

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

SOUNDS OF THE SEA IS PUBLISHED BY:
THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI,
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SOUNDS OF THE SEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI
SEPTEMBER 6, 2007

VOLUME 101, No 131



*Building a welcoming and affirming religious community,
To Liberate and Cultivate the Human Spirit*

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 11:00 AM ONE SERVICE ONLY
SUNDAY MORNING 11:00 AM CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND NURSERY

“BELOVED COMMUNITY”

*The spiritual community freely gathers to live out a shared ministry.
Every human being is sacred and is called to the tasks and joys of love.*

*We do not limit the truth of God (even to the word “God”),
but live in openness and belief in human freedom and dignity.*

We celebrate the gift of life, and join in taking on the sufferings of a fragile world.

*We are this generation's bearers of an eternal message that truth
must grow, enlarge, and glow in creative freedom.*

*Revelation has not been sealed. It is lived anew in every heart,
including your own. And through our transformed hearts, awakened souls
and acts of love emerges the Beloved Community.*

*Happily we bask in this warm September sun,
Which illuminates all creatures...*

- HENRY DAVID THOREAU

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

MINISTER:
REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON
FOR APPOINTMENTS: 986-8855
EMAIL: DFARRINGTON@UUCORPUS.ORG

CHURCH WEBSITE:
[HTTP://WWW.UUCORPUS.ORG/](http://www.uucorpus.org/)

CHURCH PHONE: 986-8855

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

For A Current List of Calendar Events see the website at [HTTP://WWW.UUCORPUS.ORG](http://www.uucorpus.org)

Friday, 09-07-07	7:00 pm	Popcorn Theology Night “Vajra Sky” is the movie
Saturday, 09-08-07	9:30 am	Timmons Ministry Group prepares lunch at Timmons, located in Flour Bluff. Contact Colin Sykes to help on Future Lunches
Saturday, 09-08-07	10:00-Noon	New Member Orientation Class. A class held at the church for those interested in learning about our church and Unitarian Universalism. Contact Reverend Farrington at 986-8855
Sunday, 09-09-07	6:00 pm	RE Activity at Church Contact DRE Sheri Phillabaum
Monday, 09-10-07	7-8:30 pm	Humanist Enrichment Group at the church, all are welcome
Tuesday, 09-11-07	6:30-8:30 pm	Buddhist Interest Group held at church
Tuesday, 09-11-07	7-8:15 pm	Board of Trustees Meeting held at church
Saturday, 09-15-07	7:30-10:00 am	Landscaping Work Day for church grounds- All help welcome
Saturday, 09-15-07	9:30 am	Timmons Ministry Group prepares lunch at Timmons, located in Flour Bluff- contact Colin Sykes to help at future lunches
Monday, 09-17-07	7:00 pm	Women’s Group-This time at Jean Evan’s home 124 Shore Drive, Portland, Tx RSVP 643-6450
Tuesday, 09-18-07	6:30-8:30 pm	Buddhist Interest Group at the church
Friday, 09-21-07	7:00 pm	United Nations International Day of Peace at Cole Park
Saturday, 09-22-07	9:30 am	Timmons Ministry Group prepares lunch at Timmons, located in Flour Bluff. Contact Colin Sykes to help on Future Lunches
Monday, 09-24-07	7-8:30 pm	Humanist Enrichment Group at the church, all are welcome
Tuesday, 09-25-07	6:30-8:30 pm	Buddhist Interest Group at the church
Saturday, 09-29-07	9:30 am	Timmons Ministry Group will prepare Lunch in Flour Bluff Contact Colin Sykes to help prepare future lunches.
Sunday, 09-30-07	12:30 pm	Help Needed Clearing Sanctuary for October Rummage Sale

LAST CALL FOR THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

The Search Committee will be selected within the next week. Anyone interested in applying to be considered for the Search Committee please contact **KIRK NEWPORT @ 887-7569**

KEY CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

MINISTER	REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON FOR APPOINTMENTS: 986-8855 EMAIL: DFARRINGTON@UUCORPUS.ORG
CHURCH WEBSITE	HTTP://WWW.UUCORPUS.ORG/
CHURCH PHONE	986-8855
PRESIDENT	DR. PAT HUDSON
VICE PRESIDENT	KIRK NEWPORT
TREASURER	ROY ELLZEY
SECRETARY	WAYMAN TOOLES
TRUSTEE	MARY GLEASON
TRUSTEE	MARGARET LUCERO
TRUSTEE	TOM BOOKOUT
DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION	DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM
NEWSLETTER/CHURCH DIRECTORY	DEBBIE NEWPORT
MEMBERSHIP	JESSICA LATIMER
SOCIAL ACTION	COLIN SYKES
CHOIR DIRECTOR	DR. KIMBERLY BISSELL
PIANIST	LORRIE PIERCE
BUILDING	BILL RANDALL
GROUNDS	TOM BOOKOUT
HOSPITALITY	EVELYN BOOKOUT
COMMUNICATIONS	JAN MILLER
CANVASS	NANCY CHRISTENSEN
COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY	MIKE REED
RUMMAGE SALE	JESSICA LATIMER AND MARILYN BODRUG
ENDOWMENT	SKIP DOUDEN AND DEANNE PIERCE
FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEONS	LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY

PRINCIPLES OF OUR BELOVED CHURCH COMMUNITY

WE, THE MEMBER CONGREGATIONS OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION, AFFIRM AND PROMOTE:

The inherent worth and dignity of every person

Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations

Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our congregations

A free and responsible search for truth and meaning

The right of conscience and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which are a part

DEEPER MEANINGS FOR SEPTEMBER

September signals the end of a new cycle and the beginning of another. As any gardener will tell you this time of year is bursting with activity. First, last harvests must be made. Then, preparation and planning for the next spring begins. This flurry of outdoor activity is very similar to what may be happening emotionally to you as well. Nature has a way of mimicking what we are experiencing internally. For many, this month involves quite a few changes. You may be starting school, a new job, moving to a new location or just experiencing a mental shift as the end of summer nears. Take this opportunity to reflect on the changes in your life and the new path you may be entering. Are things the way you want them to be? What can you do to make your life better, right now? Answers don't always come easily. To help, spend a few times a week taking walks and reflecting on your life path. Notice the changes in the environment around you. How are these changes similar to what you are experiencing? September is a month of ending things of old and starting new beginnings. How can this inspire you?

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS

SEPTEMBER 1 BILL RANDALL

SEPTEMBER 12 JAMES DAVIS

SEPTEMBER 17 LYNN JONES

SEPTEMBER 18 ROY ELLZEY

SEPTEMBER 26 MARGARET LUCERO

SEPTEMBER 8 KIRK NEWPORT

SEPTEMBER 14 ROBERTO ALANIZ

SEPTEMBER 17 JENNIFER MARTIN

SEPTEMBER 22 NANCY CARLTON

SEPTEMBER 28 J.B. CUDD

SEPTEMBER ANNIVERSARIES

SEPTEMBER 10 DONNA AND LOYD OAKES

SEPTEMBER 29 JENNIFER AND KEVIN MARTIN

IN THE INTERIM

DEAR U2C3 FRIENDS,

It is a joy to be back among you and to be as warmly received as I was on Labor Day Sunday. I was particularly inspired by the positive response to my message that the task of growing membership is to be focused on those needing or seeking Unitarian Universalism and less about our needs, such as new sources of revenue.

If our goal this year is to be numeric growth, we must be preparing the things that enable it, namely, people who are growing spiritually, who are open to thinking about and learning from the diverse views of others; having an organization whose inner workings are simple, effective and known by all; and finally, an organization that exists as a force for justice and is a respected part of the larger community. The success of numeric growth is, of course, directly related to our ability to attract others who do not yet know the good news of Unitarian Universalism. One approach is to offer a series of sermons appealing to “newbies,” something which is already being planned. But, while this is effective with many, there remain those whose experience with organized religion has been spiritually, emotionally or even physically abusive and who have no plans to ever step inside a church again. These are people with whom our Unitarian Universalist philosophy and theology make a lot of sense and who comprise a large portion of our congregation. To attract such folks, however, we need to offer something which is less “threatening” than even the most liberal worship service.

This could be where you come in. There are people within our congregation with such widely varied experience and knowledge of astronomy, linguistics, ESL, literacy, chess, hypnosis, gourmet cooking, wood turning, wine making and beer brewing, amateur (“ham”) radio and heaven knows what else.

Keeping in mind Plutarch’s admonition that “the mind is a fire to be kindled, not a vessel to be filled,” what would it be like, if you share your enthusiasm for your avocational or vocational interest/s with others from both within and without the church? This is far less a teaching challenge than an opportunity for sharing something you already know and love.

My experience with such efforts in the past is that a few “outsiders” get to mingle with a bunch of UUs in the act of being UUs (we are pretty much always the same whenever, however we get together!) around a common interest of fun and learning. Many of those from the “outside” become curious about the “inside” and respond positively to an invitation to attend worship, or often just show up some Sunday morning. By knowing us as people, we relieve their fear of entering a church. Such groups can be formed in many ways. There can be a check-in, a moment for spiritual reflection, meditation or prayer or nothing at all. It can be for three or four or much larger groups. — Continued next page—

It can be an ongoing activity or a number of sessions. It can be created out of a need, such as folks “sandwiched” between adult children and aging parents, and simply go away when the matter is fully addressed or the need no longer exists.

Such an outreach effort would better establish us in the community, provide a high degree of nonthreatening exposure, meet personal or social needs, develop friendships and be lots of fun. Churches that truly grow in numbers are characterized by an ever-changing 20 to 30 groups focused on matters of the spirit, mind and body – and having fun.

Think about it. Share your ideas with me or others. See if there is an audience for what you care about. Remember, you do not need to be a teacher, you just have to be your enthusiastic self – the fire that kindles the enthusiasm of others.

BLESSINGS,

DAVE

NEW MEMBER ORIENTATION SEPTEMBER 8

We will be having a new member orientation on Saturday, September 8, 10:00 am at the church. This is a 2-hour class specifically for persons who would like to know more about our church and the Unitarian-Universalist denomination. This class is called Congregational Life 101 and offers an opportunity to join the church.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CONTACT REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON AT THE CHURCH OFFICE 986-8855, OR CONTACT TOM BOOKOUT AT 887-514

LANDSCAPING WORK DAY SEPTEMBER 15

The church is having a Landscaping Work Day on September 15 from 7:30 am until 10:00 am. We can use all kinds of help. We need to finish cleaning up the area on Holly Road. Our great rain in July and August has made everything grow, including the weeds and vines. Bring gloves, clippers, hoes, shovels. We can use lots of help from adults, kids, and teenagers, so come on out.

LANDSCAPING COMMITTEE NEEDS GRASS CLIPPINGS AND NEWSPAPERS

The Landscaping Committee would like your grass clippings. If you bag your clippings, or know someone who does on your block, please bring them over to the church. You can put the bags on the side of the fence close to the building, where Big Red is stored. We also need your old newspapers, which can be put in same place as the grass clippings. Both of these items would be needed by September 15, when the Landscaping Work Day is planned.

OCTOBER 6 FALL RUMMAGE SALE HELP NEEDED

Our Fall Rummage Sale is coming up. Put October 6 on your calendar. First, we need items from your house that you no longer need for the sale. You can bring them to the church any time in September, unless they are large items, and then you can call Jean Evans to have them picked up, 643-6450. The church needs a big response of people willing to work the week of the sale, the day of the sale, and Sunday, September 30, when we will get the sanctuary ready. We also need help bringing over the items from the storage bins. So, please put this on your calendar, and give of your time and energy.

WOMEN'S GROUP SEPTEMBER 17 MEETING

The Women's Group will meet SEPTEMBER 17, 7:00 PM, in the home of JEAN EVANS, LOCATED AT 124 SHORE DRIVE, WHICH IS IN PORTLAND. PLEASE RSVP AT 361-643-6450 to let our hostess know how many place settings are needed. Everyone is invited to bring a Pot Luck Dish to share for dinner.

In August we met at a restaurant, which let everyone enjoy not having to cook. Also, the women want those who work and have small children to always be comfortable with coming to a pot luck with just a smile! We always have plenty of food, and just enjoy the friendship. A number of people also commented about how nice it was to have a dinner on the far south side.

KUDOS

Thanks to these people who have come out to help clear the landscape that Has Grown Unbelievable with all of this rain. We had some complaints from neighbors who couldn't see the traffic along Holly when they were stopped at the Joplin stop sign because of the GROWTH. Combined these people have put in about 35 hours working on clearing the weeds, and putting down mulch. A BIG Thanks to EVELYN AND TOM BOOKOUT, DIANE MASTERS, SUELLEN ABAJIAN, KIRK NEWPORT, ROBIN CARTER, JESSICA LATIMER AND JEAN EVANS.

POPCORN THEOLOGY MOVIE NIGHT SEPTEMBER 7

The next Popcorn Theology Movie Night will be September 07, 2007 at 7:00 pm. The Movie to be shown is "*Vajra Sky*." *Vajra* is a Sanskrit word signifying the thunderbolt of illumination. *Vajra Sky* is a cinematic pilgrimage to central Tibet, bearing the witness to the indomitable faith of its endangered Buddhist community and the imminent threat to its very survival. Traveling through breathtaking Himalayan terrain, VAJRA SKY visits extraordinary temples, monasteries and festivals, while revealing a covert policy of Chinese authorities to destroy this ancient wisdom tradition from within. The enduring power of Tibetan Vajrayana Buddhism resonates in all of its sacred shrines. It echoes within the bustling Jokhang Temple and the empty Potala Palace, home of His Holiness the Dalai Lama.
Run Time: 89 minutes Rated: PG
PLEASE NOTE THE POPCORN THEOLOGY MOVIES WILL BE POSTPONED FOR OCTOBER AND NOVEMBER DUE TO THE RUMMAGE SALE AND SERVICE AUCTION EVENTS ON THOSE FRIDAYS.

INTERNATIONAL DAY OF PEACE

Friday, September 21 has been designated by the United Nations as an International Day of Peace. The initial resolution was issued by the UN in 1981, and made permanent in 2001. The Social Action Committee (SACO) will join together with the Tikkun Community, The South Texas Alliance for Peace and Justice and the Network of Spiritual Progressives (NSP) to celebrate the day.
A noon time ceremony will take place on the East campus of Del Mar College and a closing ecumenical worship service and candle light vigil will take place at the Cole Park Amphitheater at **7:00pm**. There will be music, poetry fellowship and Church members are invited and urged to attend and participate.
Complete details will be distributed and publicized in the next Newsletter as plans are finalized. Volunteers are needed to rehearse and sing on stage with the "International Peace Choir"
We will also need the use of a portable electronic keyboard. Any offers?
FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL 853-7992 COLIN SYKES SACO CHAIRPERSON

RECONNECTIONS: YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Religious education classes get started for the fall on September 2. All our classes are fully staffed and ready to go! Teachers were inducted on August 27. Each teacher in attendance received a magic wand so they can weave their magic with the students! The induction was followed by games and get-to-know-you activities.

If you have not registered your children for religious education, please consider doing so. Forms are on the RE table in the hallway. One thing this gets you is regular e-mails with information about upcoming events, including a monthly schedule of events and classes. Copies of these monthly schedules can usually be found on the RE table as well.

Our Fair-Trade coffee and tea sale to benefit children's cancer research was a great success: we sold all but five bags at full price! When proceeds are combined with the approximate \$45.00 in children's chapel collections, we will be sending more than \$200.00 to the CURE Foundation.

REVISIONING MEETING: The most important thing I want to mention in this column is a very important meeting coming up the evening of September 9. This will be our annual REvisioning meeting when kids, parents, anyone interested in religious education come together to explore ideas for making our program the best it can be. REVEREND FARRINGTON will be the co-facilitator. The meeting of approximately an hour will be followed by pizza and a family game time night. Please mark your calendars now for Sunday, September 9, 6:00 pm at the church.

CHURCH PALS: The church pals' program is a fun way for anyone in the church to find a new friend. It's basically a secret pen-pals program in which children are matched up with adults in the congregation. Everyone gets to meet their secret pal in person at a special Valentine's gathering in February. Look for flyers!

— **DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM, DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

At the U.U. Church of Corpus Christi, we look upon religious education as a vital ministry, a ministry which provides for its children most of the same benefits afforded the adults by the church as a whole. Fellowship, opportunities for service, and spiritual and intellectual growths are just a few of the rewards of our program.

Our religious education volunteers are a team of passionate and compassionate individuals who understand that guiding a young person in a spiritual path is itself a spiritual discipline, one that holds many rewards.

We are looking forward to an exciting year of fun, service, and learning in the 2007-2008 year.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION COMMITTEE

**DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM — DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AVAILABLE 7 AM -10 PM ALL WEEK AT 947-0863
REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON AT 986-8855, JIM FUGATE 992-3854, KELLY RUSSELL 939-8608,
WAYMAN TOOLES 814-5872, DORA WILBURN 452-0653**

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS,

The Board had their Retreat last Saturday. It was a positive, upbeat retreat. There are three important points that I wanted to share with you.

First, we began reviewing the excellent applicants that have applied for the search committee. We decided that Labor Day weekend is the last Sunday that anyone can apply so, if you are interested, this is your last chance. We will finalize the composition of the Search Committee at our Board Meeting on September 11. Please leave your application with Kirk Newport if you interested and have not turned in an application yet.

Second, the Board is also going to consider, at that same meeting on September 11, to changing David Farrington's status from "Interim" to "Acting" minister. This is just a way of hedging our bets in case our new search committee does not have the luck we all wish for them in finding the right fit for our congregation, with a number of applicants that respond to our announcing that we are in search. The change in David's title only means one thing: If we did need him for a third year, we could keep him. With the title of Interim he would have to leave after two years and we would be forced to go through an Interim Search to find a new Interim--a scary and costly process, in my opinion.

The third, focus of the Board meeting was on the direction that the church will take over this year. The Board and our staff are excited about the possibilities for growth of U2C3 over the next year. This summer I began reading about how churches actually increase membership and shared with the Board the ideas I had gathered from the books I read as well as a DVD from UUA on Breakthrough Congregations. We were all in 100% agreement that our church should focus on growth in the 2007-2008 year. David and I will share these ideas with you soon in a joint sermon on growth.

Have you seen the wonderful brochure that the Membership Committee put together? It is a great little ad for the many positive and enriching things we do. If you know of someone who might be interested in our church, please take it to him or her. To give you a preview of our growth sermon, 74% of people who join a church came because they were invited.

Looking forward to getting back into the stable, enriching routine of our fall schedule and seeing all of you again, regularly!

BLESSINGS,

PAT HUDSON

POETRY REFLECTIONS

*The golden-rod is yellow;
The corn is turning brown;
The trees in apple orchards
With fruit are bending down.*

*The gentian's bluest fringes
Are curling in the sun;
In dusty pods the milkweed
Its hidden silk has spun.*

*The sedges flaunt their harvest,
In every meadow nook;
And asters by the brook-side
Make asters in the brook,*

*From dewy lanes at morning
The grapes' sweet odors rise;
At noon the roads all flutter
With yellow butterflies.*

*By all these lovely tokens
September days are here,
With summer's best of weather,
And autumn's best of cheer.*

*But none of all this beauty
Which floods the earth and air
Is unto me the secret
Which makes September fair.*

*'T is a thing which I remember;
To name it thrills me yet:
One day of one September
I never can forget.*

HELEN HUNT JACKSON, SEPTEMBER, 1830-1885