interdependence.*

*We grow in spirit through our religious experiences, inquiry, education, reflection and transformation.*

### Minister's Musings

Christmas...

A moving image of Mary and Joseph crouched beside their newborn, nestled in the straw of a manger, warmed by the breath of gentle animals. Shepherds appear, a star glistens in the east that illuminates a birth remembered for over 2,000 years.

There is no bride or groom united to mark the coming of this child; no husband and wife, just the proud parents—an elderly man and his “companion” of fourteen years of age.

Interestingly in today’s society, that doesn’t matter, for it is the life of this child and the way that he impacted humankind that is significant. Some believe that God ordained this union with Mary so the circumstances of this unusual birth cannot be viewed as anything other than a gift from God.

Others look upon the Christmas story as a symbol that every new life is a miracle and sacred, regardless of where they were born or to whom.

I love Christmas, the music, the smells, the decorations, even the image of Jesus in the manger. It is my favorite time of year as families and friends gather to share the gifts they have brought for one another. It is a time for families, and as I considered this holiday season for our families, I realized that there are many families in both Maine and New York who are not recognized as such; as couples whose relationships are considered un-Christian and unworthy of the blessings of marriage,



even though marriage was not a factor in the relationship between Mary and Joseph. I do believe that we as a congregation have an obligation to support our couples who have gone for so long, without the recognition both legally and civilly as united in love.

My gift to myself this year is to consider, with your input, and hopefully with your support as a congregation, a proactive stand on marriage.

I will perform weddings here at first UU, however I wish to refuse to sign a marriage license between couples until every member of our congregation who are partnered with another can enjoy the same privileges of marriage that heterosexual couples have for centuries. (The church ceremony is a mere formality and carries no legal obligation in itself, however a Justice of the Peace may sign the license.)

I do take Christmas seriously, as well as the circumstances of the birth of Jesus, loved by two “parents” who were not united by a “Christian” marriage, yet fully accepted as a couple.

Let this be our gift to ourselves this Christmas, so that all who are united in God’s love and human love be honored as we all should be.

Please feel free to e-mail me and talk with me as I want to know if we can pledge that all our members are treated with the same worth and dignity that we profess as a congregation.

*Sincerely, Holly*

### HOLIDAY FLOWERS SIGN UP AND SPONSORSHIP!!!

It’s time to sign up to sponsor a holiday plant, to decorate the sanctuary for the service on December 13th, and then to be delivered to the homes of our members and friends who may be homebound, ill or just in need of a bit of good cheer in this season.

See page 9 for details.

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Phone: (315) 446-5940 / Fax: (315) 449-0874  
 Email: firstuu@twcny.rr.com  
 Church Office Hours: 8:00 - 2:00, Tues.- Fri.

**Minister:**

Rev. Holly Baylies (firstuurev@twcny.rr.com)

**Secretary:**

Ruth Yamaguchi

**Music Director:**

Jonathan English (firstuusic@twcny.rr.com)

**Director of Religious Education:**

Sonja Lamicela (firstdre@twcny.rr.com)

**RE Assistant:** Glenn Gesek

**President:** Susan King (pilasters@gmail.com)

**Vice President:**

Diana Bellini (dianabellini@yahoo.com)

## SUNDAY MORNINGS AT FIRST UU

SERVICES START AT 10:30 AM



- Dec. 6     **“Humbugs Anonymous”** Holly takes a look at the value of the humbugs among us as we rev up for the holiday season! –Rev. Holly Baylies
- Dec. 10    **Vesper Services (6:30–7:00 pm)**
- Dec. 13    **“Getting what we Wish for...”** We all want something. Sometimes it is obvious and other times we can be quite surprised when we actually get what we thought we wanted. –Rev. Holly Baylies
- Dec. 17    **Vesper Services (6:30–7:00 pm)**
- Dec. 20    **The Children’s Christmas Pageant**
- Dec. 24    (7:00 pm) Join us for our annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service; with music by Dan Duggan and Peggy Lynn, selections by the choir, readings and favorite hymns.**
- Dec. 27    **“Stories” - An Intergenerational Service by the Worship Services Committee**
- Jan. 3     **A presentation by the Worship Services Committee (TBA)**

*Holly’s sermons are available. Please email her at [firstuurev@twcny.rr.com](mailto:firstuurev@twcny.rr.com) to request a copy.*

### Minister’s Weekly Schedule

**(Tuesday, Wednesday and Friday: 8:00 am - 2:00 pm)**

- Monday:**    Holly’s sacred day off!
- Tuesday:**   AM Staff meeting and available for appointments, meetings
- Wednesday:** Church Office and appointments, meetings
- Thursday:**   Sermon Prep at home
- Friday:**     Church Office and appointments, meetings
- Saturday:**   Office at home
- Sunday:**     Church and afternoon appointments

*To schedule an appointment with Holly  
e-mail: [firstuurev@twcny.rr.com](mailto:firstuurev@twcny.rr.com) or [revholly1@aol.com](mailto:revholly1@aol.com)  
Office phone: 446-5940  
For emergencies: Holly’s cell phone is 617-548-5113*

### Holly’s Holiday Schedule

**Holly will be spending Christmas and New Years with her family and friends and will return on January 5<sup>th</sup>.**

**While Holly is away, please support our lay leaders who have created some wonderful services.**

### CANDLE LIT VESPER SERVICES THURSDAYS DECEMBER 10 AND 17TH



Two services are planned to provide First UUers an opportunity for a quiet few moments of music and readings to enrich the experiences of the season. Participants can drop in for any length of time. All are welcome.

*The vesper service reflects the historic tradition of daily evening prayer services. It is a brief service that makes use of silence and symbol. The mood of the service is unhurried and quiet.*



### THE CARING TEAM NEEDS YOUR INPUT

First UU is a compassionate community of people who reach out to each other in time of need. The Caring Team serves as a conduit for information about those among us who are sick, shut-in, or in need of a kind word of consolation or encouragement. Please contact Diane Case, Nancy Clausen, or Rev. Holly Baylies so that the Caring Team can reach out to those in need.

## President's Report

The Board is focusing on long-term planning, both for more effective governance and for growth in membership and financial health. Paul deLima's **Task Force for Growth**, approved last month, is at work. There is a brainstorming session on Monday evening, December 14. Please attend if you can.

The Board is working on policies to ensure security, both for our children and for our building. Also in process is a policy on right relations, which is intended to make our covenant with each other a living document rather than just a piece of paper on the wall. The covenant actually is on the wall: If you want to read it – and sign it – look on the back wall of the Fellowship Hall next to the hall where the coat racks are.

Rebecca Karpoff offered to be Clerk of the Board to fill the vacancy created when Julie Piato resigned. The Board has accepted her offer with gratitude. Rebecca will serve until the end of the year in June 2010.

The recent **Leadership Council** meeting was one of the most successful ever. Committee chairs and representatives began discussions between committees. This conversation promises to lead to joint activities that promise to be more effective than a single committee working in isolation.

There is a lot of other activity, too. The **Membership Committee** has revised the material for prospective and new members of the congregation. The **Stewardship Committee** is working with the Membership Committee to encourage new members to make financial commitments for the rest of this year. Those of us who have already made pledges, please remember to pay them!

The **Green Sanctuary Committee** has worked for about five years towards certification by the UUA as a Green Congregation. Jerry Clausen is chairman; members are Nancy Clausen, Fred and Marilyn Lyman, Jim D'Aloisio, Radell Roberts, and Theresa Evans. This committee would love to have more people involved in its green efforts – not necessarily as committee members, but as people who go on field trips or come to seminars. There is a seminar on December 16. Attend if you can.

**Religious Education** is booming, with 34 children registered. Many children are new this year. The kids are rehearsing for their Christmas pageant, "The Mitten Tree". In January, the teens will have a service in which they will suggest ways for the teens and the adults to minister effectively to each other.

The Board and I wish all of you happy holidays and a good and fruitful new year.

*Susan King, President of the Board of Trustees*



### PEOPLEMAP TRAINING WORKSHOP: UNDERSTANDING YOURSELF AND OTHERS

Presented by Dr. Chris Allen, Psychologist, Certified Life Coach and  
Certified Peoplemap Trainer

**Saturday, January 16th and 30th from 1p.m. to 4:30 p.m. (7 hours total) in the Parlor**

Participants will complete a brief personality questionnaire that has a 95% accuracy rate of predicting your main personality type: Leader, People, Task, or Free Spirit. Participants will learn about the three natural strengths of each type as well as a "weak spot" of each type, called the "Achilles' Heel". When understood the Achilles Heel can be turned into a "learned" strength. You will also learn to spot the personality type of others and how to speak their language. In addition, most people are a combination of two types and you will learn how to use the strengths of your combination to achieve important personal goals.

The training is an interactive experience in learning how your personality style affects all of your relationships. It is a fun and down-to-earth program with no fancy jargon and skills each person can directly apply to their personal and work lives. Two previous Peoplemap

Training workshops at First UU were wonderfully successful: 100% of the participants rated the workshop and the presenter as "Excellent". Comments included "a huge learning experience about myself and how to overcome what is holding me back in my life" and "a wonderful avenue for improving efficiency and civility in the workplace". Participants indicated that it would help them in their family life as well as at work and in church relationships.

Each participant will receive a self-scoring questionnaire, a 30-page personal workbook, and a 156-page Peoplemap book by its developer, Mike Lillibridge, Ph.D. A maximum of 10 participants can be accepted. **Fees are \$35 a person and are for the costs of materials only. This training normally costs around \$150 per participant and is a limited opportunity offered to our UU members and friends at this reduced fee.**

**To register or for questions, please contact Chris Allen at 449-4088 or [cmallen@twcny.rr.com](mailto:cmallen@twcny.rr.com).**

### YOUTH ALLY WORKSHOP



#### PUT THIS ON YOUR NEXT YEAR'S CALENDAR!

ON JANUARY 17, THE YOUTH GROUP WILL BE HOSTING A YOUTH ALLY WORKSHOP.

IN THIS WORKSHOP WE WILL:

- SHARE WHAT IT MEANS TO BE A YOUTH ALLY.
- SHOW YOU HOW EASY IT IS TO BE ONE.
- SPEND SOME TIME BUILDING YOUTH-ADULT CONNECTIONS.
- HAVE SOME OPEN, HONEST CONVERSATION ABOUT THE OBSTACLES THAT SOMETIMES GET IN THE WAY.

THIS WORKSHOP WILL START AT 12:00 PM, IN THE SANCTUARY. THERE SHOULD BE PLENTY OF TIME TO GET SOME COFFEE AND THEN COME BACK UPSTAIRS FOR CONVERSATION, FUN, FELLOWSHIP, AND INFORMATION SHARING.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.  
--- THE YOUTH GROUP



### MOVIE WITH THE MINISTER

WEDNESDAY  
December 16 - 6:30pm in the Parlor

### JOSEPH CAMPBELL AND THE POWER OF MYTHS (PART 2)

In this timeless SECOND episode of the PBS series, journalist Bill Moyers leads viewers on a journey into the mind and spirit of legendary teacher' and masterful story teller Joseph Campbell. Among many other topics, Campbell discusses the need for modern myths that fit our changing world; people's search for a hero in their everyday lives, the role of love, romance and sacrifice in myth and in practice, and the concept of eternity in the context of various religions.

This disc is the SECOND part of the feature. Please bring a beverage or a snack to share...All are welcome

1 (Tues)	7:00 pm 7:00 pm	RE Committee Meeting (P) Universalist Study Group (L)	<p><b>Key:</b></p> <p>B=Betts Room ER= East Room (room at the end of the RE Wing hall) FH=Fellowship Hall K=Kitchen L=Library (RE Office) MR=Music Room N=Narthex P=Parlor S=Sanctuary TR=Teen Room AR = Archive Room (room behind sanctuary)</p> <hr/> <p><b>REMINDER:</b></p> <p>CHOIR REHERSAL IS HELD ON THURSDAYS (DECEMBER 3, and 17) AT 7:15 PM IN THE SANTUARY</p> <hr/> <p><b>Deadline for submissions for next issue:</b> <b>Friday, DECEMBER 18, for the issue that will cover events from January 1, to December 31, 2010, at <a href="mailto:firstuu@twcny.rr.com">firstuu@twcny.rr.com</a>, or in the office.</b></p>
2 (Wed)	1:15 pm 7:00 pm	Chalice Circle (P) Young Adults (P)	
4 (Fri)	8:00 pm	SYRACUSE GAY & LESBIAN CONCERT	
5 (Sat)	9:00 am 8:00 pm	Yoga Class (FH) SYRACUSE GAY & LESBIAN CONCERT	
6 (Sun)	10:30 am 12:15 pm	Worship (S) Chalice Circle (P)	
7 (Mon)	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga Class (FH) Green Sanctuary Colloquy (P)	
8 (Tues)	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	<b>Merry Gentle Women Dinner</b> Finance Committee Meeting (AR)	
9 (Wed)	7:00 pm	Young Adults Meeting (P)	
10 (Thur)	6:30 pm 7:00 pm	Vesper Service (S) Board of Trustees Meting (P)	
12 (Sat)	9:00 am	Yoga Class (FH)	
14 (Mon)	6:00 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga Class (FH) Growth Task Force Meeting (TR) Chalice Circle (P)	
15 (Tues)	7:00 pm	Green Sanctuary Colloquy (P)	
16 (Wed)	1:15 pm 7:00 pm 7:00 pm	Chalice Circle (P) Green Sanctuary Meeting (P) Young Adults Meeting (TR)	
17 (Thur)	7:00 pm	Vespers Service (S)	
19 (Sat)	9:00 am	Yoga (FH)	
20 (Sun)	10:30 am 12:15 pm	Worship (S) Chalice Circle (P)	
21 (Mon)	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga (FH) Green Sanctuary Meeting (P)	
22 (Tues)	7:00 pm	PFLAG (P)	
23 (Wed)	7:00 pm	Young Adults Meeting (P)	
24 (Thur)	7:00 pm	<b>CHRISTMAS EVE CANDLELIGHT SERVICE (S)</b>	
27 (Sun)	10:30 am	Worship (S)	
28 (Mon)	6:00 pm 7:00 pm	Yoga (FH) Chalice Circle (P)	
30 (Wed)	7:00 pm	Young Adults Meeting (P)	

#### HAVE YOU EVER THOUGHT ABOUT TRYING A YOGA CLASS?

NO COMMITMENT, FIRST CLASS FREE

THE CLASSES ARE WEEKLY, YEAR ROUND. START ANYTIME, NO COMMITMENT NECESSARY, DROP-INS WELCOME.

MONDAYS 6:00 PM - 7:30 PM & SATURDAYS 9:00 - 10:30 AM. FOR MORE INFORMATION GO TO [WWW.INFINITELIGHTYOGA.COM](http://WWW.INFINITELIGHTYOGA.COM) OR CALL TONY RIPOSO AT 449-0040

# USE YOUR HEAD: RATIONAL RELIGION FOR THE NEXT GENERATION



## Youth Religious Education News

### From the DRE:

#### Safe Community, Safe Children



At First UU we take the safety of our children seriously. And while we never want to lose the sense of trusting, caring community that we hold dear, we do need to take the measures available to us to ensure that our whole community, but especially our children are safe. This is manifest in everything from the rules we set on Sunday mornings to the policies that we are forming to institutionalize best

practices. And from the minister and the church leadership to the parents, children and even members who have no children there is something that each of us can do to keep our community safe and loving environment. At our Youth Community time downstairs last week the children discussed what makes them feel safe and what they can do to make the larger church safe. This is a conversation that needs to be held at all levels throughout the community.

What can you do to help keep us safe?

The children, with loving reminders from parents and other adults, can walk rather than run in the fellowship hall. They can be sure that they know who their adult in charge is and stay with a buddy while on church grounds. They can stay inside the church unless escorted by approved adults during RE time; they can clean up spills and messes, and hold doors for people coming behind them. They can stay out of the kitchen unless escorted by an adult. And report any adult who does something that makes them feel weird to their parents or the DRE or Minister.

As parents, we can be sure to know what adult is in charge of our child when it is not ourselves. We can make sure that children

have supervision before and after the service. We can review the rules of safe behavior with our children from time to time, and provide appropriate consequences for them when they don't follow the rules.

All of us can be sure to lock and close windows and doors when we leave, never leaving doors propped open with bricks or other wedges. Report any people with suspicious behaviors to the DRE, minister or Board President. Stay in public areas of the church if you are with children that you have not been given express permission to be alone with by their parents. Teachers should always work in teams of two to protect not only the children, but the teachers from allegations of wrong doing. Do not leave church grounds with children or youth unless parents have given their consent. Be sure to keep belongings secure and with you or locked in appropriate places. And if you are the guardian of keys or codes, take that responsibility seriously and do not share these items with others.

As a church we are currently developing official policies regarding generally safety and background checks of staff and volunteers who work with our children and/or money. If you are interested in providing input to these policies, please contact the Minister, DRE or Board President.

And while safety is of the utmost of importance, remember that we are a community of faith. Do that which is smart to protect those we love, but then have faith that the members of our community are acting from the best of intentions. It is a rare and sad event when that trust is violated, but the surest way to lose all that is lovely in our community is to give one person of bad intention the satisfaction of destroying trust among those who love and care for one another. So as we move forward, it is the task of our whole community to find the balance between vigilance and love. I think we're up to the challenge.

### Youth Group Travels to Rochester



On November 13, 6 members of the Youth Group traveled to the First Unitarian Church of Rochester for a Youth Con. They were Nick Lamicela, Mick O'Bryan, Dylan Holgate, Mia D'Aloisio, Joel Bowman, and Corinne Hutchinson. Mindy Holgate volunteered part of her weekend to be an advisor for the youth (thank you, Mindy). This con was a great chance for youth group members to meet (and reacquaint with) other UU youth from across the state (and even from Toronto). Friday night's midnight service focused on rhythm, drumming, and inspirational quotes. The ultimate football game was also a hit. Corinne Hutchinson spent a workshop knitting hats and ear bands for Rochester area children in need of such warm clothes. For the first con of the year, it was a fabulous success. All youth group members have caught up on their sleep by now, so feel free to ask them about their experience.

## The Green Corner

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**On behalf of the Green Sanctuary Committee:**

Yes, the holidays draw out the best in most of us each year. But they also bring what seems like an environmentalist's worst nightmare: tons of extra garbage, millions of chopped-down trees, and megawatts of flashing lights. With a little tweaking, however, everything from holiday gift-giving to light-stringing can celebrate the environment, too. Here's how:

Between Thanksgiving and New Year's day, Americans throw away a million extra tons of garbage each week, including holiday wrapping and packaging, according to Robert Lilienfeld. So why not recycle holiday gift wrap? Lilienfeld, who has published a newsletter on reducing waste since 1996, notes that if every family reused just 2 feet of holiday ribbon, the 38,000 miles of ribbon saved could tie a bow around the entire planet! And not all gifts need wrapping. By giving gifts that can be experienced, like tickets to a baseball game or a homemade dinner, you can minimize wrapping and still win points with the receiver.

Choose a live tree from a Christmas tree farm, as forests aren't hurt by choosing a tree grown on a farm, and artificial trees consume significant energy and petroleum-based materials during their manufacture. Recycling fresh trees after Christmas can make a huge difference in reducing holiday waste. Instead of taking up space in the landfill, trees can be ground into wood chips, which can be used to mulch gardens or parks or to prevent erosion at a local watershed.

Finally, use Low-energy Lights. According to one U.S. Department of Energy study, if everyone replaced their conventional holiday light strings with LEDs, at least two billion kilowatt-hours of electricity could be saved in a month. The savings would be enough to power 200,000 homes for a year, and the LEDs release little heat and last about 200,000 hours.



**Happy Green Holidays!**

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## Adult Enrichment



The Emerson, Thoreau Transcendentalist movement ended on Nov 17th. These were well attended with discussion about offering the DVDs in 30 minute segments some Sundays after church for those who are interested in learning about segments of our history in bits and pieces. We want to thank Rick and Gracia Sears who provided soup plus for the first two sessions.

THE UNIVERSALIST STUDY AND REFLECTION GROUP will be involved in a ceremony of Lights during the month of December. This circle of light will be lit during the Sunday services in December.

From the ceremony written by Holly Baylies I offer the following introduction: "In this season of joy we celebrate the miracle of all life in many ways as it is the vastness and the sincerity of our faith which has brought us together today. For centuries humankind has sensed a magical quality about this time of year and has always honored nature's transitional journey from darkness into light."

If you are curious about the UNIVERSALIST STUDY AND REFLECTION GROUP and want more information contact Gracia Sears or Jane Pickett.

The next meeting will be Tuesday Dec. 1st at 7 PM at church. All are welcome.



Serving Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender Central New Yorkers As They Age

**Sage Upstate's Newsletter is now available on our website**

**[www.sageupstate.org](http://www.sageupstate.org)**



# The Church Mouse



Thank you for your help!

## Thank You

- Cudo's to our ushers and the Decorating Team, who did such a good job preparing for and decorating our sanctuary for our Thanksgiving Communion Service on Nov 22. Our next meeting is scheduled for Sunday Dec 6 at 12:00 noon after the service in Holly's office. This has been alot of fun and anyone who would like to join us is most welcome!
- Thank UU's - To Dave and Eulene Lyttle for donating several reams of copy paper.

**Usher & Greeters: for November**

Thank you to:  
 Mary McLatchie (our usher coordinator!), Tim Rice, Diane Case, Betsy Spaulding, MaryGail Perkins, Susan King, Jerry Trexler, Marcia Rand, Marcia Tupper, Phil Klein, Diana Bellini

### Welcome New Members!!!!

Please join us in welcoming the new members who signed our book on 11/2/09.

Scott & Kara Dickinson with their daughter Tess and son Merrick.

Scott & Kara recently relocated to the area. Scott's dad is a long time member Dr. David Dickinson.

Georgina Gregory who has recently relocated to Skaneateles.

She volunteers at the Skaneateles Library and Baltimore Woods. Karen & Andy Palumbo with their daughter Kelli. Karen & Andy have been attending since Spring and they are already teaching a six week session in YRE.



**Flowers for November**  
 A big THANK YOU to:

- Jerry Sharfstein
- Brian Gruninger and Dan Sovocool
- Nancy Clausen
- Marcia Rand



## reminder

**TO ALL WHO USE FIRST UU:**

► If you are the last to leave the room, turn down the thermostat and turn off the lights. Thank You!

# Happenings at First UU



**REACHING OUT:** The YRE program with the help of Nadine Fernandez and Ellyn Lentz prepared these lovely baskets for about 15 members of our society who were going through a Rough Patch in their lives. Thank you to all the children, the members who donated ingredients for the baskets and adult volunteers who helped to build the baskets. (pictured: Nadine Fernandez, Ellyn Lentz, Kai Gesek, Eval Oesterlund, Lucia Oesterlund)



**Individual Expression:** The 4-6 Grade class explored Individual Expression as a for of spiritual practice in the Toolbox of Faith Curriculum on November 8. Pictured in the foreground are Carl Lamicela, Claire Hutchinson, and Luella Karpoff. In the background, teachers Pamela Spearman and Claudia Klaver.



## "IT HAPPENED AT SYRACUSE" CELEBRATING THE BIRTH AND GROWTH OF UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

On Friday, October 30th First UU hosted a dinner for those attending the 50th anniversary of the merger of Unitarianism and Universalism. Many thanx to those that helped in planning and helping with the weekend events!



**SIMPLE GIFTS CRAFTS POTLUCK:** On Sunday November 15, enthusiastic crafters joined in the fellowship hall to learn new skills while having wonderful fellowship. Instruction and guidance was offered by Joan Kump in crocheting, Keith Bertrand in candy-making, Ellyn Lentz in card-making, and Linda D'Aloisio in eco plastic pouches, made from plastic bags! While people were pursuing their creative efforts, Ellyn oversaw the making of soup from the ingredients each brought. We had a wonderful meal with delicious soup and homemade bread. All went home with new ideas and uplifted spirits.



## THE FREDERICK BETTS LEGACY SOCIETY: SECURING OUR FUTURE

Frederick W. Betts has the distinction of being the longest serving minister of this congregation from 1889 until his death in 1932. During his life, he was known - personally or by reputation - to every citizen of Syracuse. His death was the front-page headline of the Syracuse newspapers.

A review of our congregation's early history could easily lead one to conclude that the existence of our Society today is, in large part, thanks to Dr. Betts. He arrived to this pastorate after a period of institutional instability and conflict.

Guided by his devoted leadership, this congregation of Universalists thrived and prospered and in the process, Betts became recognized as one of the most respected civic leaders. He was Chairman of the Red Cross and active in promoting libraries. The Betts Branch Library on South Salina Street is a lingering tribute to his contributions. He attacked the problem of vice and prostitution lamenting "perhaps the deepest tragedy of modern life (is) that the church and social radicalism were so far apart..."

Fred Betts and his wife Mary established an endowment bequest to support their beloved congregation in perpetuity - the "Betts Fund." Though they have been gone for 75 years; their generosity continues to nurture this congregation.

In an on-going appreciation for the Betts' and all the others who came before us, we have created **The Frederick Betts Legacy Society** to enable members and friends to establish a legacy of their own through planned giving. Planned giving vehicles include naming First UU as a beneficiary in a life insurance policy (multiple beneficiaries may be listed in a single life insurance policy), a bequest in your will, living trusts, and gifts of retirement assets. If you would like to learn more about how you can support the First Unitarian Universalist Society of Syracuse in your estate plans, or if you would like information on planned giving for First UU, please contact the chair(s) of the Trust (Cliff Mellor) and/or Finance Committee (Jim Vossler).



## Take Part in a Study of UU Churches and Social Action

Karen Macke, a PhD student from Syracuse University, is conducting her dissertation research on UU's involvement in various social action efforts, including (but not limited to) LGBT activism. This study is interview-based. Results from the study will be given back to the church to help strengthen its community and social action efforts.

Please consider sharing your unique experience of Unitarian Universalism, its call to social action, and this particular church community. Karen needs as many volunteers as she can get. That means your input is needed, regardless of your experience(s) with the church or its various social justice projects!!

Interviews will be held at the location of your choosing and should take about 60 to 90 minutes to complete. Your participation in this study is completely voluntary and can be terminated at any time, if you so choose. To volunteer, or for more information, you can reach Karen by email ([kemacke@maxwell.syr.edu](mailto:kemacke@maxwell.syr.edu)) or phone (315-403-5591).

The Board of Trustees approved Karen's Macke's project last year. This could be an important tool in identifying our commitment to social action here at First UU. We encourage as many as possible to contact Karen and set up an appointment with her.



## HOLIDAY FLOWERS SIGN UP AND SPONSORSHIP!!!

It's time to sign up to sponsor a holiday plant, to decorate the sanctuary for the service on December 13th, and then to be delivered to the homes of our members and friends who may be homebound, ill or just in need of a bit of good cheer in this season. The plants are \$10 each and may be given in memory or celebration of a person or event of significance to you. All of us can participate, through either sponsoring a plant or volunteering to make a delivery and visit sometime after the service on the 13th. Sign up at the table in the Fellowship Hall on 11/29 or 12/6.....or mail your request and payment to be received in the church office by Friday, December 4th. **Thank you for your generosity - Nancy Clausen**

## The Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus Presents "Come Home for the Holidays"

Holiday songs are endearing, not because of the music or the lyrics, but because of the memories that come flooding into our minds when we hear "White Christmas" or "Jingle Bells." It's these memories that bring us back home and into the arms of our family even when we can't be near them. The Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus welcomes you into our hearts and homes for our annual wintertime concert.

"Come Home for the Holidays" will be held Friday, December 4th and Saturday, December 5th at the First Unitarian Universalist Society at the corner of Nottingham and Waring Roads. The concert begins at 8pm on both evenings. Tickets are available in advance for \$15 or at the door for \$18. Reduced prices for students and seniors can be arranged. Purchase your tickets online at [www.syrglc.org](http://www.syrglc.org), at Lavender Inkwell Bookshop or from any Chorus member.



The Syracuse Gay & Lesbian Chorus, which is in its 18th season, is a community choral ensemble of gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgendered people and their allies, dedicated to providing and performing an eclectic and entertaining offering of quality choral music which reflects the diverse nature of our community and serves to unite us with the wider community around us. The 45-member group of men and women has performed at a variety of local events, including Onondaga Community College's Arts Across Campus, World AIDS Day, Crime Victims' Memorial, the annual CNY Pride Parade, the Great New York State Fair and the Westcott Street Cultural Festival.



For additional information please contact Justin Sawyers, Publicity Chair at [publicity@syrglc.org](mailto:publicity@syrglc.org) or visit our website at [www.syrglc.org](http://www.syrglc.org).

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109 Waring Road  
Syracuse, NY 13224

Phone: 315-446-5940 Fax: 315-449-0874  
Email: [firstuu@twcny.rr.com](mailto:firstuu@twcny.rr.com)

We're on the Web!  
[www.firstuusyr.org](http://www.firstuusyr.org)

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