

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

MAY 7, 2008 VOLUME 101, No 139

*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

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FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEONS LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY **LAY MINISTRY** AGNES MAIER
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE(MEMBERSHIP) JESSICA LATIMER
SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY- OUTREACH COLIN SYKES

SUNDAY, MAY 11

RESURRECTING "THE GREAT AGNOSTIC"
GUEST SPEAKER MIKE REED

SUNDAY, MAY 18

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING AFTER SERVICES

"IF YOU DO A GOOD JOB FOR OTHERS, YOU HEAL YOURSELF AT THE SAME TIME, BECAUSE A DOSE OF JOY IS A SPIRITUAL CURE" — DIETRICH BONHOEFFER

"THE RELIGIOUS COMMUNITY IS ESSENTIAL, FOR ALONE OUR VISION IS TOO NARROW TO SEE ALL THAT MUST BE SEEN. TOGETHER, OUR VISION WIDENS AND STRENGTH IS RENEWED."
— MARK MORRISON-REED

"HAPPINESS COMES WHEN YOUR WORK AND WORDS ARE OF BENEFIT TO YOURSELF AND OTHERS."
— BUDDHA

IN THE INTERIM

DEAR FRIENDS:

FOR WHATEVER REASON OF CYBERSPACE, THIS ARTICLE DID NOT MAKE IT TO THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR FOR THE DEADLINE OF THE PRINTED VERSION.

THANKS FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING.

DWF

CONGRATULATIONS ON SETTLING A NEW MINISTER! IT HAS BEEN A LONG AND AT TIMES ARDUOUS JOURNEY FOR TWO SEARCH COMMITTEES. IT IS IMPORTANT TO REALIZE THAT BOTH WERE SUCCESSFUL EVEN THOUGH THE RESULTS WERE OPPOSITE. KNOWING WHEN TO SAY "NO CANDIDATE" IS EVERY BIT AS VITAL AS SAYING "A-HAH, THIS IS THE ONE!"

AS THIS NOW SIGNALS THE BEGINNING OF THE END OF MY PASTORATE WITH YOU WE NEED TO BE DELIBERATE IN SAYING OUR FAREWELLS. AT TIMES PEOPLE AND GROUPS WHO HAVE GROWN FOND OF A MINISTER CAN ONLY FIND FAULT WITH HIS REPLACEMENT, WHILE THOSE DISAPPROVING OF THE PREVIOUS MINISTER CAN BE BLINDED TO THINGS THEY WOULD NORMALLY PREFER TO BE OTHERWISE.

SO TO ENSURE A SMOOTH TRANSITION TO REV. DOUGLAS WE WOULD ALL DO WELL TO SHARE OUR FEELINGS OF JOY OR SADNESS AROUND OUR PARTING. WE NEED TO BEGIN THIS WORK NOW AS THERE ARE ONLY A FEW WEEKS REMAINING. BOTH AS INDIVIDUALS OR GROUPS, LET US ENSURE THAT OUR "FAREWELLS" OCCUR SO THAT YOUR "WELCOMES" ARE UNENCUMBERED BY LEFT-EVER BUT NOW INAPPROPRIATE EMOTIONS.

BLESSINGS,

DAVE

SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our task of finding a ministerial candidate for this congregation has been joyfully completed; now we will "switch hats" for a while. In accord with UUA guidelines, the search committee will serve as the ministerial advisory committee for the first 6 months of a minister's tenure. After that the Board and Minister will each name 2 or 3 members to such a committee. If you have suggestions for REVEREND PHILIP DOUGLAS, our new minister, please pass them to a member of this committee, either before or after he takes up his duties August 1st. The Search Committee owes much of this year's happy outcome to the good work of last year's committee. We were mindful throughout this process of the awesome responsibility and trust handed to us by the board and congregation. We are grateful for all that, and equally for the plain good luck of PHILIP being ready, at long last, to begin the calling for which he's worked and planned for fifteen years!

Based on the non-stop phone calls he received and made at lunch after Sunday's vote, REVEREND PHILIP has quite a fan club of well wishers at the church where he is a member, who are both happy for him and going to miss him and SUSAN greatly.

— BARBARA BRIODY, CHAIR, SEARCH COMMITTEE

OPERATION PAINTBRUSH SATURDAY MAY 17

We have been assigned a house at **1101 YORK AVENUE**, which is located just off the Del Mar campus, and Louisiana Avenue. The house is owned by CELINDA AND VICTOR MARTINEZ, and they are looking forward to having the work completed. The family with their adult children are willing and able to help with our effort to improve the appearance of their home.



If you would like to join in, it is not too late to volunteer and join the already established church crew.

We will meet at the house on York Avenue at 8:00am, Saturday, May 17.

Volunteers are expected to provide their own paintbrush preferably 3inch or larger. Step-ladders and a personal paint containers are useful or a cut down plastic milk jug is ideal.

— FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL COLIN SYKES AT 853-7992

AUDIO-VISUAL TEAM NEEDS VOLUNTEERS!



If anyone would be willing to share in the A/V duties for services, **JOE PIERCE AND HATCHER CHALKLEY, THEY ARE GIVING A CLASS ON MAY 7, FROM 7:00 PM - 9:00 PM.** They will show you how to use the equipment and place you on a rotating schedule. It is not difficult to learn, and if a few intrepid souls participate, each of us will only have to volunteer once every 6 weeks. This is a good way to help the church with inside work, no heavy lifting, you know when the job is done, everyone sees it and complements you.

Contact either **JOE PIERCE AT JPIERCE@STX.RR.COM** OR **HATCHER CHALKLEY AT DRHUU@PATANDHATCH.ORG** THANK YOU

KEDT UNDERWRITING

Have you been enjoying hearing our church mentioned every Friday morning on KEDT radio? Many of us have. We seem to have had more visitors lately, too, so hopefully the word about our wonderful church is getting out in all kinds of ways. We contracted with KEDT for a 26-week run, and that run ends in early May. Unfortunately, there are insufficient funds left in the Publicity budget to continue the KEDT underwriting. Several people have expressed the desire to continue the effort for at least another 26-week run, so we are looking for donations. Another 26-week run which would take us into early November, with a cost of \$720. If any one donor would like to contribute the full amount, that would be great! This t will also work if several of us get together and put in smaller amounts to make the \$720 goal.

If you would like to contribute to this effort, please send an email message to **BOBBI REED AT REEDS77@STX.RR.COM, OR CALL BOBBI AT 857-8631** to let her know how much you would like to pledge. Thanks in advance for your help!

— **BOBBI REED, COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE**

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR UU CHURCH FRIENDS,

This is a very exciting time for our church!

The results of the April 27 Congregational Meeting to call REVEREND PHILIP DOUGLAS are as follows: **YES: 91 NO: 9**

This satisfies both the UUA's and REVEREND DOUGLAS' criteria to call him to the position of Settled Minister. He will begin his ministry with us on August 1.

This ministerial search has been a 2 year process that involved a tremendous amount of work by numerous individuals on the current and previous Search Committees, chaired by BARBARA BRIODY AND CLINE DAVIS respectively. We owe them all a tremendous thanks!

As we move on into the summer months there is still more work to be done.

This coming Sunday, May 11, there will be an informal discussion for the entire congregation to discuss the proposed Bylaws revisions. Again, a group of individuals put in a lot of time to make this happen. Please plan to attend this forum after the service. If you cannot make this Sunday's discussion, we will post the proposed revision on the church web site. Please take a small amount of time to read it over.

On May 18, we will hold our traditional spring Congregational Meeting to hopefully approve the Bylaws revision and appoint new Board members.

Unlike some traditional UU churches in the northeast, we don't close up during the summer! We will be looking for guest speakers to fill the pulpit and there is ongoing work on the Memorial Garden. There's always something to do!

Speaking of the Memorial Garden, if you were planning to donate to **AUDREY ELLEY'S MEMORIAL**, please get that donation in soon so that work on the water feature can proceed.

Thanks to the entire community that makes this all possible!

KIRK NEWPORT, BOARD PRESIDENT

GREETINGS FROM THE DRE!

Spring is here and it feels very exciting! The high energy level in the church is being felt in the Religious Education classes as well. The kids have picked up on all the excitement of a growing congregation, a new minister and a loving community where they can grow.

As we wind down the RE year, the younger kids have been learning about the earth. We read The Great Kapok Tree and designed our own rainforest. The pre-schoolers also made a tree decorated with leaves, birds, nests, and fruit. We talked about our jobs as stewards of the earth.

The Jr/Sr High class have been reading and discussing some of our hymns and learning about some famous Unitarians. They made Mother's Day gifts on Sunday and can be called upon to help at any of the church functions.

The RE children had a breakfast with the ministerial candidate, Phil Douglas, and his wife. They ate taquitos and fruit and got to know each other. They are excited about Reverend Phil's RE background and his enthusiasm for their participation in the UU RE program.

Looking forward? We will probably hire a new DRE in May, with the position starting June 1st. The summer program will undoubtedly be a bit disorganized as I depart and the new DRE takes over, but one of the wonderful things about this congregation is the enthusiastic support members of our congregation will provide at a moment's notice.

I have really enjoyed my stint as the Interim DRE and the chance to work with our volunteer teachers and, especially, the kids. I encourage everyone to take a turn teaching in the new session and to participate in any of the RE programs so you can get to know some of these beautiful children. They look to us as examples of how to live in this world, and getting to know you will help them connect to our church and the greater UU community.

Words can't express my feelings as I move on to another place. My heart is so sad. I never thought I would be sad to leave South Texas, but now I can hardly talk about it. Thank you all for being so welcoming, so encouraging, so energetic and so loving. My family and I are so much the better for it.

MAY PEACE BE WITH YOU ALL, NANCY CHRISTENSEN

A couple of months ago, a group of us came together with REVEREND SUSAN SMITH from the Southwest District, and participated in a Values Workshop. Information gathered at that workshop was synthesized into the top 10 values that were identified during those workshops. It's time for us now to take the next step as we continue the process of building our church DNA. Next Sunday we will pass out a survey form where you can select your top, most important, five values from the list below. We will compile the information from the survey forms collected, and the top five values will serve as the base/foundation of our church DNA.

We hope everyone will participate in this important vote. To be an accurate reflection of our church core, we need input from everyone. So take a look at the 10 values listed below, and come prepared next Sunday to choose the five that mean the most to you. If you are not going to be in church next Sunday, or if you would prefer to submit your survey on line, please email **BOBBI REED AT REEDS77@STX.RR.COM** to receive an electronic version.

TOP 10 VALUES IDENTIFIED DURING VALUES

1. LOVE / COMPASSION / CARING / CHARITY / FRIENDSHIP
2. REASON
3. MORALITY / INTEGRITY / HONESTY
4. FREEDOM / INNOVATION / LEADERSHIP / CREATIVITY
5. HOSPITALITY / ACCEPTANCE / INCLUSIVITY / DIVERSITY / RESPECT
6. JOY / HOPE / CELEBRATION / PASSION / OPTIMISM
7. PURPOSEFULNESS / STEWARDSHIP / COMMITMENT—TO THE CHURCH, THE COMMUNITY, THE PLANET
8. SPIRITUALITY / INNER PEACE / ENLIGHTENMENT
9. DIGNITY / EQUALITY
10. DISCOVERY / SEARCH FOR TRUTH / INTELLECTUAL DISCOURSE / EXPLORATION / INNER GROWTH

This is an excellent time to complete this stage of the Vision and Values project for our church. With our new minister joining us this summer, we will be clear in our values and ready to put those values to work in all that we do, from budgeting to envisioning what we can contribute to the Coastal Bend community at large and everything in between. Our values will guide us!
— **THANKS FOR ALL WHO HAVE AND WILL PARTICIPATE IN THIS EFFORT! BOBBI REED**

MONDAY, MAY 19, WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING

The Women's Group has not met the past 2 months, first because of spring break in March and then because of the candidating week in April. We are now ready to get together and enjoy the fellowship of each other. We will be meeting to have dinner on **MONDAY, MAY 19, AT THE TORCH RESTAURANT, 4425 S. ALAMEDA**. Our meeting time is **7:00 PM**. Hope you can make it.

SWUUSI INFORMATION

Summer Institute Brochures will arrive either to previous attendees or to the church soon, or check out the website at [HTTP://WWW.SWUUC.ORG/SWUUSI](http://www.swuuc.org/swuusi) Southwest Unitarian Universalist Summer Institute "SWUUSI" will be from Sunday July 20 to Friday, July 25. This year the theme is "THANK GOD FOR EVOLUTION" and one of the theme speakers has written a book by that title! This "church camp" for UU's is held at Lake Murray State Park, just south of Ardmore, OK. Accommodations range from camp sites to lodge rooms, and include various sizes of cabins. Registration rates go up after June 1st, so if you are interested in attending, grab a brochure and get your registration in as soon as possible.
— **BARBARA BRIODY, DENOMINATIONAL AFFAIRS**

BEACH CLEANUP ITEMS NEEDED

If anyone in the church has some big buckets that paint or spackling comes in, please save them, as we would like to use them for the beach clean-up, rather than use even more plastic for the city dump. You can bring them to church on Sunday. **THANKS, JESSICA LATIMER**

LANDSCAPE VOLUNTEER WORKERS NEEDED

It is that time of year again when our landscaping at the church needs all the help possible. We will be working during the week, but we can use your help on a Saturday morning, if that works better for anyone. Please call **JESSICA LATIMER AT 993-6013**, so she may compile a list of names, that can help every once in a while.

ANYONE INTERESTED IN CAR POOLING TO CHURCH?

In these days of rising gasoline prices, rising levels of green house gases and restricted parking space at the church, it is time to revisit the prospect of car pooling. Are we willing to forgo the luxury of "one person car travel" to protect the environment and delay the need to extend the church parking lot?

This is an opportunity to spend quality time with our near neighbors and save a few dollars in the process. Please give it some thought, it may prove to be a win-win proposition.

— **COLIN SYKES 853-7992 SOCIAL ACTION AND COMMUNITY OUTREACH**

MAY BIRTHDAYS

MAY 8	KELLY RUSSELL	MAY 8	JUDY PATE
MAY 9	NANCY CHRISTENSEN	MAY 11	LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY
MAY 18	ROB ALLEN	MAY 19	MICHAEL CAUSEY
MAY 22	JUDY SYKES	MAY 24	WILLIAM (BILL) BODRUG
MAY 25	ALEX VAN CLEEVE	MAY 26	SHERI PHILLABAUM
MAY 28	KATELYN MARTIN	MAY 29	CARRIE CHENEY
MAY 30	LORRIE PIERCE	MAY 31	GEORGE CLOWER

MAY ANNIVERSARIES

MAY 1	STEPHANIE AND VICTOR RUIZ	MAY 4	SYLVIA AND JAMES SAMANIEGO
MAY 17	ELLEN AND BOB MURRY	MAY 30	EVELYN AND TOM BOOKOUT

EARLY MOTHERS DAY THANKS

Mothers, ladies, girls all had a special treat after the May 4 service. The men of the congregation not only prepared all the food for this special lunch but they served the seated ladies. What a celebration! While the men scurried about with the food, THOM WALKER, GEORGE CLOWER, KEVIN DATH, AND JOE PIERCE performed with a variety of musical renditions, highlighted by vocals from MOLLY PIERCE, CASEY DATH, KELBY DATH, AND MARLET DATH. Thanks to the Dath family for the "Mommy" song.. A hearty thank you to all the men who helped Bill Randall produce this hugely appreciated event.