

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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SOUNDS OF THE SEA



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

MARCH 5, 2008 VOLUME 101, No 137

*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

MINISTER REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON
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LAY MINISTRY AGNES MAIER **CONGREGATIONAL LIFE(MEMBERSHIP)** JESSICA LATIMER
SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY- OUTREACH COLIN SYKES **WEBSITE DESIGNER** JAN MILLER

SUNDAY, MARCH 9 REVEREND DAVE FARRINGTON
SUNDAY, MARCH 16 GUEST SPEAKER, KIRK NEWPORT
FRIDAY, MARCH 21 GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION AND TENEBRAE SERVICE
"SEE SEPARATE ARTICLE FOR DETAILS"
SUNDAY, MARCH 23 EASTER SUNDAY

OTHER DATES TO REMEMBER

SATURDAY, MARCH 8 RUMMAGE SALE
SATURDAY, MARCH 15 UU AND YOU COFFEEHOUSE

INSPIRATIONAL QUOTE
*When one tugs at a single thing in nature,
he finds it hitched to the rest of the Universe*
— JOHN MUIR

IN THE INTERIM

DEAR U2C3 FRIENDS,

The view from the pulpit has been somewhat grand lately. Our numbers have exceeded a hundred on several Sundays. We certainly can be grateful for Winter Texans and the Communications Committee but it appears our growth goes beyond seasonality and successful advertising. We see the church being used nearly every day for one program or event or another. The simple truth - we're growing!

One does not have to be a student of mysticism to know that all change is a combination of yin and yang - contains both expansive (yang) and contracting (yin) energy, "good" and "bad," white and black. For many, good news of growing membership is an increased programmatic and financial stability.

But they are sensitive to the little black circle within the white yang - a fear, however real or imagined, of losing intimacy. Interestingly, this change seldom occurs until a church reaches between 150 and 200 members - and even then one never knows fewer people than before the growth occurred. We can grow "safely" for quite a while yet!

Yet there are real issues. It is not possible to manage a large church as we do a small one. Small churches run like families - managed by unspoken expectations. Available persons "chip in" to get tasks done, and everyone knows who to approach to make any particular problem go away are among the common characteristics of small church management.

Current signs of growth include not knowing who to see to make a problem disappear, ignoring sign-up sheets and "no-shows" among those who do commit. Calls for volunteers go unanswered. It seems to take more work to get simple, routine things done. Feelings that all church work is onerous by nature are increasing in leadership circles.

But it is not likely that people have suddenly grown callous. It is much more likely that the assumption's people make is changing.

As one who often is the last to leave the church building, I notice that, increasingly, lights are left on and fire doors wedged open. Others report finding the empty church unlocked, even though the alarm is set.

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IN THE INTERIM – CONTINUATION OF PREVIOUS PAGE—

This is what happens as a church grows. New folks see that everything gets taken care of, so they're free to not volunteer or assume responsibility. Often, too, they also leave through a "revolving door" feeling they have nothing to contribute or that they are forever doomed to be "outsiders." Meanwhile, the "old reliable" see all these new faces and sense that their hard-earned retirement from church labors has finally arrived.

Security breaches increase when the building is busy every day, particularly if the users are newbie's and not Old Guard!

But folks, these are Happy Problems! These are problems we should welcome. Indeed, we should rejoice in them! They tell us that we are experiencing the numeric growth we seek. And, of course, they are also telling us growth does not come for free.

But that is okay. The solutions are really simple.

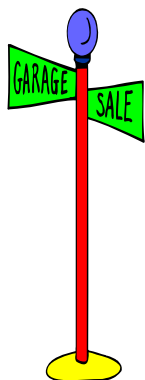
By writing up some simple policies and procedures and giving them to new and established members alike, we are telling everyone how things are done and who is responsible for what. When well implemented, confusion and inefficiency are dramatically reduced, if not eliminated.

Both the Board and Leadership Council are committed to the organizational growth our numeric growth mandates. As they do their work, we can all take comfort that we are achieving our growth goals and we are all - old and new alike - are truly loves and a vital part of UCCCC.

BLESSINGS,

DAVE

RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY, MARCH 8



If you have any donations for the Rummage sale, there is still time to drop them off. There will be someone at the church to accept your donations on Wednesday, March 5, Thursday, March 6 and Friday, March 7, from 10:00 am - 2:00 pm.

The Rummage sale on Saturday, March 8 will be from 8:00 am - 1:00 pm.

Would you like to volunteer your help with cashiering, helping during the sale, setting up or cleaning up afterwards?

PLEASE CALL JEAN EVANS AT 643-6450, CHERYL MILLER AT 1-361-318-3963, OR JESSICA LATIMER AT 993-6013 WITH WHEN AND WHAT YOU CAN VOLUNTEER OF YOUR TIME.

UU & YOU COFFEEHOUSE CELEBRATES ITS 25TH YEAR MARCH 15, 2008

ON SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2008 AT 7:30 PM, the longest running Coffeehouse in Corpus Christi will be open for an evening of fun and entertainment.

There will be a star-studded lineup of music and poetry by candlelight. There will be Jazz, Classical and Folk music, poetry and song, to be presented for your entertainment

Coffee and gourmet pastries will be available for purchase and you are invited to bring wine or other beverage of your choice with ice and setups being provided.

The spirit of romance is alive and well in Corpus Christi and you can find it at the **"UU AND YOU COFFEE HOUSE."** **COST OF ADMISSION IS A MERE \$5.00.** Plan to arrive early as a full house is expected. Don't miss the excitement on **SATURDAY, MARCH 15 AT 7:30 P.M.**

YOUR HELP IS REQUESTED TO SET UP AND CLOSE THE EVENT AND SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE AVAILABLE.

FOR INFORMATION, CALL COLIN SYKES 853-7992 OR DEBRA MCQUEEN 361-548-0748

MARCH WOMEN'S GROUP DINNER, MARCH 17, 7:00 PM

THE MARCH DINNER FOR THE WOMEN'S GROUP WILL MEET MARCH 17, 7:00 PM AT MARION GHOLSTON'S PARTY ROOM, LOCATED AT 4600 OCEAN DRIVE. Please remember to **RSVP MARION AT 854-0331** so she will know how many to let in the security-guarded door.

This will be a Pot Luck Dinner and remember it's Saint Patrick's Day, so it could be your lucky night. The Women's Group is open to all women of the church and is a time to relax, to tell our stories, and to learn from others' experiences. Come and join us!!!

GOOD FRIDAY MEDITATION AND TENEBRAE SERVICE, FRIDAY, MARCH 21

Easter is the most important event on the Christian calendar. Understanding the Easter experience and developing an understanding that is in concordance with UU values is an important part of our UU spiritual journey. We are working this year to teach our children more about the holiday in order that they better understand their Christian neighbors and friends. This experience may assist them in seeing how the stories of Jesus and Easter pertain to UUs and, most specifically, to them. No matter what your beliefs, it may be important that Easter is not seen only as a "bunny and chocolate" holiday, but a holiday with a message of hope.

ON MARCH 21, 2008, GOOD FRIDAY on the Christian calendar, the RE Department and **REVEREND DAVE FARRINGTON** will be hosting a meditation and a **TENEBRAE SERVICE**. There will be a guided meditation from 5:00 - 7:00 pm, followed at 7:00 pm with a candlelight service.

The meditation will have several stations with stories and activities to help us learn about the crucifixion of Jesus. It will be a quiet, somber time for contemplation about this serious event in the history of our world. Moving at your own speed, you may process this information in a way that is helpful to you.

The service is a **TENEBRAE SERVICE** which will be directed toward the children. The **TENEBRAE SERVICE** is a short candlelight service that talks about the crucifixion and "rising from the dead" in a way that children may more easily understand. The service we have chosen is from UU literature and should be beautiful and moving.

We hope you will all make time for the meditation and the service. We will be needing several readers for the service. Please watch for a call about this. We appreciate all that you do for our children as they move along their spiritual path.

MARCH BIRTHDAYS

MARCH 1	MARBETH MUNN
MARCH 2	STEPHANIE RUIZ
MARCH 11	ANNA FUGATE
MARCH 14	ALENE BURCH
MARCH	LILLIAN WALDBESER
MARCH 17	KATE CHERRY
MARCH 18	PEG BRASWELL
MARCH 31	TESS CHERRY



MARCH ANNIVERSARIES

MARCH 18	DEBBIE AND KIRK NEWPORT
MARCH 30	PETE AND PEG BRASWELL



FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR UU CHURCH FRIENDS,

I recall learning about the ancient Mayans many years ago and their remarkably complex calendar. It marked the passing of the seasons and their religious observances. But when I asked them what they actually worshiped, though, the answer was obvious. Time itself.

I have often wondered what might be at the core of the religious impulse. Why do people all around the world congregate at the places and times of their choosing to pay homage to their faith traditions? Mayans, Christians, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, Hindus and even Unitarian Universalists have this ongoing impulse. For me, at least, one of the recurring themes seems to be the issue or order.

I'm basically trying to call everyone's attention to our own official church calendar that is posted on the church web site @ www.uucorpus.org. It's been the ongoing work of **JAN MILLER, BOBBIE REED AND JUDY SYKES**. If you haven't taken a look at it, you'll be impressed!

Yes, I know. The Mayans weren't exactly perfect. They also used their terrific calendar to schedule human sacrifices. But they were definitely onto something important.

As our community grows, our own calendar will become an invaluable public resource that we can all use to plan future events and facilitate the growth of our increasing active church life.

FROM,
KIRK NEWPORT, BOARD PRESIDENT

RECONNECTIONS: YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

FROM THE RE DESK:

I would be lying if I didn't say I am enjoying this job a little. I am learning about the curricula for all ages and getting to know more of the kids. They are an inquisitive, energetic bunch, and we are lucky to have them. They take a lot of patience and direction and redirection. And redirecting, that's all part of the fun, right?

Part of my job is to facilitate an evaluation of the RE program at our church and that is going smoothly. The kids have a lot of good ideas and are quite enthusiastic about having a good time while learning our UU values. In February, I met with a couple of different groups of them, plied them with snacks, and attempted for frank discussion. It was very fruitful and some changes are already in progress.

The first change you may have already noticed, if your child is in the elementary class, is that we are asking parents (one or both) to come to the classroom to fetch their student after the service. This will serve several purposes: you can connect with the RE teacher and find out what your child did in class, you can check with the teacher about your child's behavior, and you can know where your child is as you head for coffee and cookies. The elementary class has a huge age range and can be very challenging for our volunteer teachers. Parental support is very important.

The second change we are working on is for the Jr/Sr High. We have combined these classes for the time being, since high school numbers are so low. In addition, these kids are very interested in a project-oriented curriculum and we are searching for projects for which they could make a contribution. Our ideas right now are Habitat for Humanity and the Rainbow Room. If you have other ideas, please talk to me about it. These kids are also interested in having social outings, just for fun, like beach days, movies, bowling, and a few ideas we haven't discovered yet. They are very enthusiastic and fun and, OK, I'll be honest, teenager-ish. I think that we can meet some of their needs easily and have a lot of fun ourselves. Their enthusiasm may well lead to another start up of the Youth Group and that would be fabulous.

The second part of my job is to get the search for the new RE director going, and that hasn't really happened yet, but don't worry, we are working on that, also.

Always, please, if you have comments or questions, you should contact me. Our congregation is full of great people who are great resources for our kids and we can all be responsible for a successful RE program.

PEACE,

NANCY

NANCYCHRISTENSEN@SBCGLOBAL.NET