



July-August 2012

Volume 53 Issue 7

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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

July-August 2012



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Music Director

Careena Cornette
Director of Religious Education

J. Peter Schultes
Office Manager

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President's Message

On behalf of the entire incoming Board of Trustees, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Rev. Suzanne Nazian for a thorough and objective Report. I would also like to commend the members of the Selection Committee who secured a talented and accomplished Development Minister who will join us this fall. And a special thanks to everyone who took time to meet with Rev. Nazian and/or participated in the meetings held on June 16th and 17th.

We have much to be excited about. Rev. Nazian's Report is an intrinsic part of why I am looking forward to what this next year will mean for our Church. If you have not read the report I urge you to do so.

I have reviewed her report several times. What she has given us in a wonderful inventory of where we are now and where we might wish to direct our collective energies. The use of an individual or group inventory that enumerates both strengths and maladaptive behavior patterns is a technique recommended by many counselors, therapists and self-help groups such as twelve step programs. When viewed from this perspective, Rev. Nazian's Report is a gift that will enable us to take an honest look at where we are as a congregation.

Looking objectively at ourselves leads to greater collective self-awareness. And self-awareness is the prerequisite for change to occur. The congregation has worked hard in the past to make positive changes. And the growth in the membership and the number of ministries attests that those efforts have been successful to a degree. This inventory provides us for the first time with a comprehensive tool that we can use to go forward and finally leave some of our past behind. Once we have looked into the mirror she has given us the reasons for the recommendations contained in the report will be understood and appreciated more fully.

We have already begun to move in more positive directions. For example, the hiring of interim and developmental ministers has always been done by the Board. This time the Board delegated its authority to the Selection Committee. Special effort was made to make the Committee as representative as possible. Although the Board was required to approve any contract, there was never any thought given to second guessing the Committee.

We have many strengths and much to be proud of. But more needs to be done. Change is never easy and requires hard work. But just because work is challenging or difficult does not mean it cannot be rewarding and even fun at times. So I hope you will join with all of us who you have entrusted with leadership in making this a most memorable year.

Greg Burton, President, Board of Trustees.

July Calendar

Sunday 1st, 8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th

10:00 am	Discussion Group	Conway Hall
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11:00 am	Sunday Services	Gilmour Hall
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Monday 2nd, 9th, 16th, 23rd, 30th

9:30 am	Zumba	Gilmour Hall
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Tuesday 3rd & 17th

10:00 am	Handcrafters Guild	Conway Hall
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Wednesday 4th

7:00 pm	Social Justice	Front Office
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Friday 6th, 13th, 29th, 27th

9:30 am	Stretch & Tone	Gilmour Hall
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Monday 9th

6:00 pm	Homeless Ministry	Front Office
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Tuesday 10th

5:30 pm	Migrant Ministry	Front Office
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Saturday 14th

3:00 pm	Wedding	Sanctuary
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Thursday 19th

7:30 pm	Wedding Rehearsal	Sanctuary
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Friday 20th

5:00 pm	Wedding	Sanctuary
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August Calendar

Wednesday 1st

7:00 pm	Social Justice	Front Office
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Sunday 5th, 12th, 19th, 26th

10:00 am	Discussion Group	Conway Hall
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11:00 am	Sunday Services	Sanctuary
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Tuesday 7th & 21st

10:00 pm	Handcrafters Guild	
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Monday 13th

6:00 pm	Homeless Ministry	Front Office
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Tuesday 14th

5:30 pm	Migrant Ministry	Front Office
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Saturday 18th

All Day	SCA	Church
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Please refer to the on-line calendar at our web site for updates WWW.uustpete.org

Treasurer's report

Our church fiscal year closes on June 30, and our Board of Trustees will receive a preliminary final report on how we did financially at the board meeting on July 11. We had some unanticipated expenses in June, including nearly \$1,500 to rekey the entire building and \$430 to replace the (apparently stolen) projector. This is our community and our money, so we all need to act responsibly to protect our investments.

May 2012 financial highlights:

Total revenue: \$16,006

Pledges: \$6,717

Endowment contribution: \$3,195

Building use: \$614

Sunday services: \$411

Other income: \$5,070

Total expenses: \$14,752

Compensation: \$9,135

Program expenses: \$1,642

Building expenses: \$3,739

Other expenses: \$236

Any questions? I'll be glad to try to answer them.
Margie Manning, Treasurer

Let's celebrate!

The 100th anniversary of UU Church of St. Petersburg is approaching on Jan. 5, 2015. Our Board of Trustees has begun preparing, by approving the establishment of a funding effort to raise money for the celebration. Effective July 1, 2012, we will collect money for an anniversary celebration. The money collected will go into a newly established, temporary designated fund. This is not a budgeted fund and contributions are voluntary. Contributions to this fund are tax deductible church donations, but are separate from your pledge commitment. The fund will expire on Jan. 31, 2015, with any surplus donated to the Endowment.

Margie Manning, Treasurer

Group Contacts

Administrative

Jeff Baughman 403-0655

Building & Grounds

Fred Russell 542-5449

Care Ministry

Joan Barclay
520-8922

Children's Religious Education

Dolores Benjamin 360-7592 & Shannon
McMahon, 204-8319
co-chairs

Ministry on Ministry (MOM)

McKell Moorehead
894-0264

Communications Working Group

Morgan Gresham
327-6075

Hospitality Team

Pat Passarello 525-2753

Congregational Life Ministry

Dave Coale 898-8038

Music

Jim Culver 616-318-4664

Program Council

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

Margie Manning 374-0570

Happenings and Events

Months of Sundays

Tentative Summer Schedule

- June 24 Margie confirmed
- July 1 Bob Shepherd , Speaker- Confirmed
“That Thou Art: The Human Form Divine in the Chandogya Upanishad, the Gospel of Thomas,Rumi, Blake, Emerson, and Aldous Huxley”
- July 8 Dorothy Hymn Sing
- July 15 Peggy Green
- July 22 Religious Literacy Victor confirmed
- July 29 Mike Nashleanas
- August 5 Don Chambers “Garden of Eden” confirmed
- August 12 Generosity Victor and Jane confirmed
- August 19 Dorothy Hymn Sing
- August 26 Careena Confirmed
- Sept 2 Victor has a new speaker, Steve O'Brien on "Bullying" Confirmed

July Celebrations

Anniversaries

13th--Alec & Penny Craig
24th--Jack & Lois Cairl

Birthdays

16th--Penny Craig
17th--Sharon Foster
22nd--Jane Fanning
24th--Eric Bolton

August Celebrations

Anniversaries

7th--Marilyn & Jim Barber
17th--Dave & Karen Coale
18th--Kent & Jane Fanning
25th--Mark & Cheryl MacNeill

Birthdays

3rd--Deb Carter
14th--Barbara Rowell
21st--Margie Manning
25th--Dean Robinson

UUA Trustee Tidbits from Joan Lund

Since the monthly Trustee Tidbits must be written before leaving for General Assembly, columns about GA will be written in subsequent months. As always I will write a report for the District following GA.

Hopefully you are already aware UUA President Peter Morales has written *Congregations and Beyond*, a document that talks about UU relevancy in the future; he believes our faith must begin to think of our UUA not just as bricks-and-mortar congregations but perhaps as a way to engage with other religiously grounded UU groups, in other words, to extend beyond congregations as we traditionally know them.

It is known that there are about 500,000 people who say they are UUs but are not members of a congregation. Our membership numbers are slowly declining, despite sincere, ambitious growth efforts. We have always addressed the problem of attracting UU membership as solvable by finding ways to get them into congregations. How can we engage with people who share our values, want to be a part of our faith, but are not willing/ready to join a congregation? These folks may include individuals in groups who were once affiliates, UU college students, and persons who find us through groups such as Standing on the Side of Love. We know we have the successful Church of the Larger Fellowship, a no-walls congregation with approximately 3500 members. In our future President Morales envisions a variety of other structures such as small groups that may be “identity” based.

His ideas do not mean the demise of bricks-and-mortar congregations as our base but they do mean the expanded use of social media, relevant and “alive” worship experiences accessible through the internet, and more social justice witness activism and volunteerism opportunities. Rev. Morales is convinced our faith has great potential to involve more people and have a greater impact than we do now.

My suggestion: interested persons in your congregation hold a discussion centered on *Congregations and Beyond*. The document can be found at uua.org and by linking into its name. I know through group discussion ideas for the future of our Association will be forthcoming. Send your reactions to the paper and suggestions to Rev. Teresa Cooley, Director, Congregational Life (tcooley@uua.org). In addition I always look forward to hearing from Florida District UUs. Happy hot summer one and all!

Money matters

We are completing the first year of our grocery gift card program and it's been a great success in raising money for UU Church of St. Petersburg operations. We are selling gift cards to Publix and Sweet Bay in various denominations (\$25, \$50 and \$100). The cards can be used in the grocery store just as you would use cash, a check or a debit or credit card, and if you don't use the full amount at one time, the cards will carry a balance until the next time you shop. The purchase of the cards provides funds for our church because we buy them at a discount – 3% from Publix and 5% from Sweet Bay. Your purchase of a \$100 Publix card yields \$3 for the church and a \$100 Sweet Bay card puts \$5 in the church coffers – and you don't have to do a thing but grocery shop!

We need more volunteers to sit at a table after the Sunday service to sell the cards, especially during the summer. Not only are you helping raise money for the church, but it's a great way to meet people. If you have questions or would like to volunteer, please contact Mike Manning at mikemanning@tampabay.rr.com or 727-215-6921.

MUSIC PROGRAMS

If you're unsure about joining a musical group, summertime is the perfect time to get your feet wet. Our summer music opportunities are more informal, with little in the way of scheduled rehearsals. Our church services continue to need volunteers as our beloved Dorothy Byrne offers her leadership during the summer while the Adult Choir, Children's Choir and Hand Bell Ringers are on break until September.

So, if you play an instrument or sing in the shower, please connect with Dorothy or Summer Sheffield. Here are some summertime ways for you to share your love of music:

UU2 BAND rehearsals are held informally on Sundays from 10:15 – 10:45 prior to the morning service. If you play guitar, keyboard or any other instrument, drop in and join a group that assists Dorothy in providing leadership for our two hymns each Sunday.

VOCAL ENSEMBLES are needed to provide occasional choral music as the morning anthem throughout the summer.

SOLOISTS, SMALL GROUPS are needed, either instrumental or vocal, to also provide morning anthems this summer.

When I return on August 20 as your Director of Music, please remember that I am just that, not a minister here at UUSP. My role is to assist in growing this special place through offering our congregation exciting musical opportunities. We join together to rally behind our new minister as she leads us into an exciting new year.

Waves of love, Jim

A Gloating Report from the Funniest U.U. in the Entire Darn State

by Careena Cornette

Many young U.U.s, starting out in life, have often asked me: "How can I become the funniest U.U. in Florida?" "Well, young man," I usually respond, "it's a hard row to hoe. Start by studying the classics: Groucho, Wilde, Wodehouse, Saki. Then, read books on regression therapy, to ensure that your elementary school self was sufficiently cruelly bullied by much larger students; that's key, because comedy is about pain. Then...make yourself some rubber chickens out of dishwashing gloves. You'll be on your way to UU humor greatness. But if you really want that Florida District Award title, you'll have to remove me-- kicking and screaming-- from my golden throne."

And believe you me, it *was* difficult getting the Buildings and Grounds committee to approve my \$8,000 expenditure for a two hundred year old walnut chair and its requisite gold leafing. But when they saw the jeweler's designs for my accompanying Queen Of All Hilarity emerald tiara, they had to admit the two would look nice together. We'll raise the money to replace the air conditioner some other year, right after we commission the sculptor for my marble statue. Priorities, people.

See "RE" page 8.....

Florida District honors Dolores Benjamin, Careena Cornette, Pat McGiverin

The Florida District bestowed awards on three members of the UU St. Pete community in March. Careena Cornette, director of children's religious education, received the John DeWolf Hurt Levity award; the late Pat McGiverin, our generous Anonymous Donor, was named the recipient of the Lifetime Achievement award; and Dolores Benjamin received an honorable mention for the Lifetime Achievement category. Here's the nomination letter for Pat.

Pat McGiverin passed away in 2011. While on her deathbed, she spoke to her church family. It was only at this point did we discover how deeply she loved our congregation. She spoke of the gratitude she received from our church and how she was glad to contribute to UU St. Pete as our anonymous donor.

In 2005, Pat McGiverin provided a gift to excite, enrich, and cause our congregation to flourish. There were many points during the next six years that Pat could have disclosed her identity. She chose to remain anonymous until her journey in this life ended. She continued sharing in the love and watching her gift grow in UU St. Pete. Pat McGiverin challenged the congregation to increase its pledge amounts by matching pledge drives in excess of \$75,000. She spent the last six years of her life observing excitement for new covenant groups, installation of a settled minister, and an increase in participation caused directly by her generosity.

Pat also belonged to the UU Clearwater congregation, where she also shared her gifts including her love of music. She and her husband were generous contributors to the Pinellas Education Foundation and their contributions helped send over 30 students to college.

She practiced her UU principles throughout her daily life. Pat's achievements are marked not only by her generosity, but also by the people's lives she touched. Those people surrounded her at the end, not because of a gift as it was anonymous. They gathered to comfort and pay respect to a life well lived in service to one another.

Pat's actions in others lives throughout her own life provided such a lasting impact. Recently, her memory excited a group of volunteers, friends, and congregation members to plant a garden. They chose to honor Pat's memory by dedicating their own time to her life.

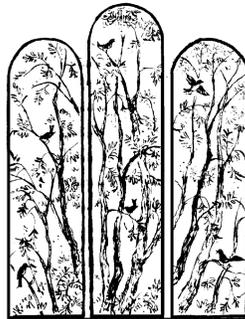
Pat is deserving of this award for her actions during her life, her generosity to our congregation, her devotion to Unitarian Universalism and her memory that still incites others to demonstrate love to our faith and church home.

....."RE" from page 7

As for the all-important title: I had a close call this year. I only narrowly beat out professional clown team Topsy JingleWobbles and Honky McDoodlyPants of UUSarasota (and then only after some nasty politicking with the judges, regarding those Ringling phonies' loss of their amateur status). And of course there was strong competition from Gov. Rick Scott, whose proposed changes to the education system must surely be meant in jest.

...Wait, what was that? You say the award is not supposed to be about the quantity of jokes, but the application of humor to congregational life or ministry? You say that humor is a valuable means of defusing tension and building common ground? Wait, I thought it's supposed to be about how many raspberry noises I can sandwich into any given R.E. lecture. Shoot. I wonder if I can get our money back on that case of Swarovski crystal studded whoopie cushions I ordered. ...*Pbbbbbbth*.

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