

SOUNDS OF THE SEA



NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

JANUARY 9, 2008 VOLUME 101, No 135

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

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

SUNDAY, JANUARY 13

"SINGLE PAYER UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE NOW"
GUEST SPEAKER DR. LORRAINE STEHN

SUNDAY, JANUARY 20

REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON

FRIDAY, SATURDAY, JANUARY 25, 26 , 7:00 PM "THE LAST TRIAL OF PAUL"

SUNDAY, JANUARY 27

GUEST SPEAKER
REVEREND SUSAN SMITH

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

MAY WE EACH FEEL THE PRESENCE OF THE SACRED IN OUR BEGINNINGS AND ENDINGS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

"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.*

IN THE INTERIM

DEAR U2C3 FRIENDS,

Our first service in the new year drew nearly one-hundred people! Some were visiting with family members, others were new Winter Texans and some, we continue to believe or at least hope, are responding to our pre-Christmas mailing. Whatever the cause, it is clear from recent attendance that we are welcoming more and more folks to the good news of Unitarian Universalism. That fact in itself is good news. Additionally, we are talking with a local therapist who specializes in Radical Forgiveness programs to use our church as a site for her work.

A small group is working on the affordable health care issue, specifically, the single payer system. This coming Sunday, January 13, a local physician will make a presentation during worship and in the Spring we hope to have a seminar open to the public. One of our members who treats sex offenders is developing a Safe Dating Seminar for parents and teens, also open to the public. These types of activities attract people into our UU culture without stirring up unpleasant memories of earlier church experiences. Once they see we are “safe” and fun to be with, they typically desire more contact and increased involvement in worship and our other programs and activities. Still others have informally suggested programs they would be interested in organizing or presenting. Now is the time to formalize these ideas. We will consider any proposal. It may be a fixed number of sessions or open ended, similar to the Humanist Discussion Group. Be creative! Share what gives you pleasure sacred or secular. All ideas are welcome. Call or drop me a note or e-mail with your idea. I will respond quickly.

Growth in numbers requires growth in other areas. First, we need to be as clear as possible about who we are as Unitarian Universalists, we need to grow in our own understanding of our own beliefs. Towards this end, BOBBI REED is working with our District Executive (DE), the REVEREND SUSAN SMITH, to resume the excellent program started by the REVEREND DR. OWEN on identifying our collective values or “Church DNA.” For the first time in nearly ten years we will be visited by a DE on January 26th and 27th. On Saturday SUSAN will work with BOBBI and myself to refresh the memories of earlier participants and introduce the concept to newer folks. This event occurs on the weekend our former Director of Religious Education (DRE) and accomplished playwright, DR. SHERI PHILABAUM, is staging a production of her play, “THE LAST TRIAL OF PAUL”, an informative work, focused on how Christianity changed from the religion of Jesus to one about Jesus. I’m hoping that those involved in the production or supporting it with refreshments will make a special effort to attend the seminar on Saturday and worship on Sunday when the REVEREND SUSAN will fill our pulpit.

Another area of needed growth is in worship, which is never an easy task given the diversity within any UU congregation. Like other churches, we have people who view worship in rather traditional terms, a time to gather in silence, mediate and become centered in preparation for becoming spiritually inspired and informed by music and word. Others are content to socialize and then enter worship. Many prefer traditional hymns and choir while others prefer popular music and vocalists. The magic required for success in worship is to satisfy the desires of all without alienating any. Towards this end the Music and Worship Committee (M&W), under the able leadership of SYLVIA SAMANIEGO, has proposed that we experiment with some pre-service changes on Sunday mornings. Specifically, we seek to provide quiet space in the sanctuary and time (10:30 to 10:55) for those desiring to mediate and center. Starting with the first service in February, signs will ask those who wish to socialize to do so in areas away from the sanctuary -- which is something less than acoustically isolated (!). Our hope is that the creative ones among us will find ways of making this pleasurable. A volunteer might assume responsibility for projecting meditative visuals (without audio) in the sanctuary, for example. Others might find places to chat, have informal discussion groups and perhaps even brew up an early morning urn of coffee.

DR. KIM BISSELL, (what a gift she is!) is working with a new band to integrate popular music into our regular worship services and to provide music when our pianist and choir enjoy a Sunday off. With her able guidance and cooperative band members, we expect to improve our worship experience to the satisfaction of all.

Many religious traditions allow, indeed encourage, the expression of pleasure and agreement with applause, “amens” and “preach it brother/sister!” Others, of course, subscribe to the Puritan theory that only expressions in praise God are permissible. As you are doubtless aware, we have a good sampling of both. It was the decision of M & W to allow people freedom of expression, while encouraging our more reserved members to accept that religious expression takes many forms. The Music and Worship Committee and the Minister welcome your feedback and suggestions as we go about the work of trying to satisfy all at the expense of none. Growth can be awkward and at times even painful. It is natural to dislike and resist change. Still, we are called to have a church and worship experience that provides satisfaction for the growing number of diverse people, needs and interests we serve.

We can find solace in our history – knowing that once committed, we can do anything!

BLESSINGS,

DAVE

RECONNECTIONS: YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

GOOD-BYE!

I guess it's old news by now that this month will be my last month serving the UU Church of Corpus Christi as DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION. As I write this, I am holding two titles. For the month of January I am still RE DIRECTOR here, and I have already begun my duties as DIRECTOR OF LIFESPAN RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AT FIRST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF SAN ANTONIO. I want to thank everyone, church members, friends, religious education parents, and especially all the children and youth for a wonderful experience over the past six years. This church has been more than a place of employment to me, it has been a place of inspiration and a sense of belonging.

It will be a gradual leave taking, so although I will not be seeing most of you again in my capacity as RELIGIOUS EDUCATOR, I will be attending church occasionally as a member during the months of February and March. I also want to assure everyone that there will be no "down time" in our RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROGRAM. Plans are being formulated to ensure a smooth transition to new and capable leadership!

And now, let me recap for you some of our holiday religious education events and activities.

Our winter solstice star party benefitted from clear skies. The Corpus Christi Astronomical Society had three telescopes on our grounds and the viewing was superb. Inside, people were able to warm up with wonderful hot chocolate supplied by GAIL GOO, delicious hot spiced cider delivered by JAN MILLER, and of course lots of snacks and goodies.

The Las Posadas service on December 23 was followed by tamales which is a traditional Christmas food, and a PIÑATA for the kids. I'd like to thank all the children and adults who worked so hard on the Las Posadas pageant, and a special thanks to the choir for being such good sports about singing songs in Spanish!

Finally, just one word about this current month.

We will be collecting GUEST AT YOUR TABLE BOXES during the service on January 27. If you can not be at church that morning, please call SHERI @ 992-8048.

YOURS IN FAITH,

DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR CHURCH FRIENDS,

It's out with the old and in with the new, so welcome 2008! There's so much happening right now I'm not sure where to begin. How about a list?

- * **THE SEARCH COMMITTEE IS IN FULL SWING AND WE ARE OPTIMISTIC ABOUT A SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME.**
- * **THERE IS A POSITION OPEN FOR RE DIRECTOR.**
- * **JOE PIERCE AND GEORGE CLOWER ARE RESUMING WORK ON THE MEDITATION GARDEN.**
- * **A NEW INTEREST GROUP, THE WORSHIP ARTS SEMINAR IS FORMING.**
- * **THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE IS REVITALIZED AND WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO EXCITING ADDITIONS TO THE SUNDAY SERVICES.**
- * **A NEW CHURCH SIGN ON HOLLY ROAD SHOULD BE IN PLACE BY THE END OF JANUARY.**
- * **WEEKLY ADVERTISING ON KEDT RADIO.**
- * **A WEBSITE WITH AN UP-TO-DATE CALENDAR AND A PICTORAL DIRECTORY**

IS THAT ENOUGH OR WHAT?

Although the fall canvas fell a bit short of our goals, we were able to make adjustments such that we'll be able to achieve all our objectives for 2008.

A special thanks from myself and our congregation is given to **NANCY CHRISTENSEN, EVERETT PHILIPPS, ROY ELLZEY AND EVELYN BOOKOUT** for all their hard work on the Canvas and Budget.

A special, special thanks we send to **EVELYN BOOKOUT** for her long, I won't say how long, and dedicated service on the Finance and Hospitality Committees!

Along those lines, please welcome and thank **MONICA WALKER** who has stepped up to the plate to join the Finance Committee. Thanks, **MONICA!**

And while I'm thanking people, I also want to acknowledge a mystery member who made an unsolicited and additional generous financial gift to the church for no other reason than her love of our church. You know who you are!

Thank you!

I recently heard an interview with the actor and film director **WOODY ALLEN**. He's in his 70's now, and he was asked if he's become wiser and enlightened over the years. He said, "No, I haven't learned anything." In lieu of enlightenment, he had learned to keep moving in spite of obstacles and disappointments. That was good enough for him. Although I'm not against enlightenment, the ability to keep moving is an admirable objective for anyone, including our church. We never seem to lose that.

WELCOME TO THE NEW YEAR AND ALL THAT IT WILL BRING!

— **KIRK NEWPORT, BOARD PRESIDENT**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR OPENING

As almost all of you probably already know, sadly, DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM is resigning her position as our RE Director to pursue a full - time RE Director position at the First Unitarian Universalist Church in San Antonio. Thank you SHERI for all your good work and we wish you well in your new endeavors!

Although the Board has not had the opportunity to meet and discuss the transition to a new RE Director, the position is open and the Board is soliciting applications. If you have an interest in the position, please contact the Board. As soon as the Board meets, we will provide additional information about the search process for hiring a new RE Director. The next Board meeting is scheduled for January 15. — **KIRK NEWPORT, BOARD PRESIDENT**

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY NEEDS URGENT HELP

As director for the Social Action and Community Outreach, COLIN SYKES received a phone call from the Habitat office asking for assistance with the construction of three houses, located on the 1300 Block of Morris Street. There is supervisory expertise there every Monday, Tuesday, Friday and Saturday, usually for four or five hours from 8:00am or longer if the help survives.

Please contact **COLIN SYKES AT 853-7992** if you would like to participate in this very worthwhile project. Please tell COLIN which day/ days you would be available, and he will form small groups to participate. No prior experience is required, and tools are available at the site.

The houses on Morris Street are each at differing stages of construction. We can choose appropriate tasks to involve ourselves when we get to the building site.

We can make the world a better place, one house at a time.

— **HAPPY NEW YEAR, COLIN (JUCOSY@SBCGLOBAL.NET), SOCIAL ACTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

CHURCH LANDSCAPE MEMORIAL FEATURE

The work has begun for landscaping the Memorial Patio in the Church backyard. Phase One of its construction is up, and will now be further developed. If you have any interesting or useful items to donate please email **JOE PIERCE AT JPIERCE@STX. RR.COM**, and he can come and pick them up. The items needed are flagstones, boulders, bricks, pavers, landscape timbers, railroad ties, fountains, ponds, pond-liners, pumps, large ceramic plant pots, barrels and other useful construction items. If you would like you may also donate money. We don't need any plants yet, but probably will later in the spring. If you are interested in helping, let JOE know.

Later, in Phase Two, we hope to build a paved 40-60 foot circular area coming out from the Phase One structure, perhaps with some permanent seating, and then landscape it. We hope to create an outdoor spiritual space for sitting, reflecting, classes, picnics, gatherings, and ceremonies. We'll need a fund drive to pay for Phase Two in the future. Please save some money for this project, and please participate if you can.

— **THANKS, JOE**

“THE LAST TRIAL OF PAUL” JANUARY 25 AND 26, 7:00 PM

Save the date or dates for performances of DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM'S historical drama, “THE LAST TRIAL OF PAUL”, in a Reader's Theatre production. It will feature all of your favorite actors, who will be directed by JUDY SYKES, and is being produced by ROY ELLZEY. You will be enlightened and entertained. You will be wine and dine with refreshments served by those culinary wizards JUDY PATE AND EVELYN BOOKOUT. It will be an evening to remember and no tests we're Unitarians!!

All of this for a mere \$10 per person. Show time will be 7:00 pm in the Sanctuary. Buy your ticket or tickets early. For each show night, the ticket price will be \$10.00 per person. We would love to see everyone both nights. Bring a friend or two, and learn how PAUL was taken to task.

WORDS OF THANKS

The family of RUSSELL ALANIZ would like to thank all the people who came to the December 1 fund-raiser music recital of RUSSELL ALANIZ AND ALENE BURCH. A huge thanks to RUSSELL AND ALENE for preparing and performing the music. Also a big thank you to all who volunteered their time to help with food, drinks, setup and cleanup. The evening was an amazing success with over 70 people in attendance and a pot of \$775.00 for our UU Church. Kudos to all.

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING JANUARY 21, 7:00 PM

The Women's Group collected clothing for the Women's Shelter at our December dinner. Unfortunately, when it was delivered, we found that they were not accepting clothing in the month of December. We were able to donate the wonderful items that were collected to Driscoll Children's Hospital Resale shop. They were very happy to get the donations. Thank you to the women who brought those donations.

Our next meeting will be on January 21, 7:00 pm, at Thai Orchard Restaurant, location address of 4501 SPID

Contact JESSICA LATIMER at 993-6013 for any questions.

Please join us for an evening of women's fellowship.

WORSHIP ARTS SEMINAR

Everyone has at least one sermon in them! Want to share yours? THOM WALKER AND REVEREND FARRINGTON will start an ongoing Worship Arts Seminar later this month. The goal is to help lay people become comfortable in developing and presenting well designed sermons and services.

CONTACT THOM BY EMAIL AT CIATHOM@GMAIL.COM OR 658-1394 AND CONTACT DAVE BY EMAIL AT DFARRINGTON@UUCORPUS.ORG OR 288-4640 FOR DETAILS.

NEWSPAPERS FOR LANDSCAPING

Please continue to bring old newspapers to church for landscaping purposes along Holly Road.

The newspapers can be placed in plastic trash bags and "hidden" in the bushes near the church sign at the corner of Holly and Joplin.

— THANKS FROM, KIRK NEWPORT



BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

JANUARY 1	JIM FUGATE
JANUARY 7	BOB MURRY
JANUARY 10	HAZEL CHENEY
JANUARY 13	MILTON CLASEN
JANUARY 15	CLIFTON ELLZEY
JANUARY 17	ISABELLA RUIZ
JANUARY 23	LAURA HEIL
JANUARY 27	SYLVIA SAMANIEGO
JANUARY 30	WILLIAM LLOYD-REILLEY



ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 1 GAIL GOO AND JIM FUGATE

JANUARY 24 JUDY AND CARROLL PATE

POETRY REFLECTIONS

SALUTATION OF THE DAWN

Look to this day!

For it is life, the very life of life.

In its brief course lie all the truth

And reality of your existence:

The bliss of growth,

The glory of action,

The splendor of beauty;

For yesterday is already a dream,

And tomorrow is only a vision;

But today well-lived,

Makes every yesterday a dream of happiness

And every tomorrow a vision of hope.

— ANCIENT SANSKRIT SOURCE, IN THE BEACON SONG AND SERVICE BOOK

KEY CONTACTS AND COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

MINISTER	REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON FOR APPOINTMENTS: 986-8855 EMAIL: DFARRINGTON@UUCORPUS.ORG
CHURCH WEBSITE CHURCH PHONE	HTTP://WWW.UUCORPUS.ORG/ 986-8855
DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION INTERIM DRE CHOIR DIRECTOR PIANIST NEWSLETTER/CHURCH DIRECTORY CHURCH CALENDAR	DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM NANCY CHRISTENSEN DR. KIMBERLY BISSELL LORRIE PIERCE DEBBIE NEWPORT JUDY SYKES
PRESIDENT VICE PRESIDENT TREASURER SECRETARY MEMBER MEMBER MEMBER	KIRK NEWPORT MARGARET LUCERO ROY ELLZEY WAYMAN TOOLES MARY GLEASON QUENTIN MASTERS TOM BOOKOUT
BUILDING CANVASS CARING MINISTRY COMMUNICATIONS ENDOWMENT FINANCES FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEONS GROUNDS LAY MINISTRY CONGREGATIONAL LIFE (MEMBERSHIP) MUSIC / WORSHIP SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY- OUTREACH WEBSITE DESIGNER	BILL RANDALL NANCY CHRISTENSEN DEBBIE NEWPORT AND CHERYL MILLER JAN MILLER SKIP DOUDEN, DEANNE PIERCE, ED GROVE ROY ELLZEY, MONICA WALKER, JEAN EVANS LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY TOM BOOKOUT, ROY ELLZEY AGNES MAIER JESSICA LATIMER SYLVIA SAMANIEGO COLIN SYKES JAN MILLER

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

