



November 2012

Volume 53 Issue 11

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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

November 2012

Alarums and Diversions

Although when I discussed the new order of service with the worship committee the omission of "Spirit of Life" seemed not too frightfully important, it seems that it mattered more than we realized to some people. Passionate opinions have been expressed on both sides of the issue, although that's usually hard for people to believe. We all tend to think that everybody else, being intelligent human beings, must agree with us. I had several reasons for wanting the change, some having to do with the length, pace and focus of the hymn, but my primary reason was that in crafting a Sunday service it seems to me best to have everything, as much as possible, point to the single value that is the theme of the service. That hymn has great meaning for certain topics, but when it is sung every Sunday, the meaning is lost in ritualistic feeling. I discussed it with several of my colleagues, as I was disturbed by the storm that was raised, and discovered that the composer, Carolyn McDade, shared my feelings. They told me that she had begged that it not be used every Sunday, but saved for those times when it was most relevant to the whole service. I think I would feel that we should honor that strong request even if I didn't agree with her.

What I really wanted to talk about in this column was the upcoming elections. Not that I have any intention of even hinting about how anyone should vote. You would quite rightfully resent it. The election sermon has a long and honored history in this country, but I have never felt that my wisdom on the subject is any better than yours. However, though I have been a member of Americans United for the Separation of Church and State off and on for many years (off when they forget to remind me to pay my dues) and have agreed with nearly all of their positions, I have never agreed with their support of the IRS ban on a minister's freedom of the pulpit when it comes to politics. In theory if a minister uses the pulpit or any church publication to express a partisan opinion, the church can lose its tax exemption. That seems to be hardly fair either to the church or the minister. It wasn't the church's fault that the minister spoke up, after all, and I believe that the right to freedom of the pulpit is as close to absolute as you can get in this real world of relative rights. (Issues don't count. I'm perfectly free to tell you that Amendments 6 and 8 are the worst of a bad lot, and both of them legalize unwarranted religious influence on those who do not share the theology of those in power.)

I suspect the IRS isn't too sure of its constitutional ground either. Every election season a group of ministers with all of whom I suspect I disagree on just about every other issue, videotapes their election sermons and sends them to the IRS. So far nothing has happened to them. It will be interesting to see if it ever does.

Katy

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*

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Eric Mitchell

Margie Manning
Dani Skrzypek
Ian O'Hara

Ginny Oppenheimer, *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
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Karen Frank, *Secretary*
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President's Message

Last Saturday was the annual Halloween Hike that is Euclid's neighborhood fundraiser. Proceeds go to a charity that is selected each year by the membership. The hike is just one of the activities we do to build a sense of community by socializing.

The same type of community building ideas can be as much fun for a congregation as a neighborhood. The once a month potluck luncheons became increasingly difficult to coordinate. But there are other ways to extend the social hour that we might consider. My neighborhood association has chili contests, pie contests, etc. Members sample, vote and we give out fun "prizes".

There can be occasional gatherings in private homes such as the one Peter and Alex just hosted. There has been talk of our getting dinner circles started again. Penny wants to get a social GLBT group started. Reggie has thought of bringing grills in one Sunday now that the weather is nice and having a true picnic on the grounds. And let us give special mention to Rick and his Sunday jam sessions.

These are just a few of the ideas that have been suggested. I encourage members to help the Board think of ways we can increase the social networking within the congregation. And I hope some of you will decide to get involved with the hospitality committee.

So bring us your ideas and let's try some of them out.

Greg Burton

STONE SOUP SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18TH

We hope you've been collecting soup bowls for our silent auction on Stone Soup Sunday. Please bring your bowls (beautiful, unusual, hand crafted or from a thrift shop or your cupboard) to the Sharing Abundance table in Gilmour after service any Sunday. The bowls will be auctioned to the highest bidders after the service on Stone Soup Sunday, November 18th. Lunch will follow, consisting only of home-made vegetable (stone) soup and bread to remind us all of how many people have very little to eat. All of the money collected from the auction will benefit the Homeless Ministry's projects in our community.

Homeless Ministry
Reggie Craig, Chair

November Celebrations

Anniversaries

8—Alexandra & Peter

Birthdays

10—Alexandra Bolton-Schultes

11—Anne Justiss

22—Jack Cairl

23—Evie May

Months of Sundays

November 4 "Election: Biblical, Political, Critical!"
Rev. Dr. Robert P. Tucker, Minister Emeritus, Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Lakeland

November 11 "Just War" Rev. Korb

November 18 "Appropriate Obligation"
Rev. Korb

November 25 "Another Unimportant Matter"
Rev. Korb

Treasurer's report —For many, November is the start of the holiday shopping season. Here are some suggestions about how your shopping can also provide a financial benefit to UU St. Pete.

If you shop online, go to Amazon.com or Goodshop.com through the Church's website, uustpete.org. You can access them through the tab at the top that says "Support UUSP." The church gets paid by Amazon or Goodshop for a percentage of your purchase as long as you go to those sites through our website – and it doesn't cost you anything additional.

A gift card to purchase groceries from Publix or Sweet Bay might also be on your list. You can buy the cards from UU St. Pete in denominations of \$25, \$50 or \$100 every Sunday after the Worship Service. Here's the great thing – you pay \$100 for a card, and you can buy \$100 worth of groceries. The stores sell the cards to UU St. Pete at a discount; we keep \$3 for every \$100 Publix card or \$5 for every \$100 Sweet Bay card that's sold.

If you would like to include our congregation on your holiday list, remember we have established our "Century Fund," a designated fund to provide money for the church's 100th anniversary in 2015. Your gifts to this fund will help us mark this historic occasion.

September 2012 financials

Total income

Pledges	\$5,695
Endowment	\$3,191
Sunday services	\$740
Building use	\$2,053
Other income	\$175

Total expenses

Compensation	\$14,456
Programs	\$799
Buildings & grounds	\$3,475
Other expenses	\$852



Margie Manning, Treasurer

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
				1 9:30am Zumba 6:15pm Handbells 6:30pm Shaolin Kung Fu 7:00pm Adult Choir	2	3
4 9:15am Band Rehearsal 11:00am Sunday Service 12:15pm Sort Clothing 12:30pm 'Twas Read-Through 1:30pm Sing Out Jam Out 7:28pm Collage	5 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 6:00pm CO! Play Rehearsal 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu 7:00pm NA	6 9:30am Zumba 10:00am Handcrafters Guild 7:00pm Emotions Anonymous	7 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm Meditation	8 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	9	10 10:00am Farmworker Justice
11 9:15am Band Rehearsal 12:00pm Fair Trade Coffee 7:00pm Film Series 7:28pm Collage	12 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 6:00pm Homeless Ministry 6:00pm CO! Play Rehearsal 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu 7:00pm NA	13 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm Emotions Anonymous	14 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm Board of Trustees 7:00pm Meditation	15 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	16	17 10:00am Visit Farmworker Camps 6:00pm Souper Supper
18 9:15am Band Rehearsal 11:00am GAYT Boxes 12:30pm Stone Soup 7:28pm Collage	19 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm Beacon House 7:00pm Shaolin Kung Fu 7:00pm NA 7:00pm Covenant Group	20 9:30am Zumba 10:00am Handcrafters Guild 7:00pm Emotions Anonymous	21 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm Meditation	22 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm Adult Choir	23	24
25 9:15am Band Rehearsal 11:00am	26 9:30am Zumba 4:45pm	27 9:30am Zumba 7:00pm	28 9:30am Zumba 5:30pm	29 6:15pm Handbells 7:00pm	30	

UUA Trustee Tidbits from Joan Lund

During the years of my being a UUA Trustee the Florida District Chalice Lighter's Program has never been the monthly column topic. One reader thankfully suggested I write about Chalice Lighters (CL), personally to me a subject near and dear to my heart. I was the chair of this program for several years...years ago, and hope this program will continue to succeed and grow in our District.

In the early 1980s, an idea was put forth that UUs might be willing to contribute the small amount of \$10 (or more), up to three times per year to help a congregation in their district complete a special project linked to growth. Prairie Star was the first District to implement the program but Florida soon followed suit in 1987. One of our UUA districts raises \$100,000 annually from 3,500 individual CLs. This district also has a CL Sunday every other year and is known for gaining 500 to 1,000 new participants each time. For many congregations CLs help put them "over the top" in calling a minister or buying land or helping pay for a building.

Since its inception in the Florida District, there have been countless requests and many funds given to assist our congregations, too many to cite. In the Florida District CL money may be sought for: **obtaining, expanding or furnishing a new building, to underwrite the hiring of a first-time religious professional, to encourage the formation of a new UU congregation, and to supplement creative growth projects.** A Florida District congregation who wishes to receive CL funds must fill out an application, found at the Florida District website (www.floridadistrict.org). The District Executive, in consultation with the District's CL Grants Panel, reviews all applications and determines when a CL call request will be granted. Individuals who wish to become CLs may contact the Florida District Office (uufld@gmail.com or 407894-2119) for information.

If you are not a Florida District CL **please** consider becoming a member of this worthy program. During a CLs "call" at this time the suggested contribution amount at this time, is \$25. I look forward to hearing from you (jlund@uua.org) or 813-931-9727. May you enjoy a blessed, thankful, peaceful, Thanksgiving Holiday.

Joan Lund, November, 2012
jlund@uua.org or 813-931-9727

Our own Dean Robinson

—artist/celebrity. See his work and interview at:

<http://www.historickenwood.org/sites/default/files/page/pdfs/Dean%20Website%20Article.pdf>

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

Morgan Gresham
327-6075

Hospitality Team

Dot Goldsmith
344-7809

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

Generational Differences in the Perception of What's Important At Church

by Careena Cornette

A week or two before the new minister arrived, I thought it would be advisable to draw up some talking points for the classroom. I prepared a list of answers to Frequently Asked Questions that students might have during that sort of change. My co-teacher and I were prepared to field just about any kind of comment or concern they might raise.

__Anticipating Arrival: Upstairs__

TEACHER: Now, you all may have heard that our church is getting a new minister soon. Does anyone have any questions?

CHILD: (*Raises hand*) Miss Careena, will I get to use the blue paint when we do crafts?

TEACHER: Yes, you will. I know the blue paint looks low, but there's plenty for this week. ...When there's a big change, sometimes people feel nervous. If I had a new principal at my school, I would want to know whether that principal was going to switch study hall time with band time...

CHILD: (*Tattling*) Timmy got two fruit snacks. I want two fruit snacks.

TEACHER: Timmy is allergic to what's in the crackers, so he's allowed to have two snacks with fruit sugar. Everyone else only gets one.

CHILD: If I were allergic to the crackers too, would I get two fruit snacks?

TEACHER: Yes.

__Anticipating Arrival: Downstairs__

UU ADULT #1: "They should be someone who's politically active..."

UU ADULT #2: "...But mostly focused on philosophical questions."

UU ADULT #3: "My family wants someone who preaches a mixture of secular humanism, Shinto, and just a dab of Rastafarianism combined with Greek Orthodox..."

UU ADULT #4: "...they have to say Nietzsche is cooler than Proust, but Sartre is the bomb-diggety."

UU ADULT #5: "I want them to structure the service so that we take our traditional Tang and Melba toast communion *halfway* through, instead of at the end."

__Anticipating Arrival: Upstairs__

TEACHER: Are all of you sure that you don't have a single question about this big change?

CHILD: It's good weather. Can we go on the playground when we're done with the lesson?

And there, in a nutshell, you have the differences in perception. We have a new minister. She is nice to me, and super smart and super educated, and experienced. Having learned from the children that I should stop being so focused on "Big Plans" and "Changes to Programs" and "Did the Visitor Family With Children Stay For Coffee" and "How Are We Perceived in the Press" and "Which Ministry Wants To Use Which Resources At Which Time," I now say... it is good weather. I'm going out to the playground.

Standing on the Side of Love with Immigrant Families

Bring Holiday Cheer to Farmworker Families -- So Many Ways to Help Out

UU St Pete will once again participate in the National Farm Worker Ministry's Holiday Gift Distribution for farmworker families – which will take place on **Saturday, December 22nd** at St Clement's Church in Plant City.

Many churches and schools come to gather to make the holidays special for these hard working and very loving families. Some provide toys, others blankets or food. UU St Pete has an 8-year tradition of providing a packet of new underwear or socks to each child. We expect 700 children to register for this event, so we really need your help.

How can you help? Here are a few ways:

- Donate packets of new undies or socks – bins will be at the entrances and in Gilmour Hall
- Contribute to *Share the Plates* – and we shop for you
- Set up donation boxes where you work
- Help with the shopping
- Work the day of the event

Information sheets about this event can be found at the *Social Justice Table* after service – beginning on November 4th. Stop by and chat with Karen or contact her via email.

Though the event does not take place until **December 22nd**, we have to begin collecting now in order to provide for all of those children. Prior to December 22nd – we could use some help tallying and sorting the undies and socks. Then to make sure each child receives a packet – the proceeds from recent *Share the Plate* collections will be used to supplement your donations. We could use some help with the shopping as well – usually at Bealls outlets as we get the best bargains there.

Your help is also needed on the day of the event – which is really a lot of fun. We are planning on two shifts, and volunteers are needed to transport our donations and volunteers to Plant City, set up and then assist each family as they select these basic necessities for their children. Sign-up sheets will be at the Social Justice table after service through December 16th or call Karen at 898-8038 to sign-up to help out. We are setting up carpools and snacks will be provided to all volunteers.

Spanish speakers are needed to work with each family during the actual distribution, which starts at 10:00am. The two shifts for these folks are – 10:00am to noon and noon to 2:00pm

English speakers should come earlier to help set-up. Their shifts will be 9:00 am to 11:30am and 11:30am to 2:00pm

There are many ways to support this incredible project – join us!

Clothing for Migrant Children

Farmworker Families will begin returning to our area in November. For the past several years this congregation has supported these families by donating gently used and new children's clothing. As your kids, grandkids or neighbor's children return to school and have no need for the clothes they have outgrown – please bring them to UU St Pete as they will be very appreciated by the children who live in these camps. They arrive here with only what they can wear or bring in a very small bag.

Please place your donated clothing in the bin by the Social Justice bulletin board in Gilmour Hall. Thank YOU! Please *only children's clothing* – as our partner organization, the National Farm Worker Ministry, has ample donations for the adults.

Our first trip to the camps will be on **Saturday, November 17th**. In preparation – we need to sort all of the donations that have come in since last spring – which we will be doing during the weeks of November 5th and the 12th. Stop by the Social Justice table after service to get more information about these activities and to sign-up to help out. Or email Karen at kcoale@tampabay.rr.com

Help Plan Outreach and Social Justice Actions – NEW TIME

Because of all of the activities going on within our ministry in November and December -- the Migrant/Immigrant Ministry will only meet once during the next two months. Our next meeting will be on Monday, December 3rd from 5:30pm to 7:00pm. Join us and help outreach, education and advocacy. We welcome your input.

MUSIC MINISTRY

GOTTA SING? Our UUSP ADULT CHOIR is a fun loving ensemble that explores music reading skills and healthy vocal production in addition to preparing anthems and songs for Sunday services. Whether you sang with us previously or only sing in the shower, choir here at UUSP is all about being in a beloved community. Just come on down to a Thursday evening rehearsal from 7:00 - 8:30 pm in the music room on the RE floor (2nd floor of Conway Hall). Please also know that the love keeps going after rehearsal as we “afterglow” at the Old NE Tavern a few minutes from church.

GOTTA RING? Our UUSP HANDBELL RINGERS rehearse on Thursdays from 6:15 - 7:00 pm in the music room on the RE floor (2nd floor of Conway Hall). Don't let the beauty of this ensemble's music fool you into thinking that playing bells is way too complicated for you. It's not...it's fun...and it's yet another ministry that allows us to share our lives together in community.

GOT KIDS? Our UUSP CHILDREN'S CHOIR rehearse on Sundays from 10:20 - 10:40 in the sanctuary. The children and youth sing 3 songs of their own and 2 intergenerational songs with the Adult Choir. Plus, they will be sheep, Santa's Reindeer, the Bethlehem Star and the father of Jesus in the December musical!

GOTTA GROW THIS CHURCH? Mark your calendars for Sunday, December 16 and bring your family, friends, and neighbors to our 6th musical play. “*Twas*,” written just for our church, scrambles the story of Jesus' birth from the book of Luke with C. Clement Moore's “*Twas The Night Before Christmas*” and Dicken's “*A Christmas Carol*.” This light hearted vehicle to present a UU message includes Mary, Joseph, Mama in her kerchief, Santa and his reindeer (including “Vixen”), Scrooge, Marley's Ghost, a flock of sheep (think youngest UUSPers), Tiny Tim, humble shepherds and the Three Wise Women. Sunday, December 16 will be all about our wonderful community coming together in this special place to experience a magical intergenerational experience during a Sunday morning service. Nine scenes of UU messages, 5 carols with liberalized lyrics and tons of schtick all add to the holiday fun as our special place hosts a service that you will want to bring your friends to.

Guest At Your Table

This year our annual Guest At Your Table giving project for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee will begin on **November 18**, along with Stone Soup Sunday in preparation for Thanksgiving.

By placing your GAYT box on the table where your family eats its meals, and contributing coins or bills into the box each meal, you are inviting an unseen guest to share with you. When you read from the booklet “Stories of Hope” you will learn who some of the unseen guests are, and how your giving helps to promote UU values which uphold the inherent dignity and worth of all people by strengthening workers' rights, the right to safe affordable drinking water, defending civil liberties, preserving the rights of marginalized groups in times of disaster and armed conflict. Keep this ritual throughout the holidays. The boxes will be collected on **January 6**.

UUSC membership begins at just \$40 a year for individuals, \$20 for seniors and \$10 for youths. Giving to GAYT contributes to the changes that the UUSC works to promote throughout the world. Contributions may also be made by using the envelope available in Gilmour Hall.

What A Change!!!!

Below are the “before” and “after” pictures of the Organic garden that Holly Smith has been devoting much time to these past months. Please go and see the garden and maybe even participate.



BEFORE



AFTER

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



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