

# FELLOWGRAM

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## SUNDAY PROGRAMS

### MAY 23 — Fearless Fuller. Laura Emerson

In May, the UUA is celebrating the 200<sup>th</sup> birthday of a fascinating Unitarian, Margaret Fuller. She was so famous that the biography rushed to print after her tragic death was the best selling biography of the decade (and went through 13 printings by the end of the century). She died at age 40. Let's look at her life and then look in the mirror. What do we find? What do we learn, besides humility?

### MAY 30 — They Also Serve Military Families. Gary Yokie

**JUNE 6 — You Say Tomato, I Say Tomahto. Laura Emerson & John Pepper.** Like many of us, John and Laura disagree on many points of theology and other beliefs. Yet they both feel strongly committed as UUs, despite those differences. What is that glue? Why is it so hard for many of us to describe what unites us except in expressions of what we **don't** believe? Can we really be a "welcoming congregation" if we have such difficulty describing what we are welcoming anyone to? If not, what is the prognosis for our denomination?

**JUNE 13 — Guilty as Sin: Our Unitarian Universalist values** (compassion, respect, justice for all) are easy enough to practice when we encounter victims, but the work is a lot harder when we're faced with a wrongdoer. How can we honor "the inherent worth and dignity" of those in prison, those who have wronged us personally, and those who are trying to make a new start? **Katy Carpman**

### Come "Early" for Our 10 AM—10:50 AM OFFERINGS!

**Children's Religious Education** *RE wing. Details on page 2.*

**ADULT FORUM** *Analyzing Our Times—Workroom. Details on page 3.*

**Building Your Own Theology Group (BYOT)** *Discussion to help participants search for and develop a personal theology—RE Room 1.*

**FOCUS GROUP** *Book discussion group—Library. Details on page 4.*

## FAITH DEVELOPMENT



Just in case you hadn't noticed – we've got some great children and youth here at the Fellowship. Every Sunday I am honored to get to hear their insights, share their joys, and witness their wonderings. They are our tomorrows and oh, there is such hope!

These amazing people have spent the year studying the wisdom of many traditions, hearing and acting out stories of thoughtful Buddhist monks, brave African villagers and wise children of the desert. They have played games and done service embodying important moral values, and earned Gems of Goodness for those deeds they do beyond Sundays. And now we invite YOU to add your gems of wisdom to their crowns of loving experiences at the Fellowship. Take just one hour (10am) on one Sunday (June 6<sup>th</sup> through September 5<sup>th</sup>) to share something you have learned, something that is especially dear to you. Or if that sounds like too much pressure, you can have some sweet playtime with this great group at 11am.

Already Kim Willis has offered to do a storytelling and story writing session, Arturo Meza has offered to show them a bit of Peru, and Joan Golding will lead them in a tea party experience. And Liz Covalla will be joining the children and youth in play one day! We're looking forward to at least one Musical Instrument Petting Zoo day, and perhaps some science experiments and cooking lessons (the tastiest chemistry!) and art projects. What jewel can you add?

If you're in the mood for a party, Sue Needle and Darcy Ford-James are organizing our Father's Day fun – I'm sure they would love extra hands!

And yes, the RE Committee will support you in all your endeavors – we'll have babysitters and a member of the committee to help out, and can get any supplies you need. (You just get to do the fun parts.)

Join with us in creating beloved community each and every Sunday! To learn more about faith development opportunities, join our circle any Sunday, or speak with Bob Wiener or me! Our next committee meeting will be 7 PM, Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> in the workroom.

In love and in faith,

Katy Carpman

Director of Religious Education

[ufhdre@comcast.net](mailto:ufhdre@comcast.net)

### UU QUIZ

What Unitarian founded the Penn School??"

Answer on page 7

Would UU's like to participate in the **KPFT Pledge Drive** by working the phones in Pledge Central sometime during the next 2 weeks? Development Director, Robin Lewis is open to the idea.

Anyone can consider working Sundays 8am-11am or 11am-2pm or both. Or, consider supporting the News Dept. by working any 3pm-6pm M-F slot. Also, another possibility is the Wednesday 5am-8am slot (Pacifica Archives/Eco-ology/BBC News) which would be a great opportunity to support green/environmental (ex. Northwoods Green Cmte.) causes as well as UU principles.

Please contact Teresa, [teresajallen@sbcglobal.net](mailto:teresajallen@sbcglobal.net) if you are interested in participating.

## TUESDAY BOOK CLUB

Here are our upcoming books:

**May 4, 2010, "The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo"** by Stieg Larsson, Reg Keeland

**June 1, 2010, "Strange Angel: The Otherworldly Life of Rocket Scientist John Whiteside Parsons"** by George Pendle. George Pendle tells Parsons's extraordinary life story for the first time. Fueled from childhood by dreams of space flight, Parsons was a crucial innovator during rocketry's birth. But his visionary imagination also led him into the occult community thriving in 1930s Los Angeles, and when fantasy's pull became stronger than reality, he lost both his work and his wife. Parsons was just emerging from his personal underworld when he died at age thirty-seven. In *Strange Angel*, Pendle recovers a fascinating life and explores the unruly consequences of genius.


**July 6, 2010, "The Elegance of the Hedgehog"** by Muriel Barbery. An enchanting New York Times and international bestseller about life, art, literature, philosophy, culture, class, privilege, and power, seen through the eyes of a 54-year old French concierge and a precocious but troubled 12-year-old girl. A moving, funny, triumphant novel that exalts the quiet victories of the inconspicuous among us.

**August 3, 2010, "A Reliable Wife"** by Robert Goolrick

He placed a notice in a Chicago paper, an advertisement for "a reliable wife." She responded, saying that she was "a simple, honest woman." She was, of course, anything but honest, and the only simple thing about her was her single-minded determination to marry this man and then kill him, slowly and carefully, leaving her a wealthy widow, able to take care of the one she truly loved. What Catherine Land did not realize was that the enigmatic and lonely Ralph Truitt had a plan of his own. And what

neither anticipated was that they would fall so completely in love.

Our books should all be available at the library and in paperback at your favorite bookstore. You can reach me at [ufhlibrary@comcast.net](mailto:ufhlibrary@comcast.net)  
Jan



The **Fellowship Book Club** meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm in the Fellowship Library of the Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, 1504 Wirt Road and is open to all book lovers.

## ADULT FORUM



We meet Sunday Mornings at 10 AM. Our topics are unannounced. Our discussions are often lively and intense, but remain polite and friendly.

**May 2nd: Ø Illegal Immigration.** Discussion was on Arizona's new law to control its border. Most favored increased legal immigration permits. (*Topic: Roger Ryman, 12 present*)

**May 9th: Ø Moving Our Economy.** The discussion was about moving our economy toward renewable fuels such as solar panels and wind turbines and reducing carbon based fuels such as oil, gas and coal. In addition to cleaner air & water, we would reduce our 70% dependency on foreign countries for our energy which costs us \$700 billion a year. (*Topic: Arturo Meza, 11 present*)

We gather in the workroom and ALL ARE WELCOME!

# MAY 2010

SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p><b>Happy Birthday to:</b>                      Gay Cosgriff, May 16th                      Katy Haberman, May 30th</p>						1 UU Spring Festival, 3-9 pm
2 John Pepper, 11 am	3	4 Cooking Cls, 2-4 pm Book Club, 7:30 pm	5	6 Cooking Cls, 2-4 pm	7	8
9 Lisa G. & Kim W., 11 am	10	11	12	13	14	15
16 Don Levit, 11 am	17 DRUM Recital, 6:30-8:00 pm	18	19 GUITAR, Recital, 6:30-8:00 pm	20	21	22
23 Laura Emerson, 11 am	24	National Guild of Piano Teachers—Judging May 5-7 & May 26-28, from 10 am to 6 pm				
30 Gary Yokie, 11 am	31 Memorial Day—Office Closed	<b>RECITALS:</b> May 2, 2:30-6 pm, May 8, 5-7 pm May 15, 5-7 pm, May 16, 1-6 pm, May 22, 5-7 pm May 23, 1-6:30 pm				

## FOCUS GROUP

We meet each Sunday at 10:00am in the Library. We are starting a new book by David Loy, Money, Sex, War and Karma, reading and discussing a chapter each week. Come give us a try--our discussions are lively and stimulating and inclusive.

## JOYS AND CONCERNS & ANNOUNCEMENTS

**May 2nd - Katy Haberman** lit a candle for the joyous occasion and celebration of Michele & Nayef's wedding. The flowers on the altar were left for us to enjoy. Peggy Tennyson made a plea for national immigration reform. Kim Willis lit a candle for the life of her 77 year old aunt who died a week ago of Alzheimer's. While the family had not been close, getting together was eventually a good thing. She realized how much she appreciated UU rituals. David Garver sent good wishes to a coworker who is making his 3rd try at the bar exams. He also expressed his concern for the death in another coworker's family, and hopes for the calming of dissension among his in-laws. Elizabeth Christian sends her good wishes to family members who are ill. She has high hopes for finishing this semester in Therapy training and this summer's long session. Simone Donnelly shared concerns for grandparents who are coping with Alzheimer's and its support. She sends good wishes to AP testing students and she spent a fine and safe prom night.

**May 9th** – Katy Carpman lit a candle of concern for Annette Rybiski and her family. Last Tuesday, Annette's son-n-law, Jeff, passed away unexpectedly. Annette is doing what she can to help her daughter, Amy, and Amy's three children. Annette's son, Paul, was able to come to the funeral from his home in Australia. Our hearts go out to them all!

## VOTE FOR THE WOOD AWARD —

It's time to vote for the Hilda & Ernest Wood Award! The list of past winners is on the ballot sheet and on the box (located on the front desk). Voting will go on until June 27th, and the winner for the award will be announced sometime in September. Put your thinking caps on and VOTE! *Doreenne*

## MONTHLY SCHEDULED EVENTS

**Every First Tuesday: The Book Club, 7:30 pm (Library)**

**Every First Thursday: Ladies Luncheon, 1 pm (Sweet Tomatoes I-10)**

**Every Second Thursday: RE Committee Meeting, 7:00 pm (Workroom)**

**Every Second Sunday: Offertory goes to benefit lunch for Turning Point**

**Every Third Saturday: Volunteer to help serve lunch at Turning Point (sign-up sheet is located at the front desk or just ask Dodie or David O.)**

**Every Saturday: Church of God, 12 to 4:30 pm (ext'ed hours on calendar)**

**Every Third Thursday: Men's Luncheon, 12:20 pm at Nam's**

**Every Wednesday: the SSSC (RS) Society, 6:15 pm (Sanctuary)**

**Monday—Friday: Shining Star Waldorf School, 8:30-3:00 (RE Wing)**

## OUR PROGRAMS

**May 2nd – Sermonettes on Belief – Led by John Pepper**

**Jimmy Dunne**– He avers that he is a Humanist, i.e., one who tries to be the best human he can and who attempts to make a better world. He seeks always to find evidence for his beliefs. Because he has found no evidence to support assertions of God, heaven and the afterlife or miracles, he is an Atheist. He is a Unitarian because it is an inclusive denomination which has stimulating programs and encourages being active in causes they espouse.

Among his positions, he supports Human Rights, Amnesty International, universal voting rights and freedom torture. His passion, however, is fighting violence as found in the death penalty and physical punishment in schools. Ultimately, for him, the Golden Rule says it all.

**John Haberman** - John states that he is an agnostic because even though there is lack of evidence for some beliefs, it doesn't mean that religious belief doesn't exist. For this reason he is not an Atheist - a position he finds as untenable as devout espousal of the unprovable. He tends to avoid beliefs. He explains the difference between an Hypothesis vs a Theory. The Hypothesis is a proposal without evidence but does include belief. A Theory is a proposal with supporting evidence. Sufficient testing can cause an Hypothesis to become a Theory.

When sparring with a fundamentalist one might carefully call the difference between the two. All religions are Hypothesis. He believes that our emotions are our most important aspect. Frankly, we use rational thinking to support our emotions, not the other way around. Emotions are basic to communication, business success and personal contentment. Unitarianism provides a guilt-free environment for religious expression.

**Eric Huckabay** - My chosen profession includes putting rules into computers. This career has given me concerns about the permanence of rules whether in work, life or religion. It seems we almost never get the rules right the first time. In my experience we always need the feed-back from users. I believe in those conversations, and I believe in our ability to change. Unitarianism is creedless and permits us to revise our beliefs and enables us to be in the process of becoming.

**Jan LaRocque** - I am an Agnostic. I believe most of us want proof of our life views but I recognize that each of us sees things from our own narrow perspective. Mine happens to be the Art and Music perspective. It is that prism, I believe, that enables us to see into the cosmos. I remember that after years of study and practicing, I finally played in an orchestra, and, it happened! It was a wonderful moment when everything fell into place. I've played violin 54 years, and in a string quartet, 30 years but those moments happen all too infrequently. Every once in a while we rise above and transcend our usual lives. Arts, are the best thing.

**Kim Willis** - I am a Unitarian and a Buddhist. In my work as a therapist and social worker I have learned most from the victims I have encountered both human and animal. Murray, we found chained, maimed and mostly abandoned to the elements. He is a dog who throughout his ordeal managed to come through appreciating our care. Though he yelps and twitches in his sleep and still has some terror of storms, he has come a part of our family - a whole, loving dog.

And then there was Marie, the exotic dancer, who during her young life had been molested and beaten. Her final horror was being kidnapped and duck-taped naked - awaiting what seemed further horror or death. She freed herself - she showed remarkable strength and courage. Their stories reveal amazing resilience.

I believe there is redemption even for some of the most despised. I believe that we must understand their back-stories by observing, listening and understanding. I believe Unitarianism offers such acceptance.

**May 9th – Don't Let Your Kitties and Doggies Grow up to be Mommies. Lisa Gilchrist & Kim Willis**

In lieu of a traditional Mother's Day service, Lisa and Kim spoke about the problem of too many mama cats and mama dogs in Houston and the United States, and what Fellowshippers can do to help alleviate it.

**The leading cause of death for healthy cats and dogs in the United States is shelter killing.** Nationally, between 4 - 5 million dogs and cats are killed in shelters every year. In Houston, it's about 80,000. The reasons we have such high kill rates at our local shelters are many and they're complex but in Lisa's opinion, the two main reasons are: shelter man-

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## Being Women of Power

### Women's Retreat

October 22-24, 2010  
Camp Allen Texas



Join Interfaith Ministries and women from various faith traditions and backgrounds for a fabulous experience of learning and fellowship. We will spend the weekend exploring what it means to be powerful women and how we use power in our families, community, and world.

**Joining the retreat cost (\$150.00) now, full price is \$185.00.**

*\$50.00 will reserve your space, final payment due Sept 1, 2010.*

For more information or to register, visit <http://www.imgh.org/component/dtregister/?category=3>

## It is Pride Parade season

**again!** This year the festival is on June 26<sup>th</sup>, from 12 pm to 7 pm. I have the times needed broken down into 1 hour increments to make it easy for people to volunteer. If 1-2 people from each of the area churches were to work the booth and tell the general public about being a UU when they visit the booth, then we would have the spaces covered and all of the Houston area represented at the festival. Please also bring some non-carbonated, non-caffeinated beverages to the booth to keep hydrated.



This year's theme is "**Pride, Not Prejudice**". We will be UU Spring Festival to sign up people and sell T-shirts for the parade. We have also ordered car magnets this year for the parade to increase our name recognition. It looks like we are all set to have a good presence at Pride and show our support for the GLBT community! Please come out and help us! See you there!  
*Sharon L.*

**UU Quiz Answer: Laura Matilda Towne.** (May 3, 1825 — February 22, 1901) “was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, into a wealthy family with a strong social conscience. She and her parents were members of the First Unitarian Church in Philadelphia. During the Civil War, she went to South Carolina and founded the Penn School to help educate freed slaves and to train some to be teachers. Along with her teaching, she provided homeopathic medical care. Her family supported her work, as did other wealthy abolitionists, which whom she kept up a voluminous correspondence.” (*This Day in Unitarian Universalist History*, Frank Schulman).

More Towne can be found at:

<http://www.pbs.org/onlyateacher/lauratowne.html>

<http://www.ubeaufort.org/Who-is-Laura-Towne/>



*Laura M. Towne*

### Other May birthdays:

William Vidler	05/04 British Universalist Minister
William Emerson Jr.	05/06 American Unitarian Minister

## Mission/Vision/Covenant Group

VMC Task Force thanks all those who gave input at our shared values sessions and helped with the clarifying exercise.

Here's what we've pieced together - do you think this describes where we are now? Send your comments to John Pepper at [john.pepper@sbcglobal.net](mailto:john.pepper@sbcglobal.net).

## Community

We are a community of friends, sharing fun and joy across the generations. We value justice and reach out to our greater community with a variety of social action initiatives.

## Acceptance

We open our doors to all people, regardless of gender, ethnicity, race, age, ability, or sexual orientation. We are a Welcoming Congregation.

## Caring

We practice compassion for each other and our community. We care for this planet, which we share with all living things.

## Knowledge

We value knowledge and support learning at every age and stage of life. Reason and discourse are important to us.

## Democratic process

While we are each independent thinkers, we practice our principles in coming together with open and respectful dialogue to best meet the needs of our congregation and community.

## From UUA.ORG What Moves Us to Give and Grow

by Jill Sarber



In Texas, the Houston metro area is home to eight thriving congregations that joined together to deepen their Unitarian Universalist (UU) theological understanding with the help of the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA).

On one of his many trips to the Houston area, Terry Sweetser, Vice President for Stewardship and Development at the UUA, approached a number of lay leaders and ministers in the area about forming a group that would think strategically about how to grow the vision of the UU movement and harness the spiritual hunger in the region.

What began almost two years ago as monthly discussions among the area ministers and a few lay leaders, the Houston Metro Strategic Planning Group now involves the ministers, presidents, and other lay leaders of eight energized congregations including Bay Area UU Church, Emerson UU Church, First UU Church of Houston, Henry David Thoreau UU Congregation, Northwest Community UU Church, Northwoods UU Church, Unitarian Fellowship of Houston, and UU Fellowship of Galveston.

The group had been meeting for over a year organizing and discussing how best to develop ways to encourage growth and health among the UU congregations in the Houston area. They kept coming back to the idea that at the heart of the UU faith is a "free and responsible search for truth and meaning." It became clear that theological literacy and the ability to help UUs learn to think and articulate their faith theologically was an essential aspect of their goals.

Grants were awarded to UU congregations, districts, and seminaries for projects focused on providing lay leaders with opportunities for spiritual growth and deeper theological understanding.

Joe Sullivan, a leading participant in the Houston Metro Strategic Planning Group, a member of the Henry David Thoreau UU Congregation, and the former president of the Southwest District said, "It's not enough to simply get people to find us...when they do, we must be prepared to help them live out a faith that has depth, meaning, and challenge."

Seminary courses are often time-consuming and cost-prohibitive, and few ministers have the time to teach in-depth theology courses within their own churches. Thus, the members of the Houston Metro Strategic Planning

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Group decided to develop a learning opportunity that would help lay people begin to think theologically, to ask and answer theological questions, and to engage in articulating their own theologies. They created the Houston UU Lay Theological Institute, a training program to educate budding spiritual leaders in the community. “The institute is more of an idea than a place” committed to regular on-going and annual deep faith development, according to Matt Tittle, minister of the Bay Area UU Church and a leading participant of the Houston Metro Strategic Planning Group. They decided their first project would be to field test Rev. Dr. Thandeka’s new curriculum for adults titled, “What Moves Us: Unitarian Universalist Theology,” for the UUA’s Tapestry of Faith online religious education resources program.

The UUA awarded the Houston Metro Strategic Planning Group a \$9, 245 grant provided by funds raised through Association Sunday to achieve their shared lay theological education goals.

People who gave for Association Sunday in 2008 can feel pride that their generosity continues to be distributed and utilized today for programs and projects critical to the UU movement including lay theological education.

Tittle said, “Generosity comes naturally when it is for a project or pursuit that matters to people, is critical to church life, to the mission, and to the community.”

In January, Rev. Dr. Thandeka traveled to Houston to train 22 facilitators on the curriculum. The training lasted over two weekends for a total of 20 hours. Each congregation from the Houston Metro Strategic Planning Group was represented.

On February 20, the Houston Metro Strategic Planning Group hosted a kick off event for this project and the spiritual journey they about to embark on.

Sullivan said, “We believed if we had 60 individuals attend this event, it would be considered a success. We had over 140 attendees for the kick off event. It was a very successful launch.”

In Houston, TX, participants in the field test of Rev. Dr. Thandeka’s curriculum are gaining a deeper theological understanding which would not have been possible without congregants coming together to support programs that matter to the faith movement through generosity and Association Sunday.

In May, Rev. Dr. Thandeka will return to the area to wrap-up the 10-week course by following up with participants, helping to close their experience, and assisting with the transition from curriculum to continued small group ministries within their congregations.

“This experience has brought everyone closer together—creating a more interdependent culture where we all work together which naturally makes all of our churches healthier,” said Tittle.

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agement has a defeatist attitude, 'we have no choice but to kill so many, there's too much Supply and not enough Demand' , and the general public doesn't do enough spaying and neutering of their pets.

The entrenched shelter mentality has to change. If shelters would commit to joining the *No Kill* movement and start implementing at least portions of the *No Kill Equation*, Houston could be a *No Kill* city within just a few years. Likewise, if the general public would take advantage of low cost (and even no cost) spaying and neutering for their pets, there would not be thousands of litters of kittens and puppies born every year, so many of which wind up going to shelters where they are killed.

The message Lisa hoped people would leave with was: 1) spay or neuter your pet, and 2) adopt your next pet from a shelter or rescue group. Lisa provided a list of four Low Cost Spay / Neuter & Wellness Clinics in Houston and encouraged everyone in the audience to pass it on to others if they didn't need it.

# UNITARIAN FELLOWSHIP OF HOUSTON

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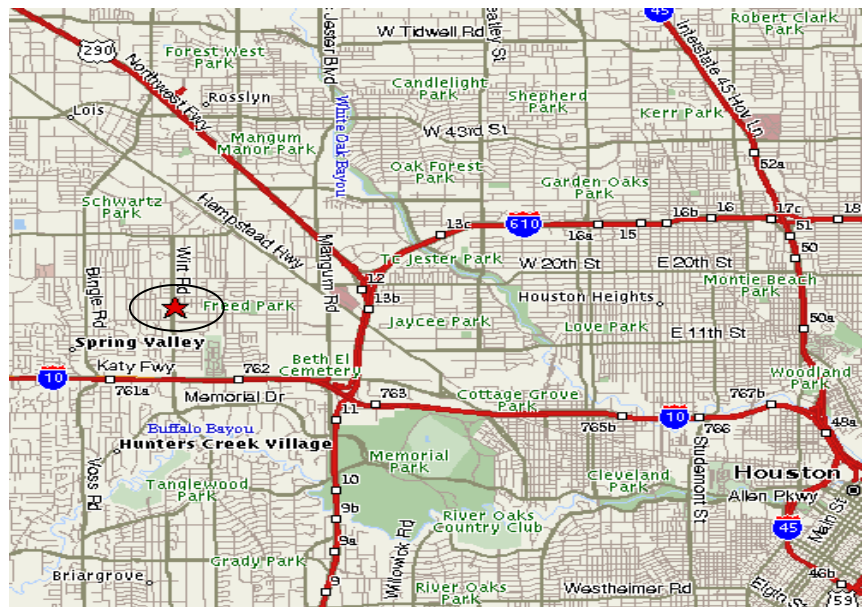


See us on our  
Website!  
[www.ufoh.org](http://www.ufoh.org)

**GO GREEN! SAVE A TREE!** *If you wish to receive the Fellowshipgram by email or do not want to receive it at all, please send us a message or call and let us know.*

## Unitarian Fellowship of Houston STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

We seek to provide an atmosphere of warm companionship and respect for free and inquiring minds, searching together for finer religious, ethical, and social truths, and we work to apply the best we know in our lives, in the lives of our children, and in the service of our fellow humans.



A bunch of Agnostics, Atheists, Buddhists, Christians, Humanists, Jews, Muslims, Pagans, Quakers, Skeptics, spiritual non-religious seekers, and other random people all go to church together on Sunday....And you've been missing out.