

UUUCE Connections

Volume 20
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January 2016



**Singers, Musicians Dazzle
at Christmas Concert**

Message from **the Minister**

Our theme this January new year is “reverence.”

The year is counted as 2,016 years since the Gregorian calendar defined time according to the Western Christian empire. It is 1437 in the Islamic world. This year, appreciative interfaith dialogue was occasioned by the birthdays of Jesus and of Mohammed (peace be upon him) falling on the same day for some Muslims. In the Jewish calendar it is the year 5776. In China the year of the sheep/goat is just about to end. Buddhist calendars preserve regional religious differences as do our Hindu kin, who note our location in kali yuga, an age of entropy, the age before a rebirth of the cosmos. Stars continue to burn away, flourish and nova into new being. The earth’s turning tells us that longer days are returning; the season’s holy days invited us to take the fertile lessons of the darkness to heart.

I barely made it through the holiday season, so besotted and delighted was I at the birth of my first grandchild. But worshipping and sharing with you all immeasurably deepened the meanings of these days for me.

Our story on Christmas Eve, “A Shepherd” by Heywood Braun, spoke poetically of the shepherd who stayed behind. “One shepherd less at the manger will not matter,” Amos says, “I will abide in the fields.” He stays to witness the miracle of birth at home. And then our Choir sang to us the words of Howard Thurman, reminding us that when all the glory and fanfare has faded, the work begins. While turning our hearts toward the sacred everyday tasks, we recall the words this congregation created as its vision: to cultivate lives of meaning, reverence and depth. This raises some interesting questions: How embarrassing is it to seek for a spiritual life? Do Unitarian Universalists never attend the wonder party, but only labor in the fields? What is reverence gone astray, what is worthy of reverence, and where does it come from?

Perhaps in all the world-wide reckonings of time there is a Unitarian Universalist time as well: time to cultivate within and among ourselves lives of meaning and reverence and depth, the better to walk as a people of faith in the world.

January 3rd Theuary Reservoir of Trust In Unitarian Universalist Buddhism we don’t believe that there is a Being that manages the affairs of this world. We do believe that the world is always talking to its inhabitants and that if we listen we will know what to do in the situation before us. This teaching instills in us a reverence for silence, the art of listening and contemplation. Kimberly Wootan

January 10th What Reverence is Not Before we plunge in, we may dip in a philosophical toe and consider the contradictions. Dianne Watson will give her reflection on irreverence, and Rev. Sydney will misconduct the service.

January 17th A Science of Reverence We will explore the theological range in one UU claim that “Reverence is an organic human experience.” Rev. Sydney.

January 24th When Spiritual But Not Religious Is Not Enough How do we cultivate lives of reverence in community as well as within ourselves? Rev. Sydney.

January 31 Reverence for Life Searching for a universal concept of ethics appropriate to our time, Unitarian Albert Schweitzer articulated a concept which may only be useful in its specificity: whose life? Which life, and located where? Rev. Sydney

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Message from the Board President

The new year is already upon us! As the days grow longer, our church community is bustling right along. Small Group Ministries are picking up again in January, and this is the month to join a choir for those interested in singing through the spring. Adult Religious Education has several interesting offerings on the plate for the coming month which span the range from art to sexuality education to racial justice.

The Board is also excited about the momentum behind our first whole-church justice project which focuses on food. This project has been approved through the Earth Equity process, and is one result of our two and a half year Dreamcatchers conversations and reflects the assembled voice of the congregation.

The Annual Financial Appeal and the Capital Campaign dual initiative will launch in April. The report from the Financial Consultant has come in with an analysis that encourages us to proceed.

Kimberly Wootan continues to amaze us with insightful worship services and strengthening our pastoral care. It's hard to believe that Kimberly has already reached the halfway point of her internship at UUCE - time flies! Please remember to share your appreciation and thanks while Kimberly is still close at hand. Along these lines, more good news: the Board has approved funding for a 2016-17 Ministerial Intern.

Touchstone Tuesday Potlucks are as vigorous and interesting as ever; the Board sends many thanks to Lizzie Utterback and the many regular participants and facilitators. I see so many new faces at potluck, and also at worship service each Sunday. I try to speak to at least one new person each week, and I hope all members and friends among us will endeavor to do the same, each in their own way. These are exciting and changing times for our organization, and it's time to lean in and approach our work with armth and the spirit of service.

Sincerely,
Sarah France
UUCE Board President



UUCE Aspirations
As a people of faith,
grounded in our principles:
We cultivate lives of
meaning, reverence and depth
We create sanctuary
where all hands are held
Together we work toward
justice, healing and sustainability

UUCEWorship



Music Matters

The Chamber Singers presented *A Baroque Christmas* at their annual Christmas concert on Dec. 12th. The program featured Vivaldi's *Gloria RV589* and included Buxtehude's *cantata Das neugeborne Kindelein*, several Noels from Charpentier's *Noels pour les Instruments*, a lovely arrangement of a 16th c. carol for soprano and three strings, and a contemporary setting of *Veni Creator Spiritus*. Our featured soloists were Phoebe Gildea, Andrea Herrera, and Duana Welch. A chamber orchestra of strings, oboe, trumpet, recorders, and harpsichord accompanied the festive music. The concert raised \$1,321.

Thank you Susanne Giordano and Chamber Singers for your dedication and hard work. The standing ovation we received at the end is evidence that your efforts are appreciated!

January is "join-a-choir" month when new singers are welcomed into our choirs. If you enjoy singing with other wonderful people, consider joining one of our choirs. Prior musical training is a plus but is not required, though you must be able to match pitch and carry a tune. Each choir rehearses weekly and sings once a month for a Sunday service. In addition, each

UUCE choir will begin preparations for an upcoming special music event. The Sanctuary Choir will present *Missa Brevis Pro Serveto*, a 30-minute work with chamber orchestra for Music Sunday on April 17. The Women's Chalice Choir and the Chamber Singers will jointly present *A Tribute to Broadway*, a concert of Broadway favorites on April 21st. Rehearsals begin in January as follows:

- Monday, Jan. 4, 7:00-8:30 - Women's Chalice Choir
- Wednesday, Jan. 6, 5:15-6:45 - Chamber Singers
- Wednesday, Jan. 6, 7:00-9:00 - Sanctuary Choir

All voices are welcome. For vocal balance, the Women's Chalice Choir especially needs sopranos; the Chamber Singers have an opening for 1 bass; The Sanctuary Choir could use 1-2 more basses and tenors.

Please contact me for more information about UUCE's music program and how you can get involved.

In harmony,
Tom Sears
music@uueugene.org
(541) 686-2775, ext.4

UUCEWorship

Notes from Your Intern Minister



As the holidays wind down we hunker down (yes that is a term we use in New England) for the long snowy...oh wait, I'm in Eugene and it is raining! Yes, I am surviving the rain well and it is so nice when you come up to me and ask if I am ok. I have learned that you just get outside the first glimpse of sunlight and bam... sneakers on and out the door I go.

No, seriously...I am still so excited to be here and get to know you all and lead worship and meditation. I love all of the conversations we share about the weather and children both of which are so unpredictable. I love the deep sharing about your spiritual practices and the love for nature and your care for each other. It is a privilege and an honor to share in your lives.

Kimberly Wootan

UUCEWorship

Contemplative Practices January 2016
Chapel, 5:00-5:45 pm

Wow, another New Year is ahead of us, full of excitement and wonder, challenges and grief, diets and resolutions. But before we get too involved in “coulds and shoulds” we stop to live the moment. We have an exciting and very different agenda for our Contemplative Practices Program for January, as we will be utilizing a variety of Contemplative Arts to release our forward energy in favor of the present. Our journey starts on **January 4, 2016** as we use Visualization Meditation to see the infinite possibilities if we only ask. On **January 11** we come together and laugh as we enjoy a Laughing Meditation with the assistance of a very wonderful video.

Once we have awakened our childhood spirits will be free and ready for play. “Play is the exuberant expression of our being. It is at the heart of our creativity, our sexuality, and our most carefree moments of devotion. It helps us live with absurdity, paradox, and mystery. It feeds our joy and wonder. It keeps our search for meaning down to earth.” (Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat) Please join us on **January 18** as we explore Spiritual Play as a means to quiet our spirits and enlighten our hearts.

We are so grateful for the opportunity to share this New Year

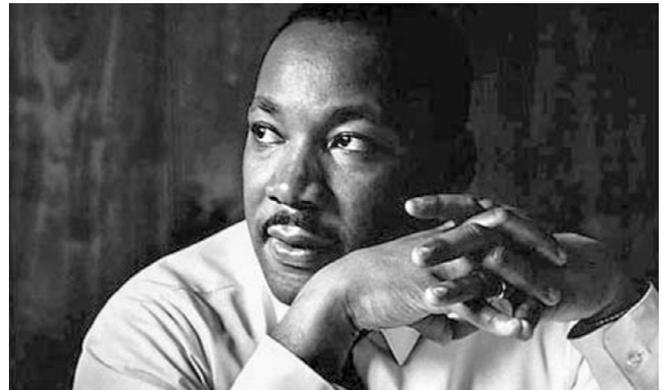
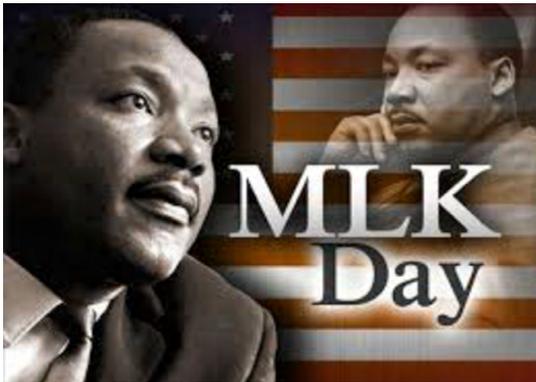
with you as we continue to express our freedom and opportunity together through contemplation and meditation. However for many of our brothers and sisters freedom and opportunity continue to be a dream as structural and economic barriers prevent them from visualizing and realizing their potential. On Wednesday, **January 20** we will get together for a special program to remind ourselves of the struggles faced by so many and celebrate the birthday of one of our world’s great heroes, Martin Luther King, Jr., as we sit and listen to his “I have a Dream” speech in its entirety.

We have a very exciting program planed for January and we will continue to provide weekly updates through the Sunday Order of Service. We hope that you all will continue to be a part of the program. As always, we would love to hear your input and have you participate as either as a participant or a guide. Email us at meditation@uueugene.org. Please have a most magnificent New Year.

Marcie Dorfman

541 972 6021

MarcieDee@comcast.net



UUCEConnecting

Religious Education

Dear UUCE,

The starwheel has turned, and a new year is upon us.

I love the image of the starwheel – a sort of vehicle for our change and renewal, an outer turning that echoes the turning within each of us, and an almost familial pull, the stars of the universe tugging on the stardust of which we are made and moving us toward the next season. These echoes from the macro to the micro and back out again are part of the wonder and the beauty of our living here on this earth. And the new year brings it's own set of cycles, forward motion, and change.

After nearly five years as your DRE, I see a pattern in the comings and going of the church cycles. The cycles of your lives play out in the life of the church as we move from busier seasons to lull times. I know it won't last long, but the quiet of the new year is a welcome change from the high energy of the holidays, and it invites us to ever-deepening gratitude and a quiet reflection on the year gone by.

This past year has held many new beginnings and exciting changes for me – my new-ish family has settled more comfortably into our love and care of one another. Our new house is feeling more and more like home. And the new year will bring it's own set of new adventures and new beginnings. I cannot wait to see what the year ahead holds for each of us.

As for the business end of things, Winter Term in RE will begin January 10 with a Family Worship Service in the Chapel (January 3 is a one-room school house day – all K-12 kids together in Room 6). This term, we are focused on World Religions, which is a rich and interesting, as well as fun, theme.

With the change of the term, we have a few new members of our teaching teams. See our teams below:

K-1: Melissa Robinson and Christine Santoro

2-3: Barb Dumesnil and Justine Enes

4-5: Jason Kimball and _____ (maybe you?)

Middle: Quincy Wise-Dorbolo and Liz Hart

High: Erik Troberg, Amber Alexander, Eric Swanson and Tom Phillips

Come to the Family Worship to meet your child's teachers, and please give them a high five or a hug, or a big cup of coffee, when you see them at church. They all deserve our gratitude for doing such a wonderful job of helping to care for our children's spiritual lives.

Also coming up in the new year, we have the Coming of Age program beginning mid-January. Youth in grades 8-10 are participating in this rites of passage program from now until June, and each youth will be paired with a UU mentor.

Thank you to all the adults who stepped forward to serve as a mentor to a youth in our church – this year is going to bring growth and learning to all of us! And a special thank you to



Mike Hoekstra who has agreed to co-facilitate the Tuesday meetings of the Coming of Age group with me! The first official happening in the program will be the Family Dinner – January 15, followed by a Mentor/Mentee Breakfast the morning of January 16. If you or your child are involved in the program, look for an informational email to arrive in your inbox soon!

That's it for now. See page 8 for information on upcoming Adult RE offerings. There's a lot going on here at UUCE, and I'm so glad we are here taking part together!

Happy New Year,
Katy

UUUCEConnecting

Coming up this season:

Ministry Gathering

Saturday, January 23rd

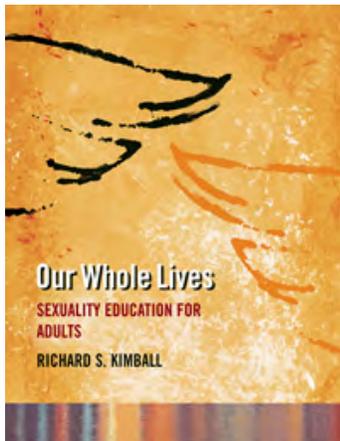
See weekly bulletin for details

We loosely group the work of the church in 5 Ministries, which since 2011 have provided a way to think of budgetary and programmatic tasks. Last church year the Ministries met in various configurations in the winter and spring, and this year again in the fall. The purpose was to facilitate relationships among folks doing similar work.

Let's gather again in January. This can be a time when anyone interested in getting involved plus those in ongoing endeavors as well as Board members, ministers and staff can share and explore. Each Ministry has already brainstormed ideas for a Covenant of Right Relations particular to it's focus, and the original big sheets of paper will help us take another step.



Fall Writing Class



Our Whole Lives: Sexuality Education for Adults of All Ages

Adult OWL begins this winter, taught by certified facilitators Nadja Sanders and Jon Miller. Come to the introductory session to find out more:

Monday, January 11, 7:00-9:00.

Register by **January 18, 2016.**

Classes begin **January 25, 2016!**

Our Whole Lives models caring, compassion, respect, and justice in all our relationships. OWL addresses topics typically excluded from sexuality education and health classes, including sexual expression, identity, orientation, and life issues for adults of all ages.

Join us to gain information, boost self-knowledge, enhance sexual safety, and strengthen social skills. Interactive, inclusive, welcoming.

Winter Class: Art as Spiritual Practice

Thursday evenings, beginning Feb 3, 6-8 pm

A new five-session class, Art as Spiritual Practice, will be offered weekly. This class will use a variety of approaches to imagery and manual markings that will help us access and understand depth and spiritual meaning within ourselves. It will be presented by the team who brought you the fall Writing as Spiritual Practice class: Melody Carr, Sherri McCutchen, Maren Peterson-DeGroff, and Bonnie Phipps. We won't be giving drawing lessons, or teaching perspective. Our approach to art in this class will be more akin to understanding our dreams. Art can be meditative and revealing and integrates the head, heart and hand. If this exploration appeals to you, you may sign up for the class after church on Sundays in January, starting January 10, or email Bonnie Phipps by January 31 at: bbhipps@comcast.net. Maximum enrollment is 20.

January Poetry Give-Away

Each month this year, the UU Poetry Groups are giving away a poem to anyone interested. Poems are in a folder in the hallway across from the art gallery, bottom row. There will be one folder geared more toward adults, and one aimed for children or young adults. Feel free to take a copy, and if you find the folder empty, contact Bonnie Phipps and we will get it filled for the next week. (Please take only one copy.) January features "Distilled Tears" by Cynthus Scanlon for adults and "Seasons" by Maren Peterson-DeGroff for children and young adults.

Artist Statement from Diane Sandall

Making things has been bread and wine for my heart and soul since I could first grip a tool. There is nothing so nourishing as taking any sort of material and turning it into an extension of my imagination. I have turned my hand to so many media, from knitting and sewing to ceramics and blacksmithing, though drawing has always been a constant.

My affection for printmaking began early when my mother showed me how to carve our Christmas cards from linoleum blocks. She didn't mind me using up the box of band aids at first, I was only six or seven, after all. I eventually laid this form of artwork aside for many years but returned to it when I sought an art form which would allow me to tell the stories I saw around me. I love how process driven it is, each step has its own set of skills which usually require patience and a flair for the intricate. They allow me to combine my love of drawing and of carving. I can tell all the stories I want. Often I think the images illustrate imaginary tales and sometimes I caption them as if they are excerpts from a book. I think of them as plates lifted from a thick, dusty, old story book.

Each of the prints displayed here is individually made by hand. I start by drawing the images out on paper, then transfer the picture in reverse form to a wood or linoleum block. Often multiple blocks are required to layer all the different colors. Then I carefully carve out the images with the sharpest of tools. When I am finished with the carving I begin printing on beautiful archival papers. It is not a quick process, but thoroughly satisfying. There is no digital manipulation or reproducing here. Most of my images are printed in limited editions, meaning that I will limit the number of prints to a fixed number, usually no more than 25, often fewer. That block is then set aside and is no longer printed. I am very fond of finishing the prints with careful matting and framing. I do all my own matting and framing, using archival quality mat board so the colors in each print will be sure to stay as crisp and fresh as when they were first printed.

Thank you for taking time to view my work and I hope you enjoy it!



Call For Submissions From Youth

Do you know people 17 and younger who enjoy making art? Our 2nd annual National Youth Art Month Show will happen in March at our UUCE Community Art Gallery. It's not too soon to save art for this show. We can help get work ready to hang if needed. Your support is appreciated. Contact person is Scott Hovis at scotthovisfineart@gmail.com or 541-731-3412 (His contact info is always posted at the gallery.)

UUCE Outreach

New Justice Committee Organizes

In this new year, how's your tolerance for corporate CEOs getting over one billion (B) dollars in one year? How's your tolerance for the legalization of sheer volume of money, to over-ride the democratic political process and opportunities for all? Want to lift a hand and heart for the possible turn-around of economic and political inequities in this country? A UUCE committee, Touch Justice, with specific focus on justice issues will be formed this new year.

Mission

To evoke equity in political, economic, legal, and human rights arenas.

Goals

- 1) To overturn 'rights-as-people,' for corporations and money.
- 2) To reestablish the right to lawful presentation in the judicial system.
- 3) To erode the growing discrepancies among individuals, small businesses and large corporations in opportunities to obtain financial wealth.
- 4) To erode the growing discrepancies between opportunities for and handicaps to available health care.
- 5) To claim all natural resources, both below and above ground, as 'commons property' of all citizens.

Objective

To prompt an amendment to the US Constitution via 2/3 of states convening a US Constitutional convention, (per Article V of the US Constitution) so to constitute that corporations do not have the constitutional/legal rights of human beings, and the use of money does not have the constitutional/legal rights of speech.

Hop on the soul train to Justice Junction, and continue the work already started (a new Measure for states to add an amendment to the US Constitution to over-turn 'rights-as-people' for corporations and money, has already been submitted for legal review).

Come to a Touch Justice meeting on **Sunday, February 7, 11:30am-12:30pm** at the church, room 2; we'll create a new working committee for justice, and erode the inequities already existing in our society.

Have questions? Contact Diane Conrad mydiane@q.com 541 942 6113.

Refugee Crisis

Meet with those of us interested in addressing the refugee crisis. Join us if you want to work on combating bigotry and helping refugees. **Sunday, January 3 at 11:15** in Room 1. Contact: Connie Newman: connewm@gmail.com.



Earth EqUUity Eugene

Our churchwide social and environmental justice project will be launching its first initiative in January 2016! The group will be exploring the relationships between food, the environment, and social justice over the next six months. Diverse activities and learning opportunities will be fun, inclusive, and meaningful. There will be individual as well as large group activities, and they'll include aspects that are personal, within our congregation/building, and in the larger community. Over the six month period, participants can do one small thing or many small and large things depending upon one's own choice. Our premise is that small and large actions joined by many can have a positive impact toward social and environmental justice.

Justine Enes

VIOLENCE WITH GUNS

A forum with honored panelists
Oregon State Senator Floyd Prozanski
County Commissioner Pete Sorenson
Eugene Mayor Kitty Piercy
Rabbi Jonathan Seidel

=====

This forum will touch the tragedies we have been subject to from violence with guns, and will unfold the struggles we endure as a community to address the human pain and dilemma in governance for possible solutions.

Rabbi Jonathan Seidel will speak of the human and spiritual elements in violence and share his experiences ministering to people after the Roseburg Umpqua Community College shootings.

Mayor Kitty Piercy will speak of the city's experience of living with actual and potential violence with guns, and the task of balancing a family-friendly, liberal, and safe community.

Commissioner Pete Sorenson will speak of the county's experience of violence with guns and the limited resources available to make the environment safe for all Lane County residents.

Senator Floyd Prozanski will tell of the wider issue of governance in setting legal standards for a safe state, and share his political experience of attempted recall from office.

The forum will not be a debate on gun ownership.

Sponsor: Occupy Interfaith Eugene/Springfield
Contact: Diane Conrad mydiane@q.com 541 942 6113

When: January 28 Thursday 7-9PM.

Where: Unitarian Universalist Church,
1685 West 13th Ave, Eugene (corner Chambers).

UUUCE Outreach

Food Rescue Night

Thursday January 28th 6:30-8:30
770 Bailey Hill Rd.

UUUCE has made a commitment for at least 6 volunteers for our monthly evening at FFLC. We meet to repackage food donated for those in our community who are experiencing food insecurity. Wear a hat or ponytail and closed-toe shoes. Volunteers must be 14 or older or 12 years old accompanied by an adult. Contact person is Berry Broadbent, Service in Action, 541-344-9037 or berrybroadbent@gmail.com.



January Community Offering

The Syrian refugee situation has been called the most serious humanitarian crisis since World War II. It has engulfed millions of people, more than half of them children. They are in urgent need of food, shelter, medicine, legal counseling and transit assistance.

Working hard to help is the Boston-based Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, the January 17 recipient of our community offering.

“Our response to the Syrian refugee crisis is comprehensive,” says Pamela Sparr, UUSC’s associate director for justice-building. “Our grantees can use all the support we can give them and money is desperately needed.” To learn more about UUSC’s efforts, go to: <http://www.uusc.org/location/syria>

In December, we raised \$889 for Mujeres Luchadores Progresistas.

Many thanks!
Valerie Elliott



Thank you!!

A big thank you to everyone who donated food items for the St. Vincent de Paul’s holiday food boxes. We also filled the Food for Lane County barrel. We are indeed a generous community.

Green Resolutions

These resolutions have been recommended by the Green Bible:

1. Never buy bottled water. You could save \$140 a year.
2. Brew your Fair Trade coffee; carry your own coffee in an insulated mug.
3. Remember your own reusable bags. This is one of the easiest ways to reduce your carbon footprint.
4. Cut down on use of paper towels and napkins. Instead buy a few cotton cloths and fabric napkins. Give each family member a different design napkin holder for Christmas. Help eliminate 3,000 tons of paper towels that end up in landfills EVERY day.
5. Order from farmers who participate in CSA (Community Supported Agriculture). Share a box with a friend or neighbor. Shop at Farmers' Markets.
6. Become a week-end vegetarian (or any other days of the week). Cutting meat out of your diet decreases your carbon foot print by 1/3 of a ton.
7. Eliminate phantom power. Unplug chargers. Invest in chargers that stop drawing current when devices are full. Put TV, DVD player game systems on a timer so they automatically shut off overnight. (This could cut energy bill by 10%/ year.)
8. Switch to Green Power. Call you local energy company and see if they have affordable options for solar panels or a tankless water heater. Install a timer on your water heater so that water is heated only during the hours it is needed.
9. Replace your light bulbs with LED bulbs. Visit your hardware store for wattage, tones and colors.

UUCE Stewardship

FFS Results and Stewardship Update

Save the Date: April 10, 2016

The Financial Feasibility Survey (FFS), was completed in early November, and a report received just before Christmas. UU Stewardship Consultant Bill Clontz reports that UUCE is ready to proceed with a capital campaign. The campaign goal will be set soon, after the campaign team has had a chance to digest the report.

Here is some information about the process used and how to find out more about the report:

Bill interviewed 34 UUCE households (48 individuals), or about 15% of our membership, as part of his process to make recommendations about pursuing a capital campaign.

The participant pool was selected to represent the range of UUCE membership, including long-term and short-term members, older and younger people, higher and lower annual pledging level households, active and not-so-active members, RE parents, so-called “single focus” members, and presumed differing levels of support about a prospective campaign.

Questions used by the consultant were designed to be familiar to people who have given thought to or are thinking about the prospect of a capital campaign at UUCE. (See the end of this article for a list of questions.) Using an outside consultant increased opportunities for participants to answer questions candidly.

An Executive Summary is available to anyone who would like to read it, as is the full 31-page report. Please talk with Kay Crider, Dave DeCou, or Judy Shaw for more information.

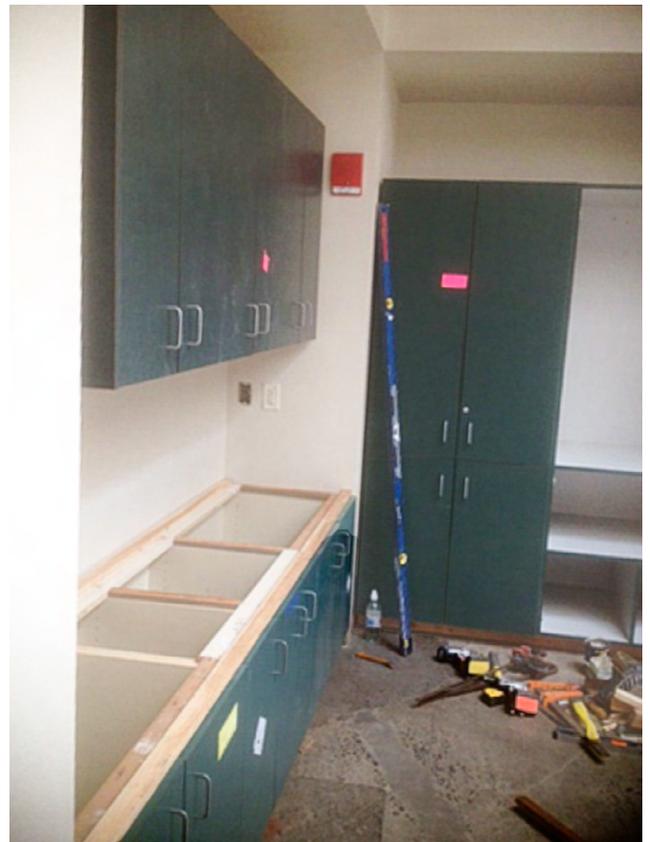
Most important, though, is that the report will help to shape how we will proceed with a campaign to increase our focus on our mission by paying down the mortgage. A kick-off date for both our annual financial appeal and the capital campaign is scheduled for Sunday, April 10. Please put it on your brand-new 2016 calendar today!

The report provides a lot of information, but we sincerely hope, not too much! Bill concluded his work with these words: “This is YOUR Congregation. No one else is going to step up if you don’t. A successful capital campaign comes about when everyone feels the sense of opportunity and commitment to move forward. A number of large donors need to step forward to provide a high enough baseline to make success possible. But then everyone else must step forward to do their part as well. A campaign that relies only on a few large donors or only on smaller donations is unlikely to succeed. It takes everyone doing their part, together. When that happens, not only is the project a success, but the Congregation finds itself energized, motivated, and more of a community than ever before. This is the path I hope and expect you will choose.”

How Do YOU Answer These Questions?

You are invited to answer the following questions yourself and to seek out information that will help you to do so. To learn how our FFS pool answered, please check out the FFS Report, or talk with Dave, Judy or Kay. In February we will provide more formal opportunities to present some of the options available to us as a congregation.

- What is the level of awareness among the membership of the financial profile of UUCE and what burdens and opportunities exist going forward?
- How satisfied are the members with the decision to relocate and with the facilities as they now stand?
- What questions or concerns do people have about a potential campaign?
- Do people believe that such a campaign should be a high priority for UUCE at this time, and if not, what do they think does deserve attention?
- What is a feasible financial goal to be raised over a three-year period?
- How is UUCE doing overall? How do members and pledging friends feel about the state of UUCE and its future?



UUCE Stewardship

Treasurer Tidbits



Money

After Sunday services, as part of our welcoming we provide coffee and tea. Since July 1 of this year we have spent \$272.06 for this service. This is just one of the small items that we provide to ourselves through our church budget. This is a small but important part of our annual budget. throughout the year I will provide other interesting facts.

Pledging

Pledging is the system which churches use to fund the majority of their budget. Our pledges and gifts coming from both our members and friends make up about 80% of our budgeted income for the year. Please keep us informed if you are having difficulties meeting your pledge; we all go through difficult times. This will help our planning.

Stock Donations

For those of you paying your pledges in the form of stock please inform the Treasurer of your donation so that we can keep your donation records accurate and provide you with the necessary paperwork to deduct those donations from your taxes. If you wish to donate stock and do not know how just contact the Treasurer for information.

Your Treasurer: Dave DeCou
treasurer@uueugene.org



UUCEAdMinistry

Our office staff team has been coming together this fall, and even just last month has consolidated some of their collaborative efforts on behalf of the smooth functioning of our church. **Wayne Parker** comes to us from the business world and though he is only asked to be our Business Manager 1/3 time, has been contributing far more. **Phoebe Gildea**, our Office Assistant at 15 hours a week, has taken on Rentals and received training in Calendaring by Maren Peterson-DeGroff (appreciations follow)! **Dorna Baumann** is our Bookkeeper and with our Treasurer Dave DeCou keeps the financial systems up to snuff. **Kevin Cronin** assists Dorna and provides data entry and data reporting.

Our UUCE guidelines empower us in ethical treatment of our staff through (1) clear communication of pay and benefits as set at the Annual Congregational Meeting as well as job description and scope; (2) clear lines of authority, supervision and evaluation [i.e., staff do not have 300 bosses!]; (3) a positive work environment; and (4) the provision of sufficient tools and resources in order to succeed at their jobs. The Personnel Manual given to staff includes these guidelines, and the congregation has been doing a good job living into them.

We are grateful for the sincere and goodwilled appreciation the staff has for the work of the church, and their individual talents, senses of humor and cooperative spirit. What a team!



Dorna Baumann, Phoebe Gildea, and Kevin Cronin



Every week, program staff meet to coordinate their work in the Ministries at UUCE: Director of Religious Education Katy Siefert, Music Director Tom Sears, Business Manager Wayne Parker, Ministerial Intern Kimberley Wootan, and Rev. Sydney Morris.

UUCEAdMinistry



Calendaring Staff Change

We would like to recognize the contributions of Maren Peterson-DeGroff, who has been managing the church online calendar (think: every meeting, every event, every change in those gatherings held at or via the church) for the last two years or so. Among other innovations, she developed the orderly and streamlined method of submitting items for the calendar. The calendar duties are being managed by the office now. Maren is looking to move to other areas of service to the church now, and we wish her well. Maren, thank you.

UUCE Safety Team Forming

A protection of one's community is a spiritual practice. Can you be a greeter/information provider/gate keeper or occasional kind-but-firm bouncer? We are looking for safety team guardians who can make decisions on their own within the framework of our UU Principles and Values. The Safety Team, with its rotating team of guardian volunteers, is sponsored by the UUCE Emergency Response Committee.

For more information, contact Susanne Giordano, 541-517-7234 or susangio@comcast.net.

Call For Reporters

You have probably noticed that a lot is going on here at UUCE, and with Earth Equity Eugene ramping up, get ready for a lot more. If you would like to share your activities and accomplishments with your community, please put on your reporter/photographer hats for your group and submit your articles and photos to the newsletter. We want to know what you're up to! Send to publications@uueugene.org or contact newsletter editor Bonnie Koenig at 480-532-6001.

New Members

Membership Book is available for signing at 9:00am in the Minister's Office every 4th Sunday. The next date is January 24, 2016. Growth in numbers isn't everything, however, and "signing the book" is not the end of the membership process. We've seen these new members connect more quickly and easily at church, becoming engaged within our walls and in the wider community. They understand what it means to be a member of a community. And many find their first service opportunity as a greeter, offering a friendly face for other newcomers. Erin Troberg, memb-chair@uueugene.org 541-344-8259

In Memoriam 2015



Lynn Jackson

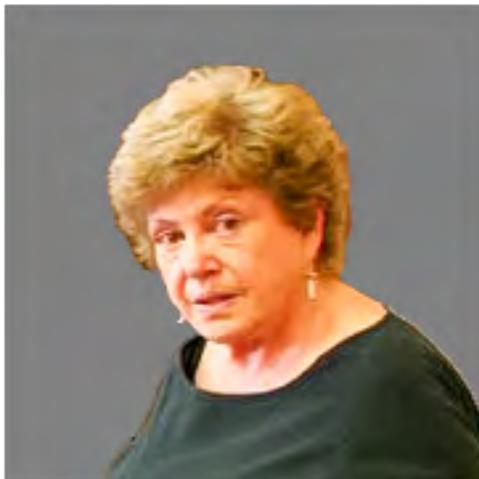
With gratitude for the gift of these wild and precious lives.



The Rev. Carl Nelson (1915)



Ruth B. Nelson: (1926)



Laurie Quies



Clifford Donald (Don) Fisher (1918)
Margaret Laurel Fisher (1926)

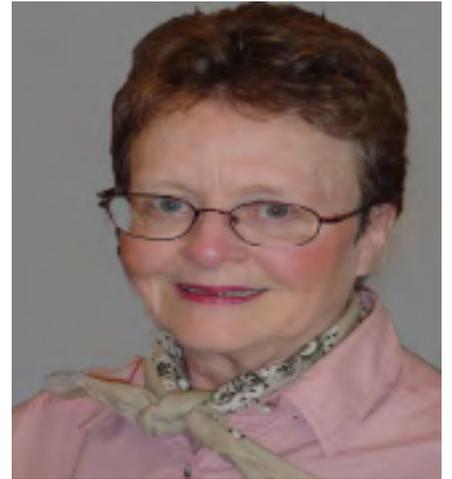
Alice Ruth (Ruthie) Castell Manley (1929)

In Memoriam 2015

With gratitude for the gift of these wild and precious lives.



Myles Knebel



Ruth Ross



Truman Wiles



Betty Blu
Marilyn Murdock
Royal Murdock
Dirk Ten Brinke
Mavis Thomas
Ray Wolfe