

Minister & Staff Reports
March 10, 2014

Minister Report
Rev. Thom Belote

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

Worship

- Preached and led worship on February 23 and March 2.
- Met regularly with Dave Simmons to coordinate music.
- Offered feedback and suggestions to Dave on the Music Sunday on 3/9.
- Corresponded with SMUUCH member Rhianna Thomas about her service on 3/16. I will serve as Rhianna's worship leader.
- Currently working on scheduling worship services for the remainder of the church year.

Membership

- Preached on Membership on 2/23 and 3/2.
- Recruited seven volunteers to make phone calls to many members who we haven't seen in some time. They are currently making these calls!
- Additional volunteers are working with me on some cheap / easy advertising possibilities in the community. We're thinking about yard signs that say things like, "Liberal Religion Exists" and related messages.
- Taught an Exploring Membership class to six people. Three have said they want to join and are getting the "paperwork" in. Three didn't attend the second class and I'm working with them on rescheduling.
- Met with Dale Trott who will teach the next Exploring Membership Class on 3/23 and 3/30. Sunday morning classes are better attended.
- Am hoping to recruit at least one additional team of membership volunteers. One group will make calls to about 100 people who have left membership over the past several years. Other groups are possible.

Pastoral Care and Rites of Passage

- Made several pastoral phone calls.

Administration & Leadership

- Held staff meetings
- Attended Executive Committee meeting

- Attended Finance Committee meeting

Congregational Programs

- Met with Coming of Age parents to help plan COA trip to Boston
- Attended SMUUCH Mardi Gras party
- Attended Penny Burdge's Pasta auction event

Denominational Affairs / Professional Development / Community Ministry

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Religious Education Report Rachel Wathen

- **Curriculum / Programming**

- Each week I prepared for the following Children's Chapel.
- I facilitated a meeting with the parents of the students involved with Coming of Age. Our focus was fundraising and deciding on a travel date to Boston.
- I facilitated a meeting with the Coming of Age adult mentors. We discussed their student's progress.
- I researched and determined what our Summer Camp curricula would be. I created an outline for the camp, and began advertising for *Mud, Magic, and Make-believe: Creativity in the Garden*. So far we have 33 students signed up. I hope to bring in more!

UPCOMING:

- Children's Fellowship – March 16th – Member/Children's librarian Erica Voell will present a program to our children.
- Parent Orientation for Pre-K, K-1 OWLS March 20th.

- **Teacher/Volunteer Management**

- Managed volunteer teachers, six staff members.

UPCOMING:

- Recruit volunteers for summer camp, summer programming, and fall RE classes.

- **Youth Group**

- Continued to meet with Jay each week to support him in his role as Youth Group Leader.

- **Special Projects:**

- The Val Pal dinner was a success. We had approximately sixty people attend. A beautiful Italian potluck was enjoyed by all.

- **RE Committee**

- Set the agenda for the monthly RE Committee meeting.
- We met on February 19th.
- **UPCOMING:** RE Committee Meeting – Wednesday, February 12th.

Attendance for February: Average of 61 students each Sunday.

Music Report

Dave Simmons

Many thanks to our guest musicians in February including the Smuuch Choraliers, Al Fuller, Tom Fay, Abra Johnson, and Lori Levens.

Children's choir will begin their last block of rehearsals for this year on March 19th. I hope to have them sing one final time this year on Mother's Day in May. It's been fun to work with this group. The group keeps growing as well. We have 13 in our choir.

Members of the Adult and Children's Choir were joined by a special house band for the March 9, worship services. The program, entitled SpiritualSunday, was presented by the music department at Smuuch. The music department does a music service every two years at Smuuch. The Adult and Children's choir as well The Smuuch House Band comprised of Al Fuller, Richard Pease, Lori Levens, Harold Steinhardt, and Thomas "Freight Train" Walker rocked the house with their renditions of several African-American Spirituals. It was a very uplifting service.

I am hoping to attend the UUMN conference this summer in July in San Diego.

The church year is quickly coming to a close. The adult and children's choir will continue through May.

Additionally, choir members are will be attending 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.