

"I HAVE DREAMED"
This Week At Judson Sunday School
(9/9/11)

Greetings Judson Summer Refugees, and welcome back to New York City, Judson Sunday School, and God!

(At least two out of those three have missed you terribly. It's up to you to guess which two.)

If long time "This Week" readers know anything about me, it is that I, Andy Frantz, Grand Poobah of All Things Judson Sunday School, have a very active dream life. In addition to my many midnight romps with Jennifer Aniston, through the years I have hung out with Barack Obama, played basketball with Michael Jordan and Larry Bird, and been an integral part of the most recent dynasty of Yankee championship teams. In my dreams, I am an incredible athlete, not that I'm bragging or anything. Just ask Jennifer.

Not too long ago, after watching a documentary on Derek Jeter getting his 3,000 hit, which featured interviews with many Yankee players, as well as Derek's family, and his girlfriend at the time, Minka Kelly, I found myself dreaming that I had been invited to Derek and Minka's wedding. This was not surprising given that, again, in my dreams, I play for the New York Yankees, and that Derek and I hang out together all the time. So we're at the wedding. I'm wearing a tux and am standing with Derek in a side room adjacent to where the wedding ceremony will take place. I wish Derek well and then notice big CC Sabathia, the Yankee's outstanding pitcher, walking my way. We greet each other as long time teammates do, and then CC proceeds to hand me his children - a three-year-old girl and a five-year-old boy. CC is soon followed by other Yankee players handing me their children as well, and then, before you know it, in comes Judson's own Penelope Gottlieb Alston and Tavio Sutton. Apparently, even in my dreams, I am in charge of childcare.

Which is a good thing, I guess, because Judson Sunday School is back, babies, and rarin' to go, with classes beginning this Sunday. We said goodbye to a couple of long-time Poohbettes over the summer - Pilar Haile-Damato and Alex Mallett - both having moved on to child-free Sunday mornings. Yet even as they sit silently in front of the tube watching "Face The Nation," you know their hearts will wander

back to Judson from time to time and the many images of God they contemplated through the years. ("God is like a Venti Non-fat Mocha Coconut Frappuccino." "God is like Bob Schieffer.") But our old friends Nathan Lee, Marisol Cabrera and Lulu Fogarty are in the house and ready to teach your underlings. This year they are joined by former Poohbitte, and now NYU freshman, Lottie Rowe, who recently graduated from Judson Youth's Vampire-Addiction Rehabilitation Center. Please welcome Lottie as she makes the transition from Poohbitte to Poohbette. Nathan, Marisol, Lulu and Lottie will be joined by a teacher to be named later, once I get off my fat duff and hire her or him.

I'm very excited about this year's Sunday School curriculum. Okay, so not "I WON THE LOTTERY!" excited; more along the lines of "as most Sunday School curriculum goes (insert flushing sound here), we've got some pretty good stuff" excited. For our elementary school class, which I will teach again this year, and our youth group, which Lulu Fogarty will preside over once again, we pick up where we left off in last year's "Joyful Path" curriculum, brought to you by The Center for Progressive Christianity. For more info on The Center For People Who Will Never Be Visited By This Year's Republican Presidential Candidates, visit: <http://progressivechristianity.org>. As for our younger children, taught by Nathan, Marisol, Lottie, and the aforementioned teacher to be hired after I get off my, etc., this year we will be leaving "Images of God" and taking a gander at Images of Unitarians - er, um, I mean a curriculum entitled "Wonderful Welcome," which is produced by the Unitarians. "Wonderful Welcome" emphasizes "intangible gifts, those positive qualities which we all have inside us such as kindness, love, invitation, covenant and empathy" - and seeks to teach our children how to "articulate and . . . share these gifts with others." It's really a delightful curriculum. And not to worry, Baptist and UCC-ers. I have taken the liberty of scratching out the word "Unitarian" and writing in "Jesus" on every other page of the curriculum. We don't want to lose anyone to the other side now, do we?

Curriculum, teachers, Derek Jeter - what's missing? Oh yeah - just you and your kids! I hope you all had a wonderful summer. I'm looking forward to seeing you again this Sunday!

All the best,
Andy Frantz
Grand Poobah