

# The JOURNEY

The Monthly Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Fort Lauderdale

**August 2013**  
**Volume 54, Number 6**

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## September 2013 Issue

### Deadline

**Sunday August 11, 2013**

Submit articles to:

**[submission@uucfl.org](mailto:submission@uucfl.org)**

**Editor**

Gary Ladka

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Fort Lauderdale

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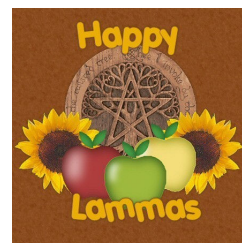
**LifeNet4Families Workday**  
**Saturday August 3 at 8:45am**  
Work your way to Page 5



LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program



**Lammas and  
Native American Corn  
Celebration**  
**Saturday August 3 at  
7:30pm**  
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**New Member Orientation Class**  
**Sunday August 4 at 12:45pm**  
Become more oriented on Page 3



**Labyrinth Cafe 2013-14**  
**Season Opener**  
**Sing-along/Fundraiser for UUCFL**  
**Saturday, August 10 at 7:30 pm**

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**Annual Poetry Service**  
**Sunday August 18 at 11:00am**

I think that I shall never see...  
The details unless I visit page 5



**Looking For a Place to Call Home/  
"Civil Indigent"**  
**Sunday Service and a Movie**  
**Sunday August 25 - 11:00am/1:00pm**  
See Back Cover and Page 7 for more information

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ft Lauderdale  
Mission Statement:

To come together as a caring community and sanctuary  
for seekers of spiritual growth, truth, and meaning.

FREEDOM, REASON  
ACCEPTANCE + LOVE





### From Your Board President

On June 30 at UUCFL we engaged in what could be a time-honored Unitarian Universalist ritual. To be exact, we turned our Sunday service into a coffee hour.

There were tables and chairs spread around the sanctuary and people helped themselves to coffee, tea and a variety of goodies. That would have been enough to consecrate the hour, but in addition we did discuss some important issues. The focal question was: "what does it mean to be a member of our church?"

Okay, so we didn't tackle issues of global significance such as world peace or climate change. But our discussion truly hit close to home – our church home.

There were five topics on the table (figuratively and literally) each one to be addressed by a series of questions. I like to think of these topics and the questions as food for thought about the joys and obligations of church membership. Or maybe how to get more out of and give more to our church community. There was talk of raising the bar regarding expectations of members. We UUs don't often use such words as "obligation" or "expectations". This is probably because many of us were brought up in dogma-based religions where we felt suffocated by such language.

But on that Sunday in June we collectively leaned toward the idea that maybe there is a need for some sense of duty to ourselves and to our church. In a handout we read, there were some suggested requirements for membership.

First, regular attendance at Sunday service. Second, participation in some faith deepening programs or classes. Third, participation in church outreach mission work in the outside community. Fourth reaching for a higher level of financial contribution. And fifth, being an ambassador of the church by telling others about us and inviting friends to come to church.

Discussion questions attached to each topic included: Does it seem too much to ask UUs to attend church regularly? How can we make attendance more exciting?

What programs or topics might help people deepen their faith and commitment?

What kinds of outreach programs do we already participate in that some people might not know about?

Why do we UU's tend to be less financially generous than most other religious communities (our giving level averages less than 2% of income)

Why don't more of us bring friends to church?

Since there were 10 tables, each topic was discussed by two different groups. The discussions were lively and the reports back to the larger group were full of enthusiasm and insight.

Perhaps Rev. Gail or I will later review what folks came up with in response to these questions. For now I will say that as president of the Board of Trustees I was gratified by the thoughtfulness and enthusiasm people demonstrated in addressing these issues and I would encourage readers to give these matters serious consideration.

*Victor Garlock*

## Rev. Gail's Space

### Travel and Transcendence

I had originally felt like I needed to write about the Trayvon Martin decision which I know has been upsetting to many on several levels. However, our own Susan Friend, DRE and Choir Director has addressed this issue passionately on her page and our UUA President Peter Morales has made some great comments about it which can be accessed on the web. Therefore since I am traveling as I write this I will speak rather about why for me travel is not a luxury but a necessity.

Even as small child I loved any kind of travel from a day outing to a long family car trip to some strange destination my father had dreamed up. As an adult seeking out new and different experiences in exotic situations has been almost an obsession. I feel I become a different and better person when I travel. I am more open, more friendly, more resourceful and more relaxed than normal. Travel is full of challenges and even scary moments but I handle these things better when I am on the road. I notice places, nature and other people more than I travel. I suppose it is just that I have less responsibility when I am not working but it is also just that the lure of the unknown is so seductive. On this trip, I made a new friend by doing something kind of unexpected and daring. I have always wanted to stay at the Mabel Dodge Lujan House in Taos, NM. Mabel was a woman ahead of her time and her life story had a great impact on me. She was sort of a Salon leader and patroness of the arts. Her lovely adobe home in Taos was visited and even lived in by many of the great writers and artists of the early part of this century. She lured controversial novelist D.H. Lawrence into her web. Georgia O'Keeffe was a frequent visitor. Mabel often had violent fights and partings with her friends but she was also very loyal. Her last of several husbands was a leader of the Taos Pueblo named Tony Lujan. She did a lot of work to improve the lot of the nearby Native Americans. Anyway you can stay at her house if there is not conference or writer's group in residence. A friend from Los Alamos and I agreed to stay there one night in the Willa Cather room. Cather wrote a great deal about the New Mexico area. I loved it so much- no TV, limited cell phone reception, amazing homemade breakfasts, great places to sit and read and journal that I wanted to stay another day. There are no cabs in Taos. There is no bus service back to Santa Fe where I was headed. The lady at the desk there told me about a little private shuttle service called SoulSisters Shuttle. It was new and she did not know enough to recommend it. I called and arranged for a total stranger to pick me up and drive me to Santa Fe. My driver was Robin and we hit it off and when I developed a sinus infection in Santa Fe and was feeling kind of weak, Robin helped me make a couple of transitions from one location to another, to do some errands and we ended up having a great Mexican meal together and becoming friends. She told me she would be happy to be my driver and personal assistant whenever I was in the area and at a discount cost. It was a great and totally unexpected experience that happened largely because I refused to give in to the seeming constraints of not driving and having limited mobility. I got to do what I wanted because I was willing to take chance in a way I likely wouldn't do at home. I feel that travel is a spiritual and really transcendent experience. I want to do much more of it. I encourage you too to venture forth and challenge limitations by developing your "on the road" persona.

Blessings,  
*Rev. Gail*

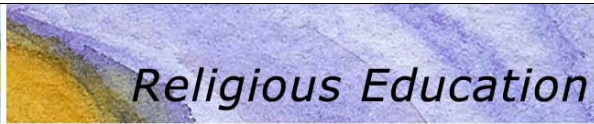


### New Member Orientation Class Offered



Thinking of becoming an official member of the church or just want to know more about us? We are delighted to welcome new members and friends to our family. Please join us for a class so that we can get to know each other better. The class will take place on Sunday August 4 at 12:45pm. Rev Gail and members of the Welcoming/Membership Committee will be here to share with you information on becoming a member and some of the great benefits as well as some of the history of the church and Unitarian Universalism. We also love to hear the story of your journey that brought you to UUCFL and your hopes and dreams of our shared future together in the congregation. Please contact Rev Gail at 954-288-4245 or [revgailtapscott@aol.com](mailto:revgailtapscott@aol.com) or Debbie Rivera at 954-815-9230 or [justduckiedeb@gmail.com](mailto:justduckiedeb@gmail.com)

*Rev. Gail and the Welcoming/Membership Committee*



Director of Religious Education (DRE) - Susan Dirgins-Friend  
Phone (954) 424-1910  
Email [tiredmomofbob@aol.com](mailto:tiredmomofbob@aol.com)



I am actually on my official time off, but I had to put in my two cents about Trayvon Martin and his killing. This verdict should make every parent in America shudder in their boots. I told my kids when they were little "don't start fights, but if someone starts one, you can finish it". Well, there will be no more of that, especially if you are male, and doubly especially, if you are black. I am pretty smart, I could have been a lawyer (ask my mother), but this whole business of why we had to leave race out of this case befuddles me. It was so obviously about race, why did the judge insist that no mention of race be made? I have said it before, and I will say it again, if my son Spike, who is white, 6'2", 180, and pretty brawny, had been walking along in his hoodie, Mr. Zimmerman would not have looked twice at him. He would have left him to walk home to his family's house. I know this in my heart just as I know that the sun will rise again tomorrow. We need action now. We must overturn these laws that allow people to harass and pick fights with folks, and then shoot them when those persons defend themselves. This cannot keep happening. Our children's lives depend on it. Call your state rep, and your state senator. Call our governor, and anyone else you can think of. We want this changed. We cannot allow our children to die. No, we cannot.

Love and Blessings,

*DRE Susan*

#### August Children's Religious Education Schedule

Sunday August 4, 11am  
Water Play with Steve Lange

Sunday August 11, 11am  
Nature Fun with Dave Griswold

Sunday August 18, 11am  
Kids do Coffee Hour with Ms Susan

Sunday August 25, 11am  
Art Fun with Valerie Heller



KEEP OUR  
**KIDS**  
SAFE

**LifeNet 4 Families/Cooperative Feeding Update**

LifeNet4Families  
Cooperative Feeding Program

Our next workday is Saturday August 3. Come to CFP at 8:45am. Please consider giving some time to CFP, as there are lots of boxes from the Postal Food drive that need to be

unloaded and shelved in the pantry.

I will not be there on August 3, so I am counting on you all to show up and do good work. Remember that we are also collecting school supplies until August 11. There is a flyer in the narthex explaining the needs.

Questions or info

DRE Susan (954) 424-1910 tiredmomofbob@aol.com

*Susan Friend*

**Annual Poetry Service August 18**

I am honored to carry on David Fisher's annual tradition of the UUCFL Poetry Service on Sunday, August 18.

As before, I'm requesting that members and friends submit a copy of your favorite poem (could be your own creation or another poet's) for presentation during the service.

Please include a brief note telling me how the poem speaks to you and/or how it came into your life.

I'll let you know regarding inclusion in the service and the time for a logistical run-through before the service.

Call or e-mail me at ozwoman321@aol.com or 954-478-8637.

*Susan Moss*

**Occupy Ft Lauderdale/Labor Outreach Group Meetings Resume**

This group will meet every Saturday at 4:00pm starting August 24. The August 31 meeting will include a showing of the video

**'Heist: Who Stole the American Dream?'**

Contact Bob Bender for more information at bob@benderworld.com

**Music Notes**

With both Dot and the Choir on summer break, the news from the Music Department is a bit sparse.



We want to thank Charlie Prather for keeping the hymns rocking all summer. The CD's played for Meditations have been very enjoyable as well. Thank you to Rev. Opal Murray for coordinating and arranging the services during Rev. Gail Tapscott's summer travels.

The Choir Retreat when music for the Fall services will be introduced to choir members both old and new will be set on a Saturday in late August. Watch for a firm date in the Sunday programs. Regular Wednesday Choir Rehearsals will begin immediately after the Retreat from 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM. Those planning to join the choir should be sure to attend the Retreat to get a good start on the Fall music.

*Dot Muise, Director of Music*

**Coming CUUPS Events**

Saturday August 3 we celebrate our annual native American Corn Festival at 7:30pm.

These ceremonies have much in common with other Pagan

paths. Only the words are different.

Thursday August 1 we have a casting call and rehearsal.

Thursday August 8 we have our Annual Chocolate Ritual. Many women within our community find this quite spiritual and deeply moving. Do bring Chocolate to share. The following Thursdays we will have a different topic each week as we figure out what to do. Come join us.

*Kip, Resident Pagan*



**UUCFL at Stonewall Pride Parade and Festival**

Nicole Rivera presents the colors as she and other UUCFL Members ride our float in the Stonewall Summer Pride Parade, and worked the booth the following day. We had a great time Standing on the Side of Love with hundreds of LGBTQ friends. We have already seen some folks that we met join us as guests for Sunday Morning Services.

*Interweave and Social Justice Committee*



### **Becoming a Hospitable Congregation Workshop Growing the Family Size Congregation to the Next Level**

Led by Kenn Hurto - Congregational Life Consultant

August 24, 2013 - 10:00am - 3:00pm

(Hospitality at 9:30am)

At Nature Coast Unitarian Universalists

7633 North Florida Avenue

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352-465-4225

[www.ncuu.org](http://www.ncuu.org)

Registration

Cost (includes lunch): \$25/congregation

(For three participants, \$8 for each additional participant. Childcare upon request by 8/12)

Register by Monday August 19

Visit [www.uuasouthernregion.org/](http://www.uuasouthernregion.org/)

#### **WORKSHOP TOPICS**

**UNDERSTANDING THE DYNAMICS OF A "FAMILY" & "PASTORAL" CONGREGATION**  
How to create a "welcoming culture" where we know one another and can also embrace the stranger.

**CREATING A PASSION FOR MINISTRY**  
The ministry is for "us," but it is also for new arrivals. How do we keep what we value and be open to those seeking to join our journey?

**DISCERNING YOUR CORE VALUES**  
Every group has its way of being together to create cohesion and identity. Who are you? What do you values say about you? What are you living and teaching?

**PUTTING PASSION TO MISSION**  
What difference are you making in your members' lives, for fellow seekers, and in the larger community?

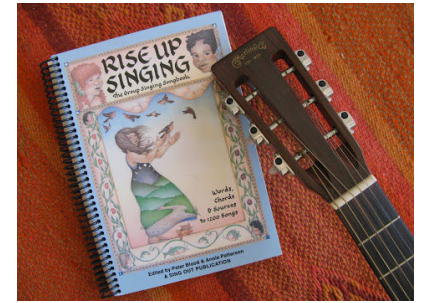


## Labyrinth Cafe 2013-14 Season Opener

**Sing-along/Fundraiser for UUCFL - Saturday, August 10 at 7:30 pm**



Help us kick off our 2013-2014 season with this fun, lively and interactive event! Local performers will host, emcee and lead the evening's festivities, refreshments are available for sale and plenty of free parking is provided. "There is no pressure to sing out really loudly, or to sing incredibly well. The only common bond is that everyone in the group loves to sing. That's it. Sharing songs and creating magical sound is really way too much fun."



We will be singing from the "Rise Up Singing" songbook (a wonderful guide compiled by SingOut Magazine with lyrics to over 1200 classic songs) as well as from our own memory – selections will include a great mix of folk, gospel, bluegrass, jazz, contemporary, rounds, old-time. If you have a copy of "Rise Up Singing", please bring it. We will also have copies for sale for at the event.

Everyone is welcome. Admission is \$5. Without you, there is no sound!

***Susan Moss, Coordinator, Labyrinth Cafe Concert Series***

## 'Civil Indigent' - Documentary Film on Homelessness Screening at UUCFL



In conjunction with the 11:00am Sunday Service on August 25, at 1:00pm the movie 'Civil Indigent' will be shown at the church. As the wheels of redevelopment turn in Gainesville, Florida, the battles lines have been drawn in a heated debate over a meal limit that has been imposed on a homeless shelter downtown. 'Civil Indigent' follows Francis 'Pat' Fitzpatrick as he leads the charge against the limit from his protests at City Hall to his quixotic campaign for a seat on the city commission. Eccentric, outspoken and unpredictable, Pat tests the boundaries of what it means to be an advocate.



## Lighting Up UUCFL with New LED Lights



The first phase of "greening" our sanctuary is beginning to take place. The old style high wattage mercury lights over the pulpit are no longer working and will be replaced with new LED fixtures. These new lights actually cost about the same as one replacement bulb for the old style; they draw very little power (30 watts each); they produce almost no heat (you could put your face on them); plus the LEDs come in Red, Green, Blue and Amber which will allow for infinite color mixing possibilities for special events. The system is modular and we will eventually be replacing the house uplighting with these fixtures as well as adding fixtures from the front to shine toward the pulpit.

Also our Building and Grounds Committee is working hand in hand with our Religious Education Committee on improvements and modernization of classrooms 5 & 7 and the RE Wing, and watch for the return of Building and Grounds Workday in a new form starting in October!

***Building and Grounds Committee***

## UUA President Issues Statement on Historic Decisions on Marriage Equality

June 26, 2013

The Rev. Peter Morales, president of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), issued this statement following the U.S. Supreme Court's historic decisions on marriage equality:

"Today, the U.S. Supreme Court, the highest court of our country, stood on the side of love with its decision in *United States v. Windsor* declaring that the Defense of Marriage Act (DOMA) is unconstitutional as a deprivation of the equal liberty of persons that is protected by the Fifth Amendment.

This is a proud and momentous day for all who have suffered under this law and felt discrimination based on their sexual orientation. It is a victory for the principle that civil rights belong to all.

In the Proposition 8 case of *Hollingsworth v. Perry*, the Supreme Court dismissed the appeal over same-sex marriage on jurisdictional grounds, essentially paving the way for marriage equality in California.

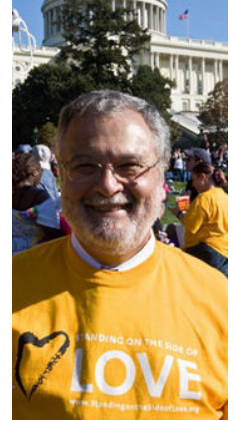
While I am disappointed that the Supreme Court did not declare the freedom to marry as a constitutionally-protected "equal protection" right that would apply to all states, I applaud this historic step towards equality.

The Unitarian Universalist Association joined two amicus curiae briefs in these cases with other religious organizations in support of marriage equality. In both cases, the UUA argued that a broad cross-section of religious denominations recognize the dignity of lesbian and gay people and their relationships, recognize the necessary distinction between civil and religious marriage, and recognize that civil marriages of same-sex couples will not impinge upon religious beliefs or practices, but rather will prevent one set of religious beliefs from being imposed on others through civil law.

Unitarian Universalists have been vocal supporters of marriage equality for decades. I thank them for their dedicated commitment to our Unitarian Universalist principle of affirming the worth and dignity of every person.

There is still so much work to be done to ensure equal protection for all who live and love in our country. As we know, marriage equality strengthens families, protects children, and ensures the basic rights of citizenship for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender couples.

It remains my fervent hope that soon marriage equality is afforded to all in this country. Unitarian Universalists will continue to stand on the side of love with all families.



**Name Tags** – If you have not yet received your new name tag lanyard, please sign up in church on Sundays. You have a choice of designs between a picture of the church and a chalice. Please wear your name tags each Sunday so our veterans and our newer members and visitors recognize each other better.



**cUUrious cUUrrier** – If you are not receiving our weekly email newsletter, the cUUrious cUUrrier, visit our website at [www.uucfl.org](http://www.uucfl.org) and click on "Weekly Email Broadcast" to sign up



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UU Congregation of Miami  
All Souls Miami

One Island Family: The Southernmost UU Congregation  
Treasure Coast UU Congregation  
UU Fellowship of St. Croix  
UU Fellowship of St. John

Expand your UU and Facebook horizons by joining the new UU Southeast Cluster page to stay informed about activities of the Cluster which encompasses all of the UU congregations above

Visit this page and click "Like" to join  
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#### • Music Director

Dorothy Muise.....954-731-8790

#### • Choir Director

Susan Dirgins-Friend.....954-424-1910

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John Shearer .....859-358-0095

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#### • Endowment

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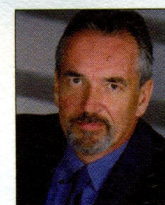
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### August Birthdays

LEVANT EKENDIZ 8/1	EDDIE CUMMINGS 8/12
BENNY RIVERA 8/1	THOMAS KARNETH 8/12
KRISTINE STEWART 8/1	DANE RAMSON 8/14
BOB HILL 8/2	DOUG FRIEND 8/16
SOPHIA LETOURNEAU 8/2	VICTORIA ABBOTT 8/23
SUSAN MOSS 8/5	LEILA EKENDIZ 8/23
JANE CROSS 8/6	GAIL MORRISON 8/24
LORE BERNIER 8/7	MOLLY LESNICK 8/29
JANET BURNETT 8/11	MONICA PAVLIK 8/29
SUSAN McALPIN 8/11	



If you would like to see your birthday announced here and in the cUUrrious cUUrrier email newsletter, please contact the office to make sure we have your updated information in the computer

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat



# August Calendar



<p>Every Sunday : 11:00 AM- Church Service and Children's Religious Education</p>	<p>Visit our on line calendar for late-breaking events <a href="http://www.uucfl.org">www.uucfl.org</a> and click "Coming Activities"</p>		<p>Religious Education Events See special calendar on the RE page 4</p>	<p>1 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3 •8:45am - LifeNet4 Families Workday (See page 5) •7:30pm - Lammas/ Native American Corn Celebration</p>
<p>4 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood •12:45pm - New Member Orientation Class(See page 3) •12:45pm - UUWE Meeting</p>	<p>5 •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles</p>	<p>6</p>	<p>7</p>	<p>8 •7:30 pm CUUPS Annual Chocolate Ritual</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10 •7:30 pm Labyrinth Café Concert (See page 7)</p>
<p>11 •Journey Submission Deadline</p>	<p>12 •7:00pm - Board Meeting •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p>	<p>15 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>
<p>18 •9:30am - UU Sisterhood •11:00am - Annual Poetry Sunday Service (See page 5)</p>	<p>19 •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles •7:00pm - Sunday Services Committee</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21 •6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal- Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal- Tenors and Basses</p>	<p>22 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>23 •7:00pm -Social Justice Committee</p>	<p>24 •4:00pm - Occupy Fort Lauderdale/Labor Outreach Meeting (See page 5)</p>
<p>25 •1:00pm - Movie - "Civil Indigent" (See back cover and page 7) •2:00pm SE FL Initiative to End Mass Incarceration</p>	<p>26 •7:00pm - Welcoming/ Membership Committee •7:00pm - A Course in Miracles</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28 •6:30pm - Choir Rehearsal- Sopranos and Altos •7:00pm - Choir Rehearsal- Tenors and Basses</p>	<p>29 •7:30 pm CUUPS</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31 •4:00pm - Occupy Fort Lauderdale/Labor Outreach Meeting (See page 5)</p>

# Unitarian Universalist

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Sundays at 11 am: Service & Children's  
Religious Education

## The JOURNEY



Sunday Morning Services at 11 am

AUGUST 2013

**August 4 - Savoring the Past, Opening to the Future** - Summer always makes Rev. Gail a bit nostalgic for her childhood and the past in general. She will look back at times past and ask you to do the same. Then she will be imagining the next stage in her life and asking you to do the likewise.

**August 11 - TBA** - Due to a late cancellation, your Sunday Service crew is crafting a new and different summer offering for you. It is sure to be stimulating, provocative and profound like always.

**August 18 - The Annual David Fisher Memorial Poetry Service** - Coordinated once again by Susan Moss, this UUCFL favorite in honor of our beloved late choir director is always a hit as members share original poems or a poem that has spoken deeply to them.

**August 25 - Looking For a Place Called Home** - Many of us taking having a home for granted. Some of us own, some rent. Some of us feel home is really not the place we live in all the time. But for some people home is only an illusive dream. Rev. Gail with the help of our friends in the Autonomous Playhouse will examine the many meanings and issue revolving around the concept of home. A movie called "Civil Indigent" about homeless activism in Gainesville, FL

### **September 1 - A Personal Memory of Union Organizing and Other Thoughts on Unions** -

A secret part of Rev. Gail's past that many of you may not be aware of is that one of her many rabble rousing activities over the years was being a founding member of a teacher's union in Santa Fe, NM. She will share her tales of excitement, conflict and secret meetings along with more recent activism in other union activities. She promises to make this fun and uplifting as we celebrate Labor Day.

**September 8 - Water Sunday** - Don't forget to bring your real or symbolic water of travels undertaken or lessons learned over the summer as we celebrate the official regathering of our community for the church program year.

