



June 2013

Volume 54 Issue 6

Inside Scope

President	2
Happenings	3
Notes	3
Calendar	4
UUA Tidbits	5
Contacts	5
RE	6
Annual Meeting	7

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

June 2013

Alarums and Diversions

In three weeks I'll be off to General Assembly, and then it will be time for my vacation and study leave. I'll be back the middle of August, but it will seem a long time to be away. I've only been here since September, but it has been a rich and sometimes very challenging experience, with issues I haven't had to deal with in all my thirty-four years of ministry. It has also enabled me to get to know you as individuals and as a congregation — a congregation with a history and with a future of great significance to our association, and individuals who are to be cherished for their great caring and commitment.

This will be, I think, my thirty-sixth General Assembly. It has changed a great deal since the first one I attended at Cornell University so many years ago. It has become much more like a trade show than it was back then, though it seems to be in transition again, and who knows where it will be going? One thing never changes, though, and that is the uplifting feeling of being with hundreds, now thousands, of other Unitarian Universalists who love and are committed to our faith. There's something about singing "Rank by Rank again We Stand" with three or four thousand other people all singing at the tops of their voices that always gives me amazing joy and keeps me going to the Service of the Living Tradition in spite of the fact that it has become nothing more than a graduation celebration for ministers and directors of religious education with all the yells and hoots of a high school observance. They do at least still call the roll of those ministers who have died in the previous year, and though we seem no longer to stand in respect, and though it no longer means to me what it did, in spite of the fact that I know far more of the names that are read and mourn many of them, it still moves me.

I seem to be an oddity among attendees, even among the ministers. What I am interested in is the actual business of the association rather than the workshops, worship services, lectures and so on. I go to hearings and plenary sessions and even mini-assemblies where the business is discussed. In that I don't really include what to many is their primary interest, the resolutions on matters of social justice and the statements of conscience. Mostly those seem trivial and even shallow to me, and the process is deeply flawed.

"Alarums" continued on page 2.....

Staff

The Reverend
Katy Korb

Developmental Minister

Careena Cornette

Director of Religious Education

J. Peter Schultes

Office Manager

Matt Ankrom

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*

Dani Skrzypek

Ian O'Hara

Jane Fanning

Keevy McAlavy, Clerk

Officers

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

Contacts

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President's Message —Greg Burton

Summer in Florida has much to offer those of us who live here throughout the year. I am personally enchanted by the massive formations of the summertime clouds that precede our summer storms. I found myself thinking how nice it was to see the clouds of summer earlier this week. Although the congregation is smaller, the summer actually is a wonderful time to get to know one another even better.

The ice cream social and cookie contest scheduled for June 8th will be just the beginning of our summer social calendar. Another idea that is being bantered about is a evening when members and friends will be asked to bring a dish that originated elsewhere. An international pot luck is the goal. If anyone would like to volunteer to have such a gathering in their home, please let a Board member know. If not, Gilmore Hall is always there for us.

The Board met with Katy to train and prepare to host the Covenant and Right Relations discussion groups that have been mentioned previously. We will begin inviting members to come and rediscover what we have in common soon.

All in all, this promises to be an exciting and fun summer for those of us who appreciate what summertime in St Petersburg has to offer.

.....“Alarums” from page 1

One year two statements were offered for us to choose between, neither one of which I liked, and I realized that there was no way to say no. Only yes votes are allowed and the statement is chosen by how many more yeses it got than the others. Of the year when there were only two one seemed utterly futile to me and the other deeply embarrassing. However, if I were to vote at all, I had to choose one over the other. I chose futile over embarrassing and lost, as I usually do. In spite of my reservations, one year I did help to shepherd an action of immediate witness through the assembly. It is a baroque process taking almost every minute of the backers time. Luckily someone else did most of the work, but I made an excellent figurehead.

In spite of all that I'm looking forward to seeing my friends and colleagues from around the country, and to my vacation, and I hope all of you have a wonderful summer.

Katy

June Celebrations

Anniversary

16—Darren & Wini Stowe

Birthdays

16—Karen Frank

22—Audre Zieres

28—Dave Coale

Months of Sundays

June 2 “An Un-Supernatural God” Rev. Katy Korb

June 9

Rev. Katy Korb

June 16

Rev. Katy Korb

June 23

June 30

Hospitality

We hope to continue coffee after church this summer but do need your help for food and set up and clean up in the kitchen. Desserts, salty snacks, cheese and crackers, and fruit are welcome. Please call Sue Price (727) 290-9910 or e-mail at sueprice544@yahoo.com or come by the kitchen and sign up to help.

Suncoast Tampa Bay Memorial Society

The Suncoast Tampa Bay

Memorial Society is a non-profit, non-sectarian, and volunteer-led Florida organization, which negotiates with local funeral directors to provide dignified, lower-cost funeral arrangements for its members for a one-time membership donation of \$20.

See Dan Greenfeld, President or Laurie Clement, Secretary/Treasurer

secretarymemorial@uustpete.org

A Good Idea

The Empty YWCA on Fifth St and Second St. is in danger of being lost to another bank. The man who has a hold on it needs to raise \$7,000 more by June 15th or lose the property. His group is having a street festival June 1 on Fifth St between First and Second Ave from early afternoon to 11:00 pm. Please come out and help him raise the money. It sounds like lots of fun. His group wants to restore the building and he plans to open a 2,500 music hall and music museum.

						7:00pm Picnic	1
1:30 pm Sing Out Jam Out	4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	10:00am Handcrafters 6:30pm Spanish	7:00pm Meditation	6		7:00pm Picnic	8
12:40pm Program Council	4:45pm Beacon House 6:00pm Homeless Ministry 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu	6:30pm Spanish 7:00pm Worship Com	7:00pm BOT	13		7:00pm Picnic	15
16	4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung	10:00am Handcrafters 6:30pm Spanish	7:00pm Meditation	20		7:00pm Picnic 7:30pm Wedding Rehearsal	11:00am Wedding
23	4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Shaolin Kung fU	5:30pm Migrant/Immigrant Ministry	7:00pm Meditation	27		7:00pm Picnic	29
30							

UUA Trustee Tidbits from Joan Lund

Dear UU Friends,

This is the final Trustee Tidbits. How do I say farewell? After ten years on the UUA Board of Trustees and a column written each month during this time, I would be less than honest if I did not admit to being ready for my Board time to end. But more importantly, I also confess the support, commitment, love, and honest discourse you provided to and with me have made my service to our UUA a memorable and appreciated experience of a lifetime. Thank you from the depths of my being.

The challenges the Board has faced during this time are too numerous to document but we have also accomplished much during my tenure. When I joined the Board it was obvious to all of us serving at that time our UUA Board governance needed addressing. After much consultation and training we now govern by policy which is driven by our Ends. The UUA Board expects and demands accountability to our congregations through monitoring reports from our UUA President as to how and if these Ends are being accomplished. These Ends were determined by much conversation over several years with UUs in many venues. Again through linkage with our congregations and conversations with our various UU groups the Board is in the process of revising the Ends to be voted upon at GA 2013.

But what else has been the work of your UUA Board in strong covenant with each other? Here comes a list of sorts, but by no account comprehensive or chronological: 1) Tremendous linkage work with our congregational leadership which has been going on for several years. Now we are partnering with our District Presidents Association to continue this linkage. 2) There has been a change in our UUA By-laws voted by GA delegates as to how a congregation is defined (might be time to look at the By-laws). 3) We have welcomed many new congregations. 4) There is now health insurance available to UUA employees both at our national administrative level and in the field. 5) The Board has restructured itself to be more democratic and effective. 6) There are now off-site voting GA delegates. 7) Our UUA in Boston will have new headquarters. 8) The Board approved public policy statements which demand equal rights for bisexual, gay, lesbian and transgender persons.

As a Trustee I have served in several roles and on various Board groups which I have reported on in the District Annual Report(s) and in this column. These are not to be noted now, but I am both humbled and grateful for the opportunity to lead in various ways.

I love this faith and believe the word “love” is what we are all about... in our congregations and in our Association. So I leave with deep feelings of hope and compassion for what is near and dear to my heart, the beloved Florida District and Unitarian Universalism. May we always strive in covenant with each other for our highest ideals and values among ourselves and in the world-wide community.

In appreciation and commitment,
Joan

Group Contacts

Administrative

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

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

Suncoast Tampa Bay Memorial Society
Laurie Clement
secretarymemorial@uustpete.org

UU Service Committee
Marilyn Barber 298-5096

Worship Ministry
Penny Duff 748-3178

Religious Education Notes from Careena Cornette-MacCue

How did your UUSP Director of Religious Education wind up on an air mattress in a strange classroom in Gainesville? Well, it's for a U.U. sexuality education course, actually . . .

. . . wait, let me start over.

The “Our Whole Lives” program (abbreviated “OWL”) is a curriculum created by the U.U.A. (in partnership with an organization whose values are compatible). The OWL curricula span two or three year ranges for school age children, in addition to “Young Adult” and “Adult.” In order to facilitate an OWL program, one must undergo intensive training weekend(s). The UUSP Religious Education committee has been on the lookout for a nearby training for the past few years, and we were fortunate that this one turned up south of the Georgia border.

U.U.S.P. parent / volunteer teacher Jill McCracken has accompanied me to this training, and we are fairly confident that-- with hard study-- we will both achieve certifications. (They don't just hand 'em out like popcorn; one has to pass the course.) We are scheduled to give a presentation on Sunday morning . . .go Team Saint Pete!

The OWL program emphasizes self-worth, responsibility, rational evaluation of consequences, and many of the other areas that public school Growth and Development curricula may not cover in depth. It is a valuable program for students' knowledge and self-images, and I look forward to two more days of workshops.

Also, this “classroom as dormitory” concept is kinda fun. I decorated my laptop work area with building blocks, covered the window with felt, and might use one of those little battery operated chalice candles as a night light. Learning is an adventure!

Food for Thought

Please remember the struggling single parent immigrant families our Church is helping - with a food donation. An impulse food buy you have not used or any non-perishable packaged foods would be a most welcome menu item for the children. Things we take for granted, like regular meals and housing are sometimes everyday crises for these families. If we all give a little, we can make a difference for the kids. The little wagons at each entrance to the Church are waiting for your offering.

Annual Meeting Notes

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation was called to order by Board President Greg Burton. Greg announced that with an official membership count of 109 members, the presence of 45 members meant a quorum was established.

Greg then introduced Chuck Hinton as the Church's attorney, *pro bono*. Our Bylaws require that notice of the Annual Meeting, including the slate of candidates for the upcoming fiscal year, be mailed no less than ten days prior to the meeting. Greg announced that about one third of the members had not received such due notice because of a mailing error. The remedy for the error would be to postpone the meeting until the following Sunday.

A motion was made, duly seconded and unanimously approved to continue the meeting, rather than postpone it to the next Sunday.

The nominees selected by the Nominating Committee were unanimously elected. (The number after the name represents length of term.)

Board of Trustees: Marcia Piacentino (3); Penny Duff (3); Ian O'Hara (2); Jane Fanning (1); Dani Skrzypek (1); no name (3)

Board of Endowment: Nancy Clark (3); Alex Bolton-Schultes (3)

Officers (all are one year terms): **Clerk**, no name; **Treasurer**, Margie Manning; **Assistant Treasurer**, Michael Pohl; **Financial Secretary**, Dani Skrzypek; **Assistant Financial Secretary**, Sheryl Long.

Dave Coale asked **Keevy McAlavy** if he was willing to continue as **Clerk**, Keevy said yes. Dave nominated Keevy and the motion passed unanimously.

Penny Duff nominated **Lori Price** for the remaining seat on the **Board of Trustees**. Lori, an architectural historian, has been a formal member since the summer of 2012. She was elected to the Board unanimously.

Dani Skrzypek requested that she be removed from the Financial Secretary position. With no volunteers offering to fill that position it is now vacant.

Budget and Discussion

Greg Burton explained the financial position of the Church. The membership of 109 has changed little in the past ten years. For some of that time, the budget in addition to the money from the Endowment was sustained by a generous gift from Pat McGiverin. Last year's budget was about \$223,500; this year's is down slightly to about \$217,600. For both years, pledges are about \$100,000, meaning the average pledge is about \$1000. The only way we can fund this year's budget is by using accrued money from the Endowment. That receivable money from Endowment will not be available next year; we will need to raise more money to sustain our Church. We hope to increase rentals once the air conditioning system is fixed at a cost of about \$400,000; the Board is currently working with the Board of Endowment to decide how to fund the project. Margie Manning did an excellent job explaining the budget and answering questions about various budget items. Other questions such as personnel costs, the new air conditioning system, the Anniversary Fund, funding for summer services, Marketing, the new method of paying dues to the UUA were also asked. The budget was approved with two dissents.

Presentation of Special Award

Greg Burton recognized Anne Justiss for her work in organizing and promoting. Anne was not present and said that Anne and Joan Barclay will be recognized at the Church Homecoming next fall.

New Business

Eric Mitchell proposed amending the Church Bylaws to allow electronic notification of meetings. Greg Burton replied by saying this needed to be considered by the Board of Trustees.

These notes are by Barbara Rowell with help from minutes prepared by Keevy McAlavy.

Unitarian Universalist Church
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St. Petersburg, FL
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