



# news @ first . u . providence

The Monthly Newsletter for  
The First Unitarian Church of Providence  
Corner of Benefit and Benevolent Streets  
Providence, Rhode Island

J U N E 2 0 0 9

All Church Events  
All Parish Picnic – June 14



I N S I D E

Monkey Mind .....	2
Spiritual Pathways .....	3
Sight Lines .....	4
Congregational News and Events .....	5
Together in Fellowship .....	5
Growing in Wisdom and Spirit .....	6
Summer @ First Unitarian .....	6
Getting Involved .....	6
Church Calendar .....	7
A Taste of Transylvania .....	8

S T A F F

- Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister
- Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education
- Frederick Jodry, Music Director
- Rev. Christana Wille McKnight, Community Minister
- Posey Kooris, Administrator
- Walter O. Sotelo, Administrative Assistant
- Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator
- Jaime Durango, Building Manager
- Paul Webber, Evening Security
- Tadesse Tsega, Sunday Building Manager

N E W S L E T T E R

- Posey Kooris, Managing Editor
- Susan Fisher, Editor
- Carol Pentleton, Designer

## Services in June

### Sunday, June 7 To Be Perfectly Honest

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

When James hears someone – particularly someone who is selling something – say, “To be perfectly honest . . .,” he instinctively reaches for his wallet. And that makes him think. What is honesty? Is it, in fact, always the best policy? When would you lie? And to what purpose? James will reflect on the nature of truth and lying.

*Childcare for all ages*

### Sunday, June 14 Forbidden Books

10:30a

Rev. James Ishmael Ford

On this day in 1966, the Vatican abolished the Index of Forbidden Books. James is taken with this small factoid. As we launch into summer – which, among other things, is the time for serious beach reading (James claims he will read nothing but murder mysteries for the next month) – it might be a good time to think about what we choose to read, or not, and what that can mean.

We will celebrate a child dedication at the service.

*Childcare for all ages*

### 3:00p Marriage Equality Worship Service

Rev. James Ford will be one of three preachers at this annual worship service hosted by the Rhode Island Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality. This service will take place at the Beneficent Congregational Church, 300 Weybosset Street, Providence.

*Summer Services Begin (note the 10:00a starting time)*

### Sunday, June 21 I Spoke to God This Morning, and She Says Hi

10:00a

Ryk McIntyre

The semi-exciting story of how an arrested adolescent’s journey from Unitarian Universalism out into the multi-theistic world led him back to UUism – but as a Christian. Ryk will talk about how that search informs his writing and how he lives and sees the world (and a little bit on why he finds so many fellow Christians embarrassing or infuriating or both).

*Ryk McIntyre is a husband, a stay-at-home dad, a writer and performer, a columnist for the Web site gotpoetry.com, and a co-host at open mics in Cambridge and Providence. He lives in Johnston with his wife, Melissa Guillet, and daughter, Autumn Skye. He also has two sons who live with his ex-wife in Virginia.*

*Program for young children in the Parish House.*

### Sunday, June 28 Seeking Common Ground

10:00a

Rick Richards

In 2007, the Rev. Robert Latham said to our congregation, “It’s not your differences that make you strong; it’s what you have in common that makes you strong!” That was an interesting statement to make to a group of people who tend to treasure their differences and identify with what makes them unique. In some ways, the statement that similarities matter a lot can be taken as a challenge to our constitutionally granted right to pursue life, liberty, and happiness. But is this necessarily true? Can life, liberty, and even the pursuit of happiness possibly be enhanced by establishing and living within commonly held understandings of our nature and purpose? Let’s see where this line of inquiry gets us.

*Rick Richards has remained at the church so long because he has experienced the saving power of words, particularly those spoken from the pulpit. You can infer from this that he sees himself in regular need of salvation, mostly from his own foibles, ignorance, and temper. He thinks church helps.*

*Program for young children in the Parish House.*

**Thanks to Your Generosity . . .**

Dear Members of the Congregation,

Thank you for your wonderful donations totaling \$1,913.50 through your special collection on April 12. Thanks to your generosity – along with the generosity of so many philanthropic friends and colleagues – Community MusicWorks is thriving in 2009.

All charitable support for nonprofit organizations during these uncertain economic times is extremely meaningful. At Community MusicWorks, we are especially grateful to our many friends who continue to help us pursue our mission – now in its twelfth year – of transforming the lives of children, families, and musicians in Providence through our free after-school music education and mentoring programs.

Best wishes,

The Staff at Community MusicWorks

**Membership News**

Our church welcomed 40 new members this year, and on May 3, the Membership Committee hosted a brunch to celebrate this influx. Along with quiches, sweets, and perhaps the largest fruit salad in church history was a smattering of church leaders, who spoke about their experience and involvement in the congregation. It was a lively gathering and a perfect opportunity for making connections.

Maybe you've already met some of these new members, or feel like they've always been part of things in our community. If you haven't been introduced, please jump in! Generally speaking, new members are happy to be invited to take part in things. If you or your committee need a dose of fresh energy, please consider inviting new members into the fold. If you'd like to invite new members whose interests might be a good match for what you've got in mind, but aren't sure who they are yet, ask me!

— Katy Killilea, Membership Coordinator



**Condolences to:**

The family of Helen Graves, a long-time UU who had been part of our church community since moving to the area in 2006.

The family of Betty Adae, who shared with our community in the 1980s and '90s her joie de vivre and her flute music extraordinaire.

Healing thoughts to Kathy Kahn who is recovering from surgery for endometrial cancer.



**MONKEY MIND**

I write this having just returned from a meeting of the steering committee of the Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality in Rhode Island. A good gang, folk I'm proud to be working with. I was mildly disappointed that our offer from First Unitarian to host the worship service for this year's Pride events was declined in favor of the more centrally located venue at Beneficent Congregational Church. I was considerably mollified, I have to admit, when they asked me, as representative of First Unitarian, to be one of the three preachers at the service. That event takes place at three in the afternoon on Sunday, June 14. I hope you won't feel churched out and will come if you can.

And, I know, a fair number of us will come. In this first year serving among you, I've learned a few things. One is that this is a community that steps up to the plate. I'm impressed – very, very impressed – how, while not ignoring the difficult times over the past years, the community has drawn together, leaders have emerged, and nearly all have been willing to give time and energy and heart to the matter of creating sacred community.

Ours is a tradition that, when we're on our game, looks within fiercely and reaches out broadly. And I'm so impressed at how First Unitarian very much is on its game. It has been a profound pleasure to work with such talented and dedicated staff. I hope we all know how lucky we are with our senior staff: Cathy Seggel leads an impressive religious education program as nothing less than a ministry; Posey Kooris runs our shop with a rare mixture of business acumen and heart; and Fred Jodry, what can I say, musical genius. Joining the senior staff this year, Katy Killilea has thrown herself into the matter of helping visitors find a home among us.

The supporting staff, particularly our Building Manager, Jaime Durango, and Administrative Assistant, Walter Sotelo – and also Tadesse Tsega taking care of the building on Sundays and Paul Webber, our evening security person – each contributes mightily to our community's life. It is also a treat to have a colleague, Christana McKnight, as our community minister.

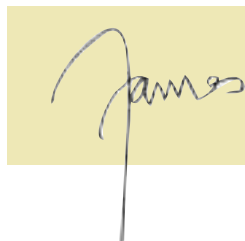
But we could have the best staff in the world (which we probably do) and it would be for naught if the community did not throw heart and hand into the project. I'm so pleased to be able to report that you do! Fortunately, there are too many of you to even begin to list, although I really want to hold up our retiring congregational president, Cy O'Neil. I consider Cy one of the true treasures of this congregation, a good friend to all of us, and, I very much feel, to me. What a lovely combination of heart and mind! He's what I want to be when I grow up.

I can't get over my good fortune in being called to serve among you. I am grateful beyond words – and words are my stock in trade. But inadequate as it will be, something must be said. So, as we barrel into the end of the church year, I just want to hold up how important this project is, and to express my gratitude for what you all have created here on the hill.

This is an amazing congregation.

And I look forward to our work together as we grab a bit of a breath over the summer and then go forward into the next year.

See you in church,



Rev. James Ishmael Ford, Minister  
 Office Hours: Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday,  
 9:00a–12:00p Appointments are recommended.  
[min@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:min@firstunitarianprov.org)





SPIRITUAL  
PATHWAYS

**Don't Miss the Blooming**

The 2008–2009 Spiritual Pathways year went well. We have more than 50 dedicated and enthusiastic volunteers teaching on teams to thank for guiding the faith development of our children and youth during the regular church year. The closing class day is on Sunday, May 31. Our chapel service will honor highlights, shared by teachers and young people. The junior high worship associates will be thanked and reminded that they will always be welcome in chapel. It has been a very good year for our Sunday School.

Now, while official classes are on pause, the growing certainly keeps going. People of all ages need changes from the routine, time to regroup, relax. And it is a time for playing and reaping the joys of warm weather and longer days.

In June, my work shifts to preparations for fall, including teacher recruitment and support, curriculum fine-tuning, and developing publications, like the Resource Book (see below), registration forms, Coming of Age materials, and teacher handbooks. I will be in Salt Lake City for the UUA General Assembly and Liberal Religious Educators board meetings and Professional Days in late June. Then, I will take part in Star Island RE Week in mid-July, serving as the resource person. The theme is "Seeds for Growing a Spirited Life" with speaker the Rev. Meg Barnhouse. After that, I will take a few vacation weeks with family in late July, returning to my church office in mid-August. Summer seems always to be the quickest season.

Reflecting about this time of year in his *earth bound*, Brian Nelson writes:

No matter what our activities of the spring, June summons us to recognize that life is in its fullest now, and to take steps to nurture and sustain the fullness.

Whatever it is in your life that needs celebrating, don't be so busy planting the seeds that you're missing the blooming.

Take good care,

Cathy Seggel, Director of Religious Education  
401.421.7970  
dre@firstunitarianprov.org  
Office Hours: Monday–Friday and Sunday

**2009–2010 Resource Book Coming in August**

Please watch your mail in August for next year's First Unitarian Resource Book. This congregational guide includes general information about activities in the upcoming church year, the church calendar, information about ministries and committees and how to participate. It contains the prospectus of the philosophy, policies, and curriculum for the faith development programs for children, youth, and adults.

**Registration for 2009–2010 Sunday School**

Registration for our Spiritual Pathways religious education program begins on Sunday, September 13. *Note:* Parents must re-enroll children and youth each year.

**Openings for Team Teaching in the Sunday School**

There are still a few exciting team teaching opportunities open for next year in our Spiritual Pathways Program for Children and Youth. Each class has a minimum of four volunteer teachers, who are asked to help on half of the Sundays during the school year.

There are always at least two teachers present in each classroom each Sunday. Planning ahead for next fall allows time for new teachers to meet team members and get support from the staff. Cathy Seggel and the Religious Education Committee are waiting to hear of your interest (returning volunteers are given first choice). We look forward to welcoming you to the teaching community!

Contact: Cathy Seggel at 401.421.7970 or dre@firstunitarianprov.org

NEWS AND NOTES

**Casting Our Allotted Ballots for UUA President**

At First Unitarian's Annual Meeting on April 26, the congregation voted to have the church's delegates to the upcoming UUA General Assembly (GA) decide how to cast the congregation's nine ballots for the UUA presidency provided that a session be held in May for those who wish to discuss the candidates with the delegates and explain why they favor one over the other. Based on our official membership (400), First Unitarian is entitled to nine voting delegates at GA this June. Six members of the congregation who plan to attend GA have agreed to serve as delegates: Marilyn Eanet, Martha Rice Sanders, Cathy Seggel, Norm Seggel, Jan Seymour-Ford, and Morgan Ivens-Duran.

On Tuesday, May 12, five of the delegates held an open forum, attended by four members of the congregation; the group engaged in a wide-ranging discussion of the candidates and their platforms for about 90 minutes. Informed by this discussion, the delegates determined that each of them will cast one vote at GA, following their conscience and taking into account what they have read and heard about the candidates. The three remaining ballots will be cast absentee: two for the Rev. Peter Morales and one for the Rev. Laurel Hallman.

This process represents a step forward in engaging the congregation in discussions of how First Unitarian interacts with the larger denomination. The motion passed at the Annual Meeting included a call to develop a more thorough process for the congregation to participate in absentee balloting in the future. The PruComm will begin to address this next year.



HATS OFF!

To our Coffee Hour Providers last month: Elsie Buffum, Roberta Groch, Nancy Weiss Fried, Mary Frappier, Gerry Spremulli, Anne Connor, Melissa Guillet, Ruth Worthen, Kathy Eller, Jacqui Nye, David House, Stacy Allen, Kate Adams, and all of you who brought something in to surprise us.



NEWS AND NOTES

**Newly Elected Church Officers**

At the Annual Meeting of the Congregation on Sunday, April 26, the following were elected to church offices:

- ♦ President-Elect: Stewart Armstrong
- ♦ Clerk: Gail Brule
- ♦ Treasurer: Tony Allen
- ♦ Assistant Treasurer: Pete Peterson
- ♦ Prudential Committee (Directors):  
Anne Connor, Peter Gray, Rita Rossi
- ♦ Deacons: Mary Frappier,  
David Spremulli
- ♦ Nominating Committee: Paul Gazin,  
Michael Currier, Carrollyn Grace

The current President-Elect, Martha Rice Sanders, becomes President; current President, Cy O'Neil, becomes Past President.

Terms for all new positions begin on July 1, 2009.

**2009 Pledge Drive Tops Last Year!**

The Stewardship Committee is pleased to announce that the congregation's financial commitment to our church for the coming year met and exceeded last year's total, even in this tenuous fiscal climate. This is great news!

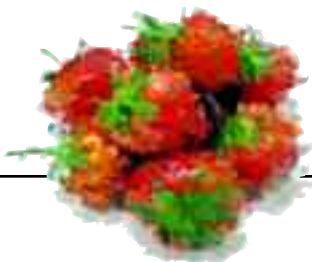
Here's a quick breakdown:

- ♦ Total pledges: 302
- ♦ Total pledged: \$317,136
- ♦ Total last year: \$312,984
- ♦ Renewed pledges: 250  
totaling \$287,237
- ♦ New pledges: 52 totaling \$29,899

Eighty-two percent of pledgers either increased or maintained their pledge levels from last year. Those who increased raised their pledges by an average of 16 percent!

Thanks to everyone who pledged to make the coming church year a strong and vibrant one. You have shown by your generosity that "Gathered in purpose, together we thrive."

—*The Stewardship Committee:*  
Neil Bartholomew, Carol Drewes,  
Susan Fisher, Rev. James Ford,  
Herb Fried, Jack Irwin, Heidi Koelz,  
Stephen Koelz, Graham Nye,  
Rick Richards, John Simmons



SIGHT LINES

You don't need me to tell you it's been quite a year around here. Think about it: our first ever Membership Coordinator, Katy Killilea; a program of welcoming and integration for newcomers; a reinvigorated Lay Ministry Program; several new initiatives in our Social Justice Ministry. These are just a few of the accomplishments of this year.

Unquestionably, though, the main arc of the story for the year has been the effort on everyone's part to welcome our new settled minister, James Ford, into the life of our congregation. At its core, this has been a story about trust.

A year ago, as John Nichols completed his interim ministry here, his message to anyone who would listen was: "It's going to take some time for this congregation to come around to trusting any new settled minister." John was, of course, speaking to what he felt was the impact of Don Cameron's brief tenure as our last settled minister. Given the circumstances of Don's departure, John felt it behooved all of us to appreciate the potential impact this incident would have on our congregation and on our willingness to empower our next settled minister.

There was, I think, another important dimension to Don's departure: the near unanimous sentiment that we did not want to put our future on hold to await the arrival of a new settled minister. We had some specific things we wanted to do as a congregation. We were determined to press ahead. In short, we had a shared sense of purpose and direction that was independent of any particular minister. Certainly this independence reflected a strength within our congregation.

But, at the same time, it also contained within it a potential problem. As a congregation, we lacked any recent successful experience of shared ministry with a settled minister. If things were to work out well with James, we needed to discover and to learn, as well as to trust.

When I look back at the accomplishments of this past year, what strikes me is that, time and again, we found ways to empower James – and he, in turn, empowered us.

Take, for example, the Lay Ministry program. For the past few years, this important work ceased to go on in any organized fashion, despite efforts to reconstitute a group to do it. When James arrived, he got a clear message that many in the congregation saw a revival of this program as a top priority. From his previous experience, he felt the key to success and sustainability was to have a small group of senior members of the congregation play leadership roles, both to pull together a crew of care providers and to prevent burnout situations. James recommended to the Prudential Committee, our governing board, that Mary Frey be appointed the congregation's first Senior Lay Minister. She, in turn, worked with James to recruit five other Lay Ministers. Together, this group has given the Lay Ministry program shape and boundaries.

What made this situation possible? Well, certainly, James's character and good judgment played a large role. To that I would add our congregation's clear sense of where we wanted to go. This was a key ingredient for building trust, for empowering James – and each other – to take initiative and to lead.

As we look ahead to next year, perhaps there's a lesson here. A key ingredient in any successful ministry is a shared sense of direction and priorities. Without this, it's probably impossible to empower a minister – or anyone else – to do much of anything. As we go forward, we as a congregation need to continue to develop and articulate a common sense of purpose, direction, and priorities.

Good things,



Cy O'Neil, President  
pres@firstunitarianprov.org  
401.272.9454



## CONGREGATIONAL NEWS AND EVENTS

### We Are an Official Welcoming Congregation!

At the church's Annual Meeting on April 26, the congregation voted unanimously to declare ourselves an official Welcoming Congregation. The members of the Welcoming Congregation Committee are delighted, and we thank all the members of the congregation for our open-heartedness. We are in the process of filling out the paperwork to be granted Welcoming Congregation status by the UUA. We hope to have a celebration when we are official and can display the Welcoming Congregation logo.

The committee has plenty of things planned for the future. Look for announcements about these and other activities:

- ♦ Adopting the garden plot in the entrance to the parking lot.
- ♦ Participating in the Pride Parade in June (this may include renting a truck and having a decoration party).

If you have questions, please contact Brian Paradis at 617.827.2335 or [briananddeacon@comcast.net](mailto:briananddeacon@comcast.net)  
Michael Currier 617.680.6083 or [mpcurrier@gmail.com](mailto:mpcurrier@gmail.com)  
Jan Seymour-Ford 401.305.5361 or [seymourford@gmail.com](mailto:seymourford@gmail.com)

### Marriage Equality Worship Service – June 14

Our minister, James Ford, will be one of three preachers at the Religious Coalition for Marriage Equality's annual worship service. The service, part of Rhode Island's Gay Pride events, will be held on Sunday, June 14, at 3:00p at Beneficent Congregational Church (Round Top Church), 300 Weybosset Street, downtown Providence.

### First Unitarian's Neighborhood Social Justice Committee Serves Meals at Homeless Shelter

On April 23, members of First Unitarian's Neighborhood Social Justice Committee (NSJC) served a hearty sit-down meal to the 60 or so men staying at Harrington Hall (HH), the state's largest homeless shelter. The event was judged a big success by both the men and committee members, who, along with preparing and serving the meal, spent time in conversation with the men, showing them the kind of compassion and respect homeless people rarely encounter.

According to a state survey, since July 2007 when Governor Carcieri announced that the state could no longer afford to feed the men at HH, 50 percent find only two or three evening meals a week; 25 percent never find any. On a given night, the only thing many of the men eat all day might be a bowl of soup or a peanut butter and jelly sandwich.

That's why the NSJC decided, for its first project, to create a statewide coalition of faith-based and community groups called Friends of Harrington Hall (FoHH) to provide food and comfort for the men at HH. Though not yet final, it looks like we've succeeded in arranging for permanent, full-time evening meals, and that crucially important companionship. First Unitarian will probably commit to once or twice a month at HH, giving us the spiritual growth opportunity that comes from giving so honestly of our hearts.

The NSJC meets every other Sunday at the church. We challenge the social injustices faced by those in our local communities who've been forgotten and marginalized.

For more information or to find out how to get involved, contact Dave St. Germain at 401.536.0715 or [ridavidstgermain@gmail.com](mailto:ridavidstgermain@gmail.com).

## TOGETHER IN FELLOWSHIP

### From the Fellowship Committee:

We welcome you to take part in this month's fellowship festivities. Please call any of us with your ideas for activities for the coming church year. We are all listed in the church directory, and we all wear orange name tags on Sunday.

—*In Fellowship: Carol Adams, Jim Estey,  
Mary Frappier, Kate Menard, Janet Noble,  
Gerry Spremulli, Dave Spremulli*

**Note: There is no All-Parish Supper in June.**

### End-of-the-Year Picnic: June 14

Plan to join your fellow congregants for fun and fellowship on the water! Pack a lunch basket and head to India Point Park – on foot or on wheels – after church on Sunday, June 14. India Point Park features playground equipment suitable for kids of many ages, open space for ball games or Frisbee, benches, picnic tables, shade trees, and a lovely waterfront location. This picnic marks the end of the regular church year.

The picnic is sponsored jointly by the Membership, Fellowship, and RE committees.

Questions? Contact Katy Killilea at [mem@firstunitarianprov.org](mailto:mem@firstunitarianprov.org)

### Saturday Socials

Space is limited and reservations are required. To reserve space and select a menu item to bring, call Carol Adams at 401.433.4365 or email [carol.adams6@cox.net](mailto:carol.adams6@cox.net).

#### Saturday, June 6

Hosts: Ginny and David Fox  
29 Orchard Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island  
6:00–9:00p

Hosts: Shelley Stephenson and Keith Brown  
38 Glendale Avenue  
Providence, Rhode Island  
5:00–8:00p

*This is a child-friendly gathering.*

## WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

### Annual Alliance Picnic

*Monday, June 22 at the home of Elsie Buffum, 145 New Meadow Road, Barrington*  
Join Alliance members for their annual picnic and gift exchange. Bring a gift for "everyone's birthday," a sandwich, and a folding chair, if you have one. Beverages and dessert will be provided.

**GROWING IN  
WISDOM AND SPIRIT**

**Benevolent Street Zendo:  
An Ongoing Zen Meditation Group**

*Every Monday at 7:00p*

An ongoing Zen meditation group of the Boundless Way interfaith Zen community. Brief instruction available to those who come at 6:45p.

Leaders: Jan Seymour-Ford and James Ford at benevolentstreetzendo@gmail.com

More information: [www.boundlesswayzen.org](http://www.boundlesswayzen.org)

**Knitting Connection**

*Every Tuesday, 7:00p-9:00p*

Knitting, crocheting, and conversation.

No registration necessary.

Contact: Julie Meyers at [kelmey@cox.net](mailto:kelmey@cox.net)

**Reimagining Religion**

*Second and fourth Tuesdays,*

*June 9 and 23, at 7:00p*

Coming to grips with issues raised by radically new developments in the study of religion.

No registration necessary.

Contact: Tom Hall at 401.647.2925

or [tw2nd@aol.com](mailto:tw2nd@aol.com)

**UUMeN**

*Sunday, June 14, 7:00p-9:00p*

Topic: Our Mentors

For most of us, there have been men and women in our lives who inspired and supported us as we developed a clearer sense of what life is and what our lives could be. These people served as advisors or counselors or role models or friends. This will be an evening in which we remember and appreciate our mentors. We will also think about being mentors ourselves. All interested men are welcome to join us.

Facilitator: George Voutes 401.246.2998

**Gaia's Hearth/Sylvan Circle**

*Second Sunday, June 14, 12:30p-1:30p*

This family-friendly gathering starts with the Celtic Tree of the month and "branches out" to explore and honor each other's paths.

No registration necessary.

Leader/contact: Arte Ezikovich [nimuix@cox.net](mailto:nimuix@cox.net)



**SUMMER @  
FIRST UNITARIAN**

**Summer Office Hours**

Office hours will be 9:00a-4:00p starting June 15. The office will be closed on July 3, August 10, and September 7 and for all-staff vacation the weeks of July 20 and July 27, reopening on Monday, August 3.

**Summer Services – Spiritual Journeys**

The Worship Committee has developed this year's summer program around the theme of Spiritual Journeys. An abbreviated schedule of dates and speakers appears below. Full details will appear in the [summer@first.u](mailto:summer@first.u) edition of the newsletter, to be published in mid-June.

June 21	Ryk McIntyre	August 2	Pete Peterson
June 28	Rick Richards	August 9	Ted Martin
July 5	Heather Vail	August 16	Ralph and Sally Caruso
July 12	David House	August 23	Claudia Ford
July 19	Wendy Oliver	August 30	Erik Resly
July 26	Lachlan Franquemont	September 6	James Ford

**GETTING INVOLVED**

**Bucks, Bricks, and Blooms**

Purchase a brick for the Commemorative Garden outside the breezeway and you'll be helping create:

- ♦ a permanent commemoration of your part in our community
- ♦ completion of the breezeway garden walk
- ♦ an erosion-prevention wall and patio for the Atrium entryway (inadequate drainage means constant loss of mulch and soil when it rains)

Carrollyn Grace and Helen Haynes spearheaded the initial brick project to finance the Commemorative Garden. Funds from the sale several years ago of our former minister Tom Ahlbum's book of poems has given us a start on the erosion-prevention project. So, skip a dinner out, have a yard sale, do some extra babysitting, team up with a fellow parishioner – do what you can to help our gardens bloom!

Sign up for your brick on Sundays: \$100 each – look for Nancy Weiss-Fried or Carol Drewes in their gardening gear.

**Wholly Rollers Prepare for the 2009 MS 150 Bike Tour**

It's fun, a challenge, fellowship, and a great opportunity to serve others! Wholly Rollers work together to raise funds for the Rhode Island Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. Each Wholly Roller sets a personal goal for fundraising and cycling in the June 27-28 MS 150 Bike Tour from Narragansett to Connecticut College in New London and return. Cycle with us on our Saturday training rides. Maps are available to accommodate all ages, abilities, and levels of fitness. If you're under 18, you need to be accompanied by a parent/guardian. June training rides are scheduled for:

- June 6: Providence to Apeiron Bike Train – Apeiron Institute's Sustainability Festival in Coventry
- June 13: South County – Chariho High School – Richmond area
- June 20: Westerly area

Wholly Rollers is a program of the Social Justice Ministry at First Unitarian. To learn more, visit our website at [www.silversmithing.com/whollyrollers](http://www.silversmithing.com/whollyrollers)

Contact: Greg Kniseley at [mkniseley2@cox.net](mailto:mkniseley2@cox.net) or 401.351.0358

THIS MONTH @ FIRST UNITARIAN

June 2009

*"I always advise people never to give advice." — P. G. Wodehouse*

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	<u>1</u> Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>2</u> Lay Ministry 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>3</u> Prudential Committee 6:00p	<u>4</u> Deacons 6:00p	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u> Saturday Social Suppers
<u>7</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Meeting of Ministries 12:00p	<u>8</u> RE Committee for Children and Youth 6:00p Nominating Committee 7:00p Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>9</u> Re-imagining Religion 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>10</u> Worship Committee 6:30p	<u>11</u>	<u>12</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>14</u> Sunday Service 10:30a Annual Picnic Sylvan Circle 12:30p UU Men 7:00p	<u>15</u> Food Pantry 4:00p Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>16</u> Knitters 7:00p	<u>17</u>	<u>18</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>20</u>
<u>21</u> <b>SUMMER SERVICES BEGIN</b> Sunday Service 10:00a	<u>22</u> Women's Alliance Picnic Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>23</u> Re-imagining Religion 7:00p Knitters 7:00p	<u>24</u>	<u>25</u>	<u>26</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>28</u> Sunday Service 10:00a	<u>29</u> Benevolent Street Zendo 7:00p	<u>30</u> Knitters 7:00p				

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## Taste of Transylvania

The Transylvania Partner Church group is happy to report that the May 1 fundraising dinner for the Transylvania church steeple project was a great success.

Our menu included a variety of appetizers from Transylvania: chicken paprika, lecco (stewed peppers and tomatoes), noodles, dill pickles, home-made bread, and apple strudel. Thanks to the wonderful cooks and helpers who made this delicious meal possible, many of whom labored for days (thank you, Tom Getzl!).

The after-dinner entertainment included music from Kodaly and Bartok, stories from Transylvania, a brief talk about the history of the region, and an account about our group's trip to Szentegyhaza two summers ago. Many thanks to all our wonderfully talented entertainers!

Ninety-three people bought tickets and, with additional independent donations, we collected about \$1,500; those donations (less expenses) will be sent to our partner church in Szentegyhaza to help build a steeple to the church. We are grateful to the congregation for their help and interest. Our partner church has expressed its appreciation and thanks to all of us. Apart from the money donated, they are especially thankful for our caring attention to them.

Those who bought a ticket to the dinner received a copy of our *Taste of Transylvania Cook Book*, compiled by the First Unitarian Partner Church Committee. Additional copies are for sale at the Atrium Bookstore during Coffee Hour.

—The Transylvania Partner Church Committee

