

# SOUNDS OF THE SEA



## NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

FEBRUARY 7, 2008 VOLUME 101, No 136

*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, FEBRUARY 10 REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON**



**SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 10 MEET YOUR CHURCH PAL PARTY**  
**HELD IN THE RE ROOM AFTER SUNDAY SERVICES**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16 SPIRIT OF COMMUNITY DANCE**  
**8:00 - 11:00 PM, HELD AT THE CHURCH**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23 CIRCLE 6 SUPPERS**  
**LOOK AT SEPARATE ARTICLE FOR MORE DETAILS**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 8 RUMMAGE SALE, MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

*ALL RELIGIONS, ARTS AND SCIENCES ARE BRANCHES OF THE SAME TREE. ALL THESE ASPIRATIONS ARE  
DIRECTED TOWARD ENNOBLING MAN'S LIFE, LIFTING IT FROM THE SPHERE OF MERE PHYSICAL EXISTENCE  
AND LEADING THE INDIVIDUAL TOWARDS FREEDOM.*  
— ALBERT EINSTEIN

## IN THE INTERIM

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**DEAR U2C3 FRIENDS,**

As the work of the Search Committee moves closer to identifying candidates, several church members have approached me asking that I submit an application and candidate for the position. My response is that the search process set forth by the UUA requires that, as an "inside candidate," an incumbent must be considered before the Church receives candidate names from the UUA. This was essentially what transpired last June when my candidacy was put before the congregation. Following that vote a search committee was formed and candidates requested from the UUA. So these are the rules which prohibit me from being a candidate at this time.

As insurance against the possibility that the Search Committee might not produce a candidate, the Board successfully sought to change my status from Interim to Acting Minister, thus allowing me to continue in the office of Minister should that become necessary and/or desired. Further, I agreed that should my own search for a new pulpit result in an offer of interest, then I would notify the Board thereby providing it "first refusal."

But it needs to be emphasized that this is a contingency measure and not to create a "ghost" candidate. Indeed, I have a collegial obligation to prospective candidates to ensure that I am not an impediment to their pulpit search.

As you will see in the Search Committee Chairperson's article elsewhere, the Committee feels enthusiastic that it is making progress and hopes to bring a candidate before the Congregation, perhaps as early as April. The duty of the Congregation, Acting Minister and the Search Committee is to approach the search process clear of prejudice and to pursue the best interests of the church in reviewing candidates and hopefully identifying one to become your next settled minister.

Let all of us be diligent in observing the word and spirit of the search rules and process, thereby ensuring the best possible result.

**BLESSINGS,  
DAVE**

**REVEREND DAVID W. FARRINGTON, ACTING MINISTER**

## FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

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DEAR UU CHURCH FRIENDS,

As many of you heard her speak a couple of weeks ago, we recently had the good fortune to receive a visit from our Southwest District Executive, Susan Smith. On the Saturday before she spoke to the congregation, Susan and Bobbie Reed held a "Living Our Values Workshop" that was attended by approximately 20 church members.

I'm often skeptical about "touchy-feely" activities, but this was no such thing. We divided into groups and prepared to "cross" the proverbial human metaphysical desert like the early pioneers with "essential supplies." As the going got tougher, we were forced to jettison our supplies until we could only keep three items. My own table ended up with ( after much discussion ) compassion, integrity and freedom. Not too bad, I think.

As Unitarian Universalists we have the luxury of selecting from many "essential" supplies. The challenge we face is to make these choices as a community and meaningful to all. It took my own small group of just six people some 45 minutes to whittle things down. Imagine how long some 100-+ people would take! The good news is that we have time to consider what is most important to our community and express those beliefs in a myriad of ways.

My hope as President of the Board is to encourage as much creativity and resourcefulness as we can muster and put them both to work. The pioneers certainly had more difficult choices, but ours can be just as adventurous.

— KIRK NEWPORT, PRESIDENT

## RECONNECTIONS: YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

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A big thanks to everyone who has welcomed me as Interim Director of Religious Education.

I hope I can adequately fill the shoes of DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM, and get the search for a new DRE, up and running in a timely fashion.

We have assembled a committee to evaluate the RE program and conduct the search for a new DRE. The committee includes REVEREND FARRINGTON, WAYMAN TOOLES, MARLET DATH, AND MYSELF, DR. NANCY CHRISTENSEN. Any input is welcome. Please contact any of the committee members.

If you are interested in applying for the DRE position contact our church president, KIRK NEWPORT. We will let you know when the official application process will start.



**For those who participated in the Church Pals Program, we will be having a Meet Your Church Pal Party on Sunday, February 10, after church services in the RE room.**

— DR. NANCY CHRISTENSEN, INTERIM DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

## **SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE**

Our Monday evening meetings from October until now resulted in the preparation of a new on-line 'congregational record' using the UUA format. After that was revealed to prospective ministers, we had access to 'ministerial records' of those who indicated an interest. Having read the records, we proceeded to the next step and exchanged 'Ministerial Search Committee Packets' which provide a broader picture of the church and the applicants. Our packet (which we are happy to share with anyone interested) utilized a format and a lot of factual material prepared by the 2007 Search Committee. We exchanged packets over the Christmas holidays; the ministerial packets were then circulated amongst our committee of seven.

Agreeing to go the next level of engagement because we liked the ministerial packets, we began phone interviews in January. Happy with these speaker-phone interviews which involved questions from all of our members, we began checking with references provided by the applicants. We currently are at what is called the 'pre-candidating' stage.

Soon pre-candidates and their families will come to Corpus Christi to preview our city and its allure, look at our wonderful Holly Road facility, and most importantly meet personally with the search committee, to share their ideas of a ministry and learn more about our congregation. On Sundays of these pre-candidating weekends our prospects will preach from a 'neutral pulpit' (in a city away from Corpus Christi). We will be in the audience, attentively taking notes so that we can continue our discussions during the following week(s).

We hope that the person we choose then will accept our invitation to be a candidate for the U2C3 ministry. In 2007, neither possible candidate accepted that invitation. If we are successful, we would proceed to "a candidate week." The potential minister will conduct two Sunday services so that everyone will have an opportunity to hear his/her message and style in our pulpit. During that week, probably in April, multiple events will be scheduled, at which we hope that as many people as possible will have an opportunity to meet our selected candidate more informally. At the conclusion of the second Sunday service we will have a congregational meeting to vote on whether we "call" this minister as our next settled minister.

As a committee we constantly talk about 'what our congregation wants and needs.' We use the survey results, and we ask questions of members. If you haven't voiced your opinion about the skills or qualities you want our new minister to have, now is the opportune time. Search Committee members wear yellow name tags. Talk to one of us at church, make a phone call, be involved. We appreciate your input as we enter the last stage of our search.

The importance of this search can't be stressed enough because if we fail to select a new settled minister, the church would have to begin a search all over again, with another committee, and associated expenses.

— BARBARA BRIODY-SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR

**NEW ENRICHMENT GROUP FORMING,  
“EMERSON, THOREAU, AND THE TRANSCENDENTALIST MOVEMENT”**

On Thursday, February 14, from 7-8:30 pm, at the U2C3 Church, 6901 Holly Road, join Rob and Agnes Maier as they lead this enrichment group, “Emerson, Thoreau, and the Transcendentalist Movement.” The group will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday, and with twelve 30 minute lectures will take six months to view all of the lectures.

There will be a presentation through a series of lectures via DVD, followed by discussion. “Proponents of this way of thinking emphasized the divine in nature, the value of the individual and of human intuition, and an ideal spiritual reality that “transcends” sensory experience and provides a better guide for life than narrowly empirical or logical reasoning.”

For further information or to sign up for this enrichment group, contact Rob or Agnes Maier at 949-2810 or by email, [ROHEMA@JUNO.COM](mailto:ROHEMA@JUNO.COM)

**STEWARDSHIP NEWS**

Thanks to everyone who pledged to our church for the 2008 year. Our pledges will make it possible for our Church to work toward the goal of becoming a more visible presence in our area and provide services to our members and friends. Please remember to make your pledge payment to the church in a timely fashion. The Finance Committee is counting on it!

The Stewardship Committee is seeking a team of people to conduct the Stewardship Campaign in the Fall. This is a very important contribution you can make to our church and a great way to learn about the inner workings of the Church and get to know many of our church members. Please talk to **NANCY CHRISTENSEN OR EVERETT PHILLIPS** about this great opportunity.



In the spirit of community, the Stewardship Committee is sponsoring a dance on **SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2008 FROM 8 - 11:00 P.M. AT THE CHURCH.** Please give your RSVPS to **NANCY CHRISTENSEN AT 850-7448 OR BY EMAIL AT: [NANCYCHRISTENSEN@SBCGLOBAL.NET](mailto:NANCYCHRISTENSEN@SBCGLOBAL.NET).** This is **GUARANTEED** to be a fun time, so polish off your dancing shoes and join us.

— NANCY CHRISTENSEN, STEWARDSHIP COMMITTEE CHAIR

**RUMMAGE SALE BIG DAY COMING UP SATURDAY, MARCH 8**

The Church will be having their **SPRING RUMMAGE SALE ON SATURDAY, MARCH 8.**

Please start saving items to donate for the sale. Previously, we have rented storage sheds to hold items over the course of the year, but this year, it was decided that it added too much cost to the rummage sale. So, we have five **DAYS** for you to bring items to the church. Those days are Sunday, March 2 through Thursday, March 6. We are hoping you have lots of castoffs for the church.

The **TRI-Chair** women-ship this spring, will be the same as last fall. These women that make up this Tri-Chair are **CHERYL MILLER 361 318-3963, JEAN EVANS 643-6450, AND JESSICA LATIMER 993-6013.**

Please be generous with helping these ladies to make a successful Rummage Sale. There will be sign-up sheets for helping with this sale late February.

**NEXT WOMEN'S GROUP JOIN US MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7:00 PM**



Our next Women's Group will meet for their monthly get-together in the U2C3 Church on MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18, 7:00 PM. We will have a POTLUCK!! So, mark your calendars, and plan to join us. We always have lots of food, so you working gals join us, and don't worry about cooking.

Everyone had a great time last month, and quite a few women who work said dining out was a wonderful treat. We dined at the Green Papaya.

**FOR A GOOD TIME..... GREAT FOOD AND FELLOWSHIP.....**



Be sure to sign up for CIRCLE 6 SUPPERS to be held on Saturday, February 23. This will be an opportunity to become better acquainted with the people you see but don't know, while you enjoy sharing a meal in the congenial setting of someone's home.

Please look in the lobby for the pink sign up sheets or you may call **NANCY CARLTON AT 884-7077** for more information and to sign up.

**"LIVING OUR VALUES WORKSHOP" UPDATE**

I'd like to say a big thanks to those members who took the time last Saturday morning to participate in the Living Our Values Workshop with Rev. Susan Smith, Rev. Farrington, and me. We had around 20 people participating.

We started off the morning by doing an exercise to see if our core values remained pretty much the same as when we did the same exercise about three years ago. I am in the process of analyzing the results between the two exercises. I will then send them to the Saturday morning focus group to make sure I captured everything correctly. The next step will be to give everyone in the congregation a chance to look at the list of values and vote on the ones that are most important to us. Once we have the five most important values of the congregation gained by consensus, we'll post them on our website and starting looking at ways to use them in our every day congregational life.

REVEREND SMITH provided some very useful information on values in strategic planning and in growth opportunities. It will be fun to start putting our values to work for us in many different ways.

During our pizza lunch, REVEREND SMITH gave us some pointers on ways to look at our church in comparison with churches of other sizes, ways to expand our visibility and effectiveness in the broader community, and told us some resources that are available to us, such as a congregational self-assessment tool, and ways to involve our children and youth more in our congregational life.

— I HOPE A GOOD TIME WAS HAD BY ALL!!, BOBBI REED

*What wisdom can you find that is greater than kindness?*

— JEAN JACQUES ROUSSEAU

**MILLION PENNY FUND DRIVE**

Here's the latest update on our Million Penny Fund Drive. We have raised a total of \$1,471.74 or 147,174 pennies. The penny jar is on a table in the foyer, so won't you please remember to toss your small change into the jar each Sunday? And thank you for supporting this fund-raiser!

We started the Million Penny Fund Drive a few years ago when we were in temporary quarters while our new church was being built, and we had limited opportunity to do fund-raisers. This one required nothing but a penny jar and someone to take them to the bank once in awhile. Well, we're in our new church now, and we still find the money we collect with the pennies useful. So, bring your pennies and other small change wearing a hole in your pocket and give it to us! We've still got a ways to go to reach One Million Pennies!

— BOBBI REED, PENNY-MINDER



<b>FEBRUARY 2</b>	<b>CORINNE (CLIF) AUVINEN</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 4</b>	<b>LUELLA HEWITT</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 11</b>	<b>MARILYN BODRUG</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 17</b>	<b>LOIS WRIGHTSMAN</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 20</b>	<b>DEBBIE NEWPORT</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 20</b>	<b>MARGARET LAWRENCE</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 20</b>	<b>AMELIA TULLER</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 24</b>	<b>TOM BOOKOUT</b>
<b>FEBRUARY 24</b>	<b>EVERETT PHILLIPS</b>

If you would like your birthday or anniversary date listed, contact DEBBIE NEWPORT AT [KNDCCCTEX@YAHOO.COM](mailto:KNDCCCTEX@YAHOO.COM)

**THANK YOU NOTE**

THE TULLER FAMILY wanted to thank everyone for their help and concern they expressed for their daughter AMELIA when she was stung by the fire ants. As a Yankee, SHANNON felt ill equipped to deal with the situation, and the help and advice that people offered was greatly appreciated. AMELIA felt much better by the time they arrived home to Kingsville, but she did enjoy Monday home from school with her dad. She recovered quickly and they both feel that they are now official Texans.

— SHANNON, ROGER, AND AMELIA TULLER

## THE LAST TRIAL OF PAUL

DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM'S play was originally intended as a "last hurrah" for SHERI as she leaves us to go to the UU Church in San Antonio. However, more than 70 people attended and it became a fund-raiser for our UU church, and netted \$672.

So many people volunteered their time and talents, rehearsing the play, helping with the video, refreshments, setting and clearing the stage and dressing room, redesigning the stage chairs, and the list could go on and on.

I just think that you are the best, and I thank you.

— JUDY SYKES, DIRECTOR (RETIRED)

## HEB CARDS FOR SALE

Sales of HEB cards add from \$3,000 to \$4,000 to our church coffers per year, depending upon how many cards we buy. Remember that they can also be used for gas and prescriptions. With the price of gas these days, if everyone bought their gasoline from HEB with the gift cards, we would go through a stack of \$25,000 dollars' worth of cards very quickly, and net another \$1,000 for the church. Cards are available in denominations of \$20, \$50, and \$100 and are for sale right after the Sunday Service. We get to keep 4 percent of every \$25,000 we sell, and the cards work just like cash. So come and purchase a card(s) next Sunday and help the church!

— BOBBI REED, HEB HAT LADY



### MINISTER

REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON  
FOR APPOINTMENTS: 986-8855  
EMAIL: DFARRINGTON@UUCORPUS.ORG  
HTTP://WWW.UUCORPUS.ORG/  
986-8855

### CHURCH WEBSITE

### CHURCH PHONE

**INTERIM DIRECTOR RELIGIOUS EDUCATION** DR. NANCY CHRISTENSEN  
**CHOIR DIRECTOR** DR. KIMBERLY BISSELL **PIANIST** LORRIE PIERCE  
**NEWSLETTER/CHURCH DIRECTORY** DEBBIE NEWPORT  
**CHURCH CALENDAR** JUDY SYKES / BOBBI REED

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**SECRETARY** WAYMAN TOOLES

**MEMBER** MARY GLEASON **MEMBER** QUENTIN MASTERS **MEMBER** TOM BOOKOUT

**BUILDING** BILL RANDALL **CANVASS** NANCY CHRISTENSEN

**CARING MINISTRY** DEBBIE NEWPORT / CHERYL MILLER

**COMMUNICATIONS** JAN MILLER **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE(MEMBERSHIP)** JESSICA LATIMER

**ENDOWMENT** SKIP DOUDEN, DEANNE PIERCE, ED GROVE

**FINANCES** ROY ELLZEY, MONICA WALKER, JEAN EVANS **GROUNDS** TOM BOOKOUT, ROY ELLZEY

**FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEONS** LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY **LAY MINISTRY** AGNES MAIER

**SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY- OUTREACH** COLIN SYKES

**WEBSITE DESIGNER** JAN MILLER

**WORSHIP & MUSIC** SYLVIA SAMANIEGO

**NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI**

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