

Minister & Staff Reports May 12, 2014

Minister Report Rev. Thom Belote

Highlights since the last Board Meeting (4/13/14)

Worship

- Preached and led worship on April 20. Will preach and lead worship on May 11.
- Attended two rehearsals of the Youth Group-led worship service. Offered advice and support to them in advance of their service on 4/27.
- Worked collaboratively with Bill Padek to help create the lay-led worship service on May 4.
- Met regularly with Dave Simmons to plan music.
- Working towards finalizing Summer Worship Schedule

June 22	Jordinn Nelson Long (UU Seminarian)
June 29	TBA
July 6	TBA
July 13	Jon Coffee (UU Seminarian)
July 20	Vern Barnet (UU Community Minister)
July 27	Kathy Riegelman (UU Community Minister)
August 3	Bernie Norcott-Mahany (SMUUCCh member)

Membership

- Schedule Dale Trott to teach next session of the Exploring Membership class
- Compiled list of 129 families in Visitor or Active Visitor status and sent to membership committee.

Pastoral Care and Rites of Passage

- Pastoral care included phone calls, pastoral counseling, home visitation, and hospital visitation.
- Began to hold “good-bye” meetings with many members of the congregation. These have included meals, coffees, and conversations in my office. Many more of these scheduled over the next several weeks.

Administration & Leadership

- Met with staff
- Met with Executive Committee
- Reviewed pledge follow-up list that Deb sent to Marc Shiff.
- Prepared report about the Ministers Discretionary Fund for Audit Committee.
- Approved under new ministry policy the formation of a seniors caregiver support group headed up by Richard Pease with the assistance of the Landsbaums and Hollembeaks.

Collegiality and Community

- Spent Candidating week from April 25 to May 4 in Chapel Hill, NC. Overwhelmingly called as the next settled minister of The Community Church of Chapel Hill, UU.
- Participated in collegial lunch with local UU ministers.
- Attended community vigil with SMUUCH members following shooting at the Jewish Community Center and Village Shalom.

Upcoming Work

- Handing over work in worship leadership, membership support, adult religious education, and more to individuals and committees in advance of June 30.
- Preparing extensive pastoral care notes to hand off to Interim Minister.
- Preparing for Exit Interview with Lisa Presley on 6/16.

Religious Education Report Rachel Wathen

- **Curriculum / Programming**

- Each week I prepared for the following Children's Chapel.
- I am working with Rhianna Thomas to become the next trained facilitator for the 7-9th grade OWLS.
- I researched and determined that our Summer Curriculum for K-6th grades will be *Alike and Different* – this program teaches about self-esteem, friendship, diversity, conflict, and resolution.
- I will be giving our hard working teachers a break, and will do a Children's Chapel each week working from the above mentioned curriculum during our one service.
- I scheduled the final COA events for the year – COA panel on May 11th and Worship Service May 18th.
- I continue to work on Summer Camp – *Mud, Magic, and Make-Believe: Creativity in the Garden* (as of today, we are expecting around 60 kids).
 - Coordinated the eventual planting of a Children's Garden in the Community Garden area.
 - Planted a small garden outside the Pre-K room.
 - Outlined a plan for each day of camp. The theme each day will follow the life-cycle of the plant.
 - Dave Simmons and Ariana Culey will add their talents to the music element of our camp.
 - Secured additional volunteers. Still need more.
 - Created registration packets.
 - In talks with Master Gardner's Speakers Bureau to secure a guest speaker.
- I have worked with Chip Sitzman and Melissa Jobe to offer K-1 OWLS.

UPCOMING:

- Children's Fellowship May 25th – Janie Next Door (Kid's Musician).

- **Teacher/Volunteer Management**

- I have organized childcare for a number of different SMUUCH events.
- Managed volunteer teachers, six staff members.

UPCOMING:

- Continue to recruit volunteers for summer camp, summer programming, and fall RE classes.

- **Youth Group**

- Helped to finalize the Youth Led Worship Service with Jay and the students.

- **Special Projects:**
 - See Summer Camp/OWLS above.

- **RE Committee**
 - Set the agenda for the monthly RE Committee meeting.
 - We met on April 9th.
 - **UPCOMING:** RE Committee Meeting – Wednesday, May 14th.

Attendance for March: Average of 60 students each Sunday.

Music Report

Dave Simmons

Music Report:

Many thanks to our guest musicians in March including David Kessler, Smuuch Choraliers, Ruth Sadasivan, members of our youth group, and Lori Levens.

The adult choir will sing their last service on May 18th which is when we go back to one service.

The children's choir finished a successful year. Unfortunately numbers of children were down this quarter. Spring is certainly a very busy time of year as children become more involved with other outside activities. I will be rethinking how to keep our choir numbers up during the fourth quarter of the 2014-15 church year.

Both choirs will take a break through the summer and reconvene sometime in August.

Many members of our Adult choir joined forces with Lawrence, Manhattan, and Topeka choirs for the First Annual UU Regional Assembly in Topeka which was held April 11-13th. On that Sunday the combined forces, consisting of over 50 voices, sang "I Sing Out" by local composer Mark Hayes, "Alleluia" by Jay Althouse, and "Imbakwa" by Jim Papoulis. It was an exhilarating experience getting to work with so many singers!

Now that this church year is nearly over I will take some time to reflect on the past year including lifting up our successes musically as well as addressing areas for improvement and growth.

Choir will have an end of the year party on May 28th during their normal choir rehearsal time. Sometime in June or July we will have a children's pizza party.

I am in the process of planning music for June and July.