

From the Desk of Cheryll Wallace,
Director of Religious Education

March 2010

Dear Member and Friend of First Unitarian,

Each year at this time the church leaders ask you to make a pledge of financial support to the church. As has been pointed out in the Generosity Campaign materials, pledges- intentions of support for the church- help the leaders of the church to know what resources they can count on to implement the programs of First Unitarian.

A portion of your pledge and subsequent giving to the church helps to fund the religious education portion of the church programs. That includes all of the materials we use for activities in religious education programming for all ages – nursery through adult, some of which include Sunday morning nursery programs, Sunday School programs during both Sunday morning services, Soul Full Thursday programs (3- 6 week sessions each church year), childcare for church events, materials for parent support and education, curriculum and resource materials, funding for implementation of multi-generational social events, and training opportunities and materials for teachers and advisors. That's a lot of bang for a little less than 9000 bucks.

Thank you for giving to support religious education in the church. I know that in these tough times it is tempting to think about taking a break and letting others carry the load....surely no one would notice since there are so many church members contributing. But your pledge is vitally important to the success of our programs.

(A word about fundraisers: I know that the youth have fundraisers from time to time. One such group that raises money is the Wednesday night YRUU youth group that is made up of youth from both First and Second Unitarian churches. This group is self-supporting and is not included in the church budget so the money they raise through the used book sale, for instance, is used by the YRUU to finance their trips and supplies for weekly meetings. The money they raise does not go into the church RE budget. Thank you for your support of the teen groups who hold these additional fundraisers.)

In closing, I'd like to leave you with a story....well, what did you expect? That since this is an official pledge letter I would leave the story out?

Once upon a time, a rich man decided that it would be a good idea to start off the new year with a feast for the whole town. He called the council of elders together and told them that he would provide the feast if they would each bring a jug of wine.



They all agreed. As soon as the meeting was over, the youngest one of the group was mad at himself for having promised that he would contribute a jug of wine. He didn't have much wine in his stores and he didn't want to part with his money either. There must be another way. After much thinking and plotting, he decided that he would pour a jug of water into the common wine pot when it was his turn. After all, the other 9 elders would put in their wine. How could one jug of water hurt the mix? His wife agreed that it was a brilliant plan. So, on the day of the feast this young elder put on his finest robes, filled his jug with fresh water from the well, and went to the party. He was greeted at the party by the sumptuous smells of cooking and the sounds of merriment. The host motioned for the elders to pour their jugs of wine into a great clay pot in the courtyard. There was dancing and entertainment and then the bell was rung and all of the guests were seated. The elders sat together at the head table. The host ordered the servants to fill everyone's cup with wine. Each of the elders waited patiently for all of the guests to be served so they could taste the refreshing wine.

When the host at last gave the signal by raising his cup to his lips, everyone eagerly tasted their wine. But what they tasted was not fine wine but water, for each of them had thought that one jug of water would surely not spoil a great pot of wine. Each of them had filled his jug at the well. They looked at each other sheepishly and continued drinking as if it was the finest wine they had ever tasted. That day a new saying arose among the people of the village: "If you wish to take wine, you must give it also."

Thank you for pledging your commitment to First Unitarian Church and the religious education program.

Peace Be With You,