

CALL TO WORSHIP

by Reverend Preston Moore

Charter Sunday, February 3, 2008

In a book about time called Einstein's Dreams, Alan Lightman writes:

Persons who have been transported back in time are easy to identify. They wear dark, indistinct clothing and walk on their toes, trying not to make single sound, trying not to bend a single blade of grass. For they fear that any change they make in the past could have drastic consequences for the future.

Just now, for example, such a person is crouching in the shadows of the arcade at no. 19 Kramsgasse, right here in Geneva. . . . She is terrified that she will kick up dust, just as Peter Klausen is making his way to the apothecary shop. . . . Klausen is something of a dandy and hates to have his clothes sullied. If dust messes his clothes, he will stop and painstakingly brush them off, regardless of waiting appointments. If Klausen is sufficiently delayed, he may not buy the ointment for his wife, who has been complaining of leg aches for weeks.

In that case, Klausen's wife, in a bad humor, may decide not to make the trip to Lake Geneva. And if she does not go to Lake Geneva on 23 June 1905, she will not meet Catherine D'Epinay walking on the jetty of the east shore and will not introduce Mademoiselle D'Epinay to her son Richard. In turn, Richard and Catherine will not marry on 17 December 1908, and will not give birth to Friedrich Klausen on 8 July, 1912. Friedrich Klausen will not be father to Hans Klausen on 22 August, 1938, and without Hans Klausen the European Union of 1979 will not occur.

Okay, so we're not deciding the fate of Europe here at WUU this morning. But where would each of us be today if 89 people had not signed the membership book of a new Unitarian church in Williamsburg on February 5, 1989? This morning we retrace the steps that paved the way for the church we are today. And we ask ourselves, what way will we pave for those who are here nineteen years from now? Come, let us look back, let us look ahead. Come, let us worship together.