



April 2013

Volume 54 Issue 4

Inside Scope

Splinters	2
Speaker	2
Treasurer's	3
Happenings	3
Calendar	4
UUA Tidbits	5
Contacts	5
Notes	6
More Notes	7
Earth Day	7
Tax Help	11

UUSP Mission Statement

"Providing a compassionate and welcoming community, inspiring spiritual and intellectual growth, and serving as a beacon for social activism and service."

SCOPE

Unitarian Universalist Church of St. Petersburg

719 Arlington Avenue North

April 2013

Alarums and Diversions

It's interesting watching the Supreme Court try to deal with the question of marriage equality. I suspect that if they could have discovered any decent way to avoid it, they would have. Even though they are outside of the sphere of partisan politics (or should be) nobody likes to make rabid enemies, and whatever decision they come to will be extremely unpopular with a large number of people. To those of us — a constantly growing majority — for whom marriage equality seems like the simplest, most obvious kind of justice, it's sometimes hard to understand what all the fuss is about. The arguments seem so futile as to be almost irrelevant, and certainly are unsupported by any responsible research. What they are supported by is a passion of fear and bigotry so strong that any rational argument cannot be heard.

I think the one that I find silliest, perhaps because of my own passion for the appropriate use of language, is the one that says that the word marriage can only be used for the union of a man and a woman. All you have to do is consult any good dictionary to realize that the word marriage can mean *any* close bond or union. I've used it that way for years myself long before the question of same-sex marriage was even beginning to be discussed. I remember that when I was in college I wrote a paper on Coleridge's three great poems, and in it I mentioned the marriage of rhythm and meaning in "Cristobel". You may not even have heard of that one. I think familiarity with it these days is confined to Coleridge fanatics and English majors — and not all of them. Nevertheless, it is considered his second great unfinished poem, and I remember the verse that particularly attracted me. It was:

The one red leaf, the last of its clan,
That dances as often as dance it can;
Clinging so light, and clinging so high,
On the topmost branch reaching up to the sky.

That dancing rhythm was wholly different from the rhythm he used in the rest of the poem, and was the perfect marriage of rhythm and meaning. That's what I said at the time, and there's no better word for it.

"Alarums" continued on page 3.....

Staff

The Reverend
Katy Korb
Developmental Minister

Jim Culver
Music Director

Careena Cornette
Director of Religious Education

J. Peter Schultes
Office Manager

Aaron Johnson
Custodian

Greg Burton
President
Board of Trustees

The Reverend
Alec Craig
Minister Emeritus

The Reverend
Wes Stevens
Minister Emeritus

Board of Trustees

Karen Coale, *Vice President*
Eric Mitchell
Margie Manning
Dani Skrzypek
Ian O'Hara
Jane Fanning
Keevy McAlavy, Clerk

Officers

Margie Manning, *Treasurer*
Michael Pohl, *Asst. Treasurer*
Dani Skrzypek, *Financial Sec.*
Kate Chambers, *Asst. Fin. Sec.*

Endowment Board

Nancy Clark, *Chair*
Darren Stowe, *Vice Chair*
Alexandra Bolton-Schultes
Treasurer
Karen Frank, *Secretary*
Kent Fanning
Mike Manning

Contacts

Office Phone
727.898.3294
Office E-mail
office@uustpete.org

Web Address
www.uustpete.org
Info-net
<http://infonet.uustpete.org/>

SPLINTERS FROM THE BOARD

March 13, 2013

Notes: Board members present: Greg Burton, President, Karen Coale, Vice President, Jane Fanning, Margie Manning, Ian O'Hara, Dani Skrzypek. Absent: Eric Mitchell. Also present were Keevy Mc Alavy, Penny Duff, Michael Manning, Barbara Rowell, and Rev Katy Korb, Consulting Minister.

1. The front steps will be repaired in time for the March 30 wedding. The concrete work is finished and the iron work needs to be completed.
2. Rev Katy Korb suggested an all day off campus retreat for people to talk about their feelings after the events of last year. This retreat would be a preliminary to the small groups on covenant/right relations.
- 3 Reports from conference attendees: Ian—"Dreambuilders" is trying to promote ties between congregations. Margie--District Board meeting coming April 12-14. We are entitled to four delegates. Karen--District Legislative Committee is focusing a lot on Social Justice issues such as homeless, immigration, body trafficking, but also on environmental issues.
- 4 Committee Reports: Program Committee--Discussion on Adult Religious Education. Worship Committee: on Easter Sunday there will be a flower communion. On May 4th, Rev Katy will offer a workshop training of lay people for Worship Leadership. Volunteers are needed for pre-and post-Service checks.
- 5 Treasurer's Report—including Review of the proposed 2013-2014 Budget. Margie explained that the Administrative Committee prepares the Draft Budget which is then submitted to the Board for approval. This committee is composed of the immediate past president, Teresa Kelly, the Treasurer, Margie Manning, and an appointee, Reggie Craig. The rest of the meeting was devoted to budget discussions.
6. PLEDGES ARE NEEDED—PLEASE RETURN PLEDGE CARDS!! So far, the pledges so far received appear to be about the same as last year. Endowment amount seems to be about the same. To sum up, it appears that next year's income will be about the same as the current year. Requests from the various committees are in: Program Expense—up. Building and Grounds are up—largely because of repair expense. Compensation costs for the minister are more than last year because the contract is now for the full year rather than ten months. However, there was moving expense last year which is not in next year's budget. So that increase will not be a large one.
7. DEFICIT: Using \$40,000 accrued money* from Endowment in addition to its use as stated above will still leave the budget about \$12,000 short.

At this point the Board decided to meet again on Wednesday, March 27 at 7:00 PM (see below). At that time, there should be more information about the actual pledge amount. And the budget requests from the committees will be reviewed.

Continued at "Splinters" on page 6.....

April 14th's Speaker

Rev. Brock Leach is Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's vice president for mission, strategy, and innovation. In this position, his primary responsibilities are to strengthen the agency's impact, develop tools for measuring the effectiveness of its programs and launch the College of Social Justice, a program designed to build the capacity of Unitarian Universalists and other UUSC members and supporters to catalyze justice.

An ordained Unitarian Universalist minister, Leach joined UUSC after a 24-year career as an executive with PepsiCo Inc.

April Celebrations

Birthdays

2—Waldo Rowell
8—Cheryl McNeill
8—Gloria Marvin
24—Darren Stowe

Months of Sundays

April 7 “Hubris and Reality” Rev. Katy Korb
April 14 “Dining In Polite Company”
Rev. Brock Leach
April 21 “Shoot the Roll”
Rev. Katy Korb
April 28 “Toujours Gai” Rev. Katy Korb

Treasurer’s report –

Thanks to all who turned in pledge cards. This year’s fun Mardi Gras dinner and canvass was a big success. If you need a pledge card, or have one you have not yet submitted, please see Dani Skrzypek, Financial Secretary, so that you can provide resources to strengthen UU Church of St. Petersburg and liberal religion in our community.

February 2013 financial highlights:

Total revenue: \$20,266

Pledges: \$9,935

Endowment contribution: \$3,191

*Building use: \$2,308

Sunday services: \$1,196

Other income: \$103

**Designated funds inflow: \$3,533

Total expenses: \$21,458

Compensation: \$12,666

Program expenses: \$420

*Building expenses: \$2,573

Other expenses: \$601

**Designated funds outflow: \$5,198



*During February, the church received a \$6,620 insurance settlement that will be used to repair the front steps.

**Designated funds include Social Justice projects and grocery gift cards

Margie Manning, Treasurer

.....”Alarums” from page 1

More seriously, however, one of the things I wish is that heterosexual couples were as aware of the benefits of marriage as those same-sex couples who want it are. There are numerous legal ramifications, not least the rules regarding survivor benefits from social security, and research shows that even without that the stability of the family that is increased by legal marriage is much better and safer for children. Yet half the children born today are born to unmarried women. Not all cultural changes are necessarily a good thing.

Katy

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	2 10:00am Handcrafters	3 7:00pm Meditation	4 (All day) OWL Training 5:00pm B&G Meeting 6:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Spanish Class 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm World Religions - Eastern	5 (All day) OWL Training 6:30pm Writers' Workshop	6 (All day) OWL Training
7 (All day) OWL Training 10:40am Band Rehearsal 1:30pm Sing Out Jam Out 7:28pm Collage	8 4:00pm Covenant Group 4:45pm Beacon House 6:00pm Homeless Ministry 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	9 7:00pm Worship Committee	10 7:00pm Board of Trustees 7:00pm Meditation	11 6:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Spanish Class 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm World Religions - Eastern	12	13
14 10:40am Band Rehearsal 12:00pm Fair Trade Coffee 12:40pm Program Council 7:28pm Collage	15 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Covenant Group 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	16 10:00am Handcrafters	17 7:00pm Meditation	18 6:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Spanish Class 7:00pm Adult Choir 7:00pm World Religions - Eastern	19 6:30pm Writers' Workshop	20 6:00pm AZ Is Our Town Preview/Potluck
21 10:40am Band Rehearsal 12:30pm Annual Meeting 7:28pm Collage	22 4:00pm Covenant Group 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	23 5:30pm Migrant/Immigrant Ministry	24 7:00pm Meditation	25 6:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Spanish Class 7:00pm Adult Choir	26	27 10:00am Retreat
28 9:30am Pancake Breakfast 10:40am Band Rehearsal 12:00pm Fair Trade Coffee 12:30pm R.E. Meeting 7:28pm Collage	29 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	30				

UUA Trustee Tidbits from Joan Lund

It's that time of year for the Florida District Assembly, to be my last one as your UUA District Trustee. In fact after General Assembly (GA) this year there will be no more District UUA Trustees because several years ago GA voted (at the recommendation of the UUA Trustees) that our UUA Board become smaller...all part of policy governance. The UUA Nominating Committee will be responsible for the slate of Trustees, after a period of transition. And as you know there is a vibrant regional services plan already in operation. My tenure on the UUA Board has had far more ups than downs, and never have I worked with finer, more dedicated colleagues and for that I am ever grateful.

The column will be short this month because later in April I will be traveling to Boston for the last time as a Trustee for one of our four meetings a year and most likely I will have more to write about in May. Now I wish to encourage you to attend the **District Annual Meeting** in Ft. Myers, April 12-14, theme: *Leaning Toward Justice*, with Dr. Mark Hicks, Professor of Religious Education at Meadville Lombard Theological School. I had the opportunity to be in a workshop with him at GA when his focus was unlearning what we have learned, then re-learning what is really true, in order to "build the world we dream of." He helped all of us to understand the workings of racism, and then how we can understand and relate to one another. There is information at the District website for registering and securing lodgings.

Also, this year, let's all go to GA in Louisville, Kentucky, June 19-23! This year's theme: **From Promise to Commitment**. Definitely, this is one of the best yearly gatherings on the planet. We worship, witness, learn, connect with old and new friends, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Your annual congregational certification with the UUA guarantees your congregation a certain number of delegates. Another good reason for attending this year is it will be an Assembly when a new Moderator is elected. And although it will be difficult to say good-bye to Gini Courter, there are two capable candidates running for the position and as you know from last month's column I am supporting Tamara Payne-Alex.

Please know how much I appreciate each one of you and the support I have received as your Trustee. If you have questions, comments, and/or concerns please write or call me. Enjoy the month of April and the best to our Florida congregations.

Joan Lund, April, 2013 jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727

You Are Invited to a Concert

Mark your calendars for Tuesday, April 16.

The Florida Orchestra Musicians Association will perform a benefit concert for St. Petersburg Free Clinic at the Palladium at 7:30 PM. This concert will feature two of the prize winners of the FOMA Justine LeBaron Young Artist Competition.

Group Contacts

Administrative

Margie Manning 374-0570

Building & Grounds

Fred Russell 542-5449

Care Ministry

Joan Barclay
520-8922

Children's Religious Education

Dolores Benjamin
360-7592

Communications Working Group

Eric Mitchell
327-9454

Hospitality Team

Sue Price
290-9910

Congregational Life Ministry

Dave Coale 898-8038

Music

Jim Culver 616-318-4664

Program Council

Karen Coale 898-8038

Scope

J Peter Schultes 898-3294

Social Justice

Handcrafters Subministry
Dani Skryzpek 488-3601
Homeless Subministry
Reggie Craig 631-1031
Migrant Subministry
Karen Coale 898-8038

UU Service Committee

Marilyn Barber 298-5096

Worship Ministry

Penny Duff 748-3178

Hospitality

If you are looking for an easy but important way to serve the church, consider helping out one Sunday a year or a month in the church kitchen preparing refreshments for after church. We also need donations of cookies, cheese, fruit and other snacks. Contact Sue Price 290-9910 or sueprice544@yahoo.com, Michael Manning 821-5667 or come to the kitchen and sign up.

UUWomenspirit invites you to

Remember Your Essence May 15-19, 2013

We invite you to come to and shed your worries

Leave your troubles and everyday stress behind

Join us at the UU Womenspirit 2013 Spring Institute(5/15-17) and Gathering (5/17-19) at The Mountain Retreat & Learning Center in Highlands, NC

Celebrate, rejuvenate, connect, reconnect and...

Remember Your Essence

For information more information: uuwomenspirit.org

Help Needed With Sermon Recordings

We need someone (or a few someones) to take on an easy but important task each Sunday: starting and stopping the audio recorder before and after service. The lone requirement is that you come to church regularly to push the recorder button! If we can get two or three volunteers to learn the procedures, that would be ideal. Please contact Michael Pohl.

If you possess a little computer savviness, we could also use help with processing and uploading the recording each week. Give Michael a holler if interested.

....."Splinters" from page 2

Votes:

1. The Annual Meeting will be April 21 after the Church service.
2. Keevy Mc Alavy was appointed Clerk of the Board for the remainder of this fiscal year. (June 30, 2013)
3. A special Meeting of the Board to finalize the budget will be Wednesday, March 27th at 7:00 PM. The Nominating Committee will report at this time.
4. A committee was appointed to organize a 1 day Retreat on Saturday, April 27th. The topic is "Reconciliation". Members are: Jane Fanning, Ian O'Hara, Karen Frank, and Rev. Katy Korb.
5. The Board discussed and then agreed on nominations for District Awards.

*accrued money from Endowment. Each fiscal year the Endowment contributes to the budget an amount equal to 5% of the value of the Endowment. Any money from Endowment not spent in the fiscal year is then "accrued money from Endowment" and can be spent at the discretion of the Board.

For more information: See the church Bylaws, specifically: Article III, Section 11

Earth Day

Earth Day is Monday, April 22nd! Have you logged in to see our collection of free online materials to help your congregation or committee plan for Earth Day and environmental topics? This year's materials, [Earth Day 2013: Working Towards Sustainable Communities](#), focus on sustainability, climate action planning, ecosystems and biodiversity, and sustainable agriculture and food systems.

Why focus on climate adaptation planning? It's necessary. It's urgent. To build resiliency. For our loved ones' futures.

Why should my congregation get involved? When UUs bring our moral and ethical grounding into the greater community, we can help identify and act on opportunities to advocate for fairness and equity for all in climate adaptation solutions.

Where do I start? Visit the [Climate Action and Adaptation Plans section](#) to learn more about ideas like these:

Find out if your town, city or region where you live or worship is already a member of ICLEI or has a climate action, mitigation, adaptation or resiliency plan or initiative [\(read more\)](#)

Create an intergenerational educational or service opportunity for your congregation that ties into a piece of your local or state climate action plan [\(read more\)](#)

Plan to educate the congregation and the surrounding community on the causality link between manmade greenhouse gas emissions and their local effects..... [\(read more\)](#)

No existing plan or initiative? Consider convening discussions to get one started! Identify local climate change related issues, such as flooding, destruction from extreme weather events, drought, or extreme heat. How might you work towards solutions with other community organizations affiliated with your congregation? [\(read more\)](#)

What actions is your congregation taking to mitigate climate change, adapt to changes and plan for disaster? At the physical level – buildings, property, landscaping, energy usage? At the parish and pastoral level? [\(read more\)](#)

Check out these opportunities!

Recognize an "[Eco-Hero](#)" in your congregation.

Nominate a congregant for the UUMFE "[Guardian of the Future](#)" award.

[Register](#) your congregation's Earth Day event or plans online to win a \$50 gift certificate to the UUA Bookstore.

Arrange to have a shared plate for UU Ministry for Earth's continued work on environmental justice and climate change

Volunteer Needed at the St. Petersburg Free Clinic

The Health Center has an IMMEDIATE NEED for medical records volunteers. The primary volunteer in this department is out on medical leave; training will be minimal; flexibility, adaptability and a take charge attitude will be very helpful.

For more information, contact Angel Schumaker, Director of Volunteers and Special Events, at 727-821-1200 ext. 114.



FREE TAX FILING

THE AARP FOUNDATION TAX AIDE PROGRAM'S TRAINED VOLUNTEERS CAN PREPARE YOUR TAXES (regardless of age) AND ELECTRONICALLY FILE YOUR 2012 FEDERAL INCOME TAX RETURN

- Copy of last year's income tax return(s);
- W-2 forms from each employer;
- Unemployment compensation statements;
- SSA-1099 form if you were paid Social Security benefits;
- ALL 1099 forms
- documentation showing original purchase price of sold assets;
- 1099-R forms for your pension or annuity;
- All forms indicating federal income tax paid;
- Dependent care provider information (name, employer, ID, Social Security number);
- All receipts or canceled checks if itemizing deductions;
- **Social Security cards and other picture IDs for yourself and all dependents.**

AREA SITES from February 1-April 15, 2013

Gulfport Library

5501 28th Ave S
Gulfport, FL
Hours: MON 10 AM - 3 PM
FRIDAY 10 AM - 3 PM

St. Petersburg Main Library

3745 9th Ave, N
St Petersburg, fl
Hours: WED 10 AM - 3 PM
THURS 10 AM - 3 PM

Gulf Beaches Library

200 Municipal Dr
Madeira Beach, FL
Hours: TUE 10 AM-1:30 PM
THU 10 AM-1:30 PM

Sunshine Center

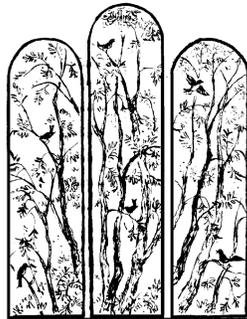
330 5th Ave
Saint Petersburg, fl
Hours: FRIDAY 9 AM - 2 PM

NEW St. Pete Beach Library

365 73rd Ave.
St. Pete Beach, FL 33706
Hours: FRI 10 am- 3 PM

TO LOCATE OTHER TAXAIDE SITES GO TO www.aarp.org/taxaide
or call our toll-free number 1-888-AARPNOW

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Saint Petersburg
719 Arlington Ave. N.
St. Petersburg, FL
33701-3621



UUSP Mission Statement

“Providing a compassionate and welcoming community, inspiring spiritual and intellectual growth, and serving as a beacon for social activism and service.”