

Minister & Staff Reports February 10, 2014

Minister Report Rev. Thom Belote

Highlights since the last Board Meeting (1/13/14)

Worship

- Preached and led worship on January 19, 26, and February 2.
- Promoted my 1/26 sermon on Funding for Public Education to the wider community. We had a larger number of guests on this Sunday.
- Met with Dave to plan music for worship services.
- Worked with guest preachers for February 9 and 16.
- Worked with member of the Worship Workshop on her sermon.

Membership

- Four new members joined on 1/12: Michael and Jennifer Warner, and Eric and Katie Campbell.
- New Exploring Membership class was supposed to begin on February 5 but has been pushed back a week due to the snowstorm.
- Dale Trott will lead a Sunday Morning version of the Exploring Membership class beginning 3/23. (Sunday morning is a much more popular time to offer the class.)

Pastoral Care and Rites of Passage

- Pastoral Care included phone calls, emails, and visits with members of the church.
- Met with one member couple and one visitor couple to help them to plan summer weddings.

Administration & Leadership

- Met with Executive Committee
- Met with Marc Shiff to discuss the Canvass
- Communicated with the Staff Administration Committee
- Held regular meetings with staff members
- Produced Order of Service and sent Weekly Email while Deb is out due to surgery.

Congregational Programs

- Hosted two Auction events: A trip to the Negro League Baseball Museum and Arthur Bryants and an Avant Garde Movie Night at the church.
- Attended discussion of the UUA Common Read book, Behind the Kitchen Door
- Led three sessions of “Sermon Small Groups” Adult Religious Education offering. Attendance was low, but we’ll try this program again in March.
- Repaired and then signed over Land Rover to Iraqi family.

Denominational Affairs / Professional Development / Community Ministry

- Attended collegial luncheon with Kansas and Kansas City UU ministers.

Religious Education Report Rachel Wathen

- **Curriculum / Programming**

- I planned the next session of Children's Chapels. This semester we are going to focus on famous and historical Unitarian Universalists.
- I continued to work with Melissa Jobe and Chip Sitzman to facilitate their 4th-5th grade session of OWLS. Attendance is good; we have approximately six students involved.
- I continued to work with All Souls to plan out a schedule for next year's 7th, 8th, H.S. OWLS.

UPCOMING:

- Service is Our Prayer Sunday February 9th – We will make Valentine cards for our neighbors at Lakeside Village.
- Val Pal Reveal dinner February 12th.
- Parent Orientation for Pre-K, K-1 OWLS March 20th.

- **Teacher/Volunteer Management**

- Managed volunteer teachers, six staff members.

UPCOMING:

- Work with RE Committee to recruit teachers for the 2014/2015 year.
- Work with RE Committee to organize summer alternative to VBS.
- Facilitate teacher feedback meeting.

- **Youth Group**

- Strategized with Jay on ways to grow our numbers. We have a good core of around eleven participants, but have a goal of around twenty-five.
- Discussed ways to make this year's Youth Led Worship Service as powerful and meaningful as last years' service.
- Discussed ways to incorporate Jay into certain aspects of our COA program.
- Began planning a service trip.

- **Special Projects:**

- Val Pals - I advertised and then matched over forty participants. I set up a drop-off table in Fellowship Hall.

- **RE Committee**

- Set the agenda for the monthly RE Committee meeting.
- We met on January 8th.
- **UPCOMING:** RE Committee Meeting – Wednesday February 19th.

Music Report

Dave Simmons

Many thanks to January's guest musicians including the Smuuch Choraliers, the CAYA choir, Jim Crist, Abra Johnson, Bob Hamilton, Dena Campbell, and Lori Levens.

Both the children's choir and adult choir are working on pieces for Spiritual Sunday which is this year's All Music Service scheduled for March 9.

The children's choir keeps growing. We are up to 13 wonderful singers in our group. They will be singing with the adults at the All Music Service Sunday in March.

Fortunately, Marci Schroeder will be returning soon to assist me with the choir. We have missed her but know that she is working on strengthening her health.

Many thanks to Robert, our wonderful building custodian for moving the music office to Rachel's former office. I came up to the church on a Tuesday evening in late January to prepare for Wednesday choirs and was pleasantly surprised to see that everything had been moved from one space to another. I am thankful for the extra space.

The adult choir has begun the process of preparing for Spiritual Sunday, the tentative title of the All Music Service which will be held on March 9th at Smuuch. Additionally, they are rehearsing three choral folios for the First Annual Midwest Regional gathering of UU's in Topeka, April 11-13. They, along with the choirs from Lawrence, Manhattan, and Topeka will be singing at the conclusion of the meeting during Sunday worship services on April 13th.

I am looking forward to working with Jon Coffee, Jordinn Long, and Molly Housh Gordon as they will be guest ministers in the pulpit on February 9th, and 16th. I wish Thom a restful, and regenerative break while he is away.

Due to the big snowstorm choir rehearsals on February 5th were cancelled. We'll start back again on February 12 unless we have another huge snowstorm. Let's hope NOT!

Music to commemorate famous folk musician Pete Seeger, also a fellow UU who passed away in late January, was offered during the February 2nd church services. A big thanks to Al Fuller for his assistance with planning and playing at both services. Al is great to work with. Also, special thanks to many folks in our congregation who joined Al and myself in singing along on "Turn, Turn, Turn," "This Land is Your Land," and "If I Had a Hammer", all songs Pete either wrote or made famous. It was well received. Pete will be missed.

Lori Levens, our choir accompanist, is a joy to work with. She is a consummate musician with a wonderful creative flair. I am glad she is with us at Smuuch.

The 2013-14 church year is racing by. The month of May will be here before you know it.