

SOUNDS OF THE SEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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BY THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI,
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NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI
JANUARY 4, 2006 VOLUME 101, NO 124

*Building a welcoming and affirming religious community
To Liberate and Cultivate the Human Spirit*

SUNDAYS 10 AM TRADITIONAL SERVICE 11:30 AM CONTEMPORARY SERVICE
CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND NURSERY

SUNDAY, JANUARY 7 REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON
ONE SERVICE ONLY AT 10:00 AM
WITH FIRST SUNDAY LUNCH AT 11:30 AM

SUNDAY, JANUARY 14 REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 21 REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON

SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON

DON'T FORGET THESE EVENTS:

FRIDAY, JANUARY 5 POPCORN THEOLOGY AT 7:00 PM
MONDAY, JANUARY 15 WOMEN'S GROUP 7:00 PM (SEE ARTICLE)
SATURDAY, JANUARY 20 CIRCLE 6 SUPPERS (SEE ARTICLE)

SATURDAYS THROUGHOUT THE YEAR TIMON'S MINISTRY VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
(SEE ARTICLE)

IN THE INTERIM

GREETINGS,

We begin the new year with people in our congregation identifying ministries to which they are called. As a result we hope to soon have in place a Lay Ministry and a Caring Ministry. As these are easily confused let me explain the difference.

Pastoral ministry is mainly identified with professional ministry. It entails working with people who are struggling with life's travails, impending death, major illness, wayward children and aging parents, to name but a few. The objective of pastoral ministry is NOT to intervene in the situation, to try and "fix" it. Rather is to help the person understand, particularly at the spiritual level, what is happening and to accept it. The training for such work is focused on empathic listening and understanding what is being verbalized and, often, what is not. When this work is done by lay persons in association with the professional ministry it is called Lay Ministry.

A Caring Ministry, by contrast, does involve intervention. Taking covered dish suppers to people returning from hospital or who have lost a loved one is the most common example. Here the purpose is not to accept a certain reality as much as to accommodate it.

Being mindful that people are typically cautious around "volunteering" and fearing a ministry, like so many Committees can become a life sentence, I am asking people to enter into covenant with me, as the professional minister. Specifically, I'm asking them to be really honest about how much time they have to devote to this work and then to contract with them to do that but no more! I will never ask them to do more than they have agreed to and I will also share responsibility for enforcing the covenant with them some folks having difficulty saying "No" and not providing service for which they feel responsible. Both ministries would benefit from a couple of more people and I'm hopeful that the covenanting idea will be sufficiently attractive that folks will be willing to give it a try.

We'll see!

Best wishes for health, peace and prosperity in the New Year.

BLESSINGS, DAVE

JANUARY BIRTHDAYS



JANUARY 1
JANUARY 2
JANUARY 7
JANUARY 10
JANUARY 13
JANUARY 15
JANUARY 17
JANUARY 23
JANUARY 27
JANUARY 30

JIM FUGATE
FLORENCE SAMPSON
BOB MURRY
HAZEL CHENEY
MILTON CLASEN
CLIFTON ELLZEY
ISABELLA RUIZ
LAURA HEIL
SYLVIA SAMANIEGO
WILLIAM LLOYD-REILLEY

JANUARY ANNIVERSARIES

JANUARY 1
JANUARY 24

GAIL GOO AND JIM FUGATE
JUDY AND CARROLL PATE

GUEST-AT-YOUR-TABLE INGATHERING

Hopefully, people who picked up boxes in November are remembering to remember the needy and "feeding" their Guest-at-Your-Table boxes on a regular basis. Sunday, January 28, we will be collecting the donations. If at all possible, please convert your collected change to a check before bringing it in!

LOST AND FOUND BOX

A "lost and found" box is located in the kitchen, and it is beginning to overflow. If you have misplaced a jacket, some eyeglasses, an umbrella, or various other items, please check the box and retrieve your item

STUDY GROUP

If you attended Rabbi Lerner's lecture last year on peace between the Israelis and Palestinians and the invasion of America by the Religious Right, you may want to join us for a study group of his book, "The Left Hand of God - Taking Back Our Country From The Religious Right." For more information, contact either TOM BOOKOUT BY EMAIL AT TBOOKOUT@STX.RR.COM OR 658-6060, AND ALSO AGNES MAIER BY EMAIL AT ROHEMA@JUNO.COM OR 949-2810.

YOGA CLASSES

Yoga Classes will begin at our Church on Wednesday, January 10, 2007. Classes will be ongoing Monday, Wednesday and Saturday at 9:00 am and Wednesday evenings at 6:00 pm. All classes are 90 minutes and will cost \$35 for 4 classes during the month or 8 classes during the month for \$62. You and a partner can sign up together for the 8 classes monthly as well. Instructor EVY COPPOLA, is an experienced registered yoga teacher, with training in several yoga styles. She is a Holistic Health Counselor, Nutritionist and owner/facilitator at Pathways To Wellness Yoga & Natural Health Center. JOIN EVY for this great opportunity to start out the New Year in a healthy direction with a holistic approach to Yoga. EVY is a registered teacher through the Yoga Alliance (see WWW.YOGAALLIANCE.ORG) is a highly qualified individual. All level students from beginners to advanced will benefit from her teaching style incorporating yoga flow, solar yoga, psycho-physicals, asanas, yoga breathing techniques, guided relaxation, balancing and focus, strength building and more. Call EVY at 361-949- 4790 or 361-880-6555 to register and also check out her website WWW.PATH2WELLNESS.COM

TIMONS MINISTRY AND VOLUNTEER HELP

Our church needs new blood to help prepare lunch at Timons Ministry on Saturdays throughout the year. If you are interested in volunteering, please contact **COLIN SYKES AT 853-7992**. You will be invited to visit while a UU team is cooking. Please come out about 11:00 a.m. and see the team getting ready to serve fifty or more at 11:30. Then join the clients for lunch--if we cooked it, you're sure to enjoy it! Then, if you feel it's a worthwhile volunteer experience, Colin can fill you in on becoming a food handler or a food manager. Timons Ministry is in Flour Bluff at 10501 S. Padre Island Drive next to the Pizza Hut.

POPCORN THEOLOGY PRESENTS "THE SECRET" ON FRIDAY, JANUARY 5, 7:00 PM AT OUR UU CHURCH.



An incredibly important feature length film mixing narrative stories and documentary interviews with renowned spiritual leaders, this film gives away the most powerful secret of the ages: The Law of Attraction. Every leader, successful artist, famous scholar and renowned politician has known The Secret. Now you will know it, too. You will be moved, motivated and glad that you saw this film, because you will want to watch it over and over again! Written and directed by Rhonda Byrne. - 75 minutes, in English - Rated "G"

RECONNECTIONS: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Happy New UU Year!

As one must expect at the end of the Christmas season, there are lots of thanks in order!

First, we give thanks to all who donated to our seniors-in-need project. In the media, it was mistakenly claimed that our kids collected money from the congregation and bought the gifts themselves, whereas they actually just wrapped the gifts that generous congregation members and friends brought in. No matter! We collected several nice gifts each for about twenty seniors, and \$260.00 worth of HEB cards for several more. Local media caught our kids helping to load the truck at City Hall before it went out to deliver the lovingly wrapped gifts.

A big generous thanks to all the people who contributed to our Winter solstice celebration and also the Christmas Eve play. From the participants in the Cosmic Walk ritual, to the cast of "The Best Christmas pageant ever," to everyone who brought food, THANKS To YOU!

This coming Sunday, January 7, regular religious education classes will resume. And don't forget, starting on this day there will be one service only, at 10:00 a.m., on the first Sunday of each month with a First Sunday Lunch at 11:30.

CHURCH PALS NEWS:

If you haven't written your church pal in a while, please do so! Don't worry if it's not your "turn"; it's better to give than to receive! Our Valentine's holiday revelation party is next month, February 11, between services. Please clear your schedules!

GUEST-AT-YOUR-TABLE-INGATHERING:

Hopefully, people who picked up boxes in November are remembering the needy and are "feeding" their Guest-at-Your-Table boxes on a regular basis. Sunday, January 28, we will be collecting the donations. If at all possible, please convert your collected change to a check before bringing it in!

MLK MARCH:

Every year, our religious education children and youth march on MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. DAY. Look for information about when and where!

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

HAPPY NEW YEAR, FRIENDS!

What an exciting year we have to look forward to, enjoying the benefits of having REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON and the excitement of selecting a new minister. I am eager to see what happens next.

By popular demand from people attending both services, we are going to have a single service on the first Sunday of the month at 10:00 am followed by the first Sunday lunch at 11:30. It will be a great opportunity to connect the people from the contemporary and the traditional services.

There was a change in the musical structure of the contemporary service. The Board has been debating what to do about two things, limited income and a troubling inequity. The inequity was that the person who was actually in charge of the music in the contemporary service was not getting paid fairly and therefore some change needed to be made in light of the limited funds available. So, the Board decided to go with a volunteer singer in the contemporary service and let our excellent paid singer go, shifting some more income to the person who was actually doing the work of organizing the second service CAMDEN, our pianist. I believe this has righted a situation that has lead to trouble and although slow in coming, the structure and the distribution of funds may be more realistic. I never look forward to letting anyone go, particularly someone as wonderful as MONICA, but this needed to be done.

Fortunately, we have an excellent volunteer singer for two sundays a month, who is reputed to have a sultry voice along the line of PATSY CLINE. Maybe you should come to the contemporary service on January 14 and see whom it is.

Speaking of music, have you ever wondered how church presidents and full-time psychotherapists keep from having breakdowns?? You've guessed it, maybe, singing in the choir. Every week that we have the choir I look forward to laughing, having community, and losing myself in the job of singing together. You too could have this wonderful relief and fun. You don't need previous training, just a love of music and a willing heart. The ability to read music is not necessary. Our excellent and entertaining director, DR. KIM BISSELL will lead you to be your very best with a good humor and knowledge. Join us for practice on Thursday nights by contacting DR. KIM BISSELL at KIMBISSELL@YAHOO.COM or in person at church for choir schedules.

Be sure to check the calendar for fun events coming up such as Circle 6 Suppers.

WARMEST WISHES, PAT HUDSON

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING ON JANUARY 15

Join the Women's Group for fellowship on January 15, 7:00 pm at MARION GHOLSTONS' LOCATED AT 4600 OCEAN DRIVE, in the game room on the ground floor. PLEASE RSVP TO MARION AT 854-0331, so she knows how many place settings and tables will be needed. Our meetings are a shared Pot Luck Dinner, which gives you a chance to share your culinary skills. This group welcomes Women of all ages. Hope to see you there.

CIRCLE 6 SUPPER INFORMATION

Our next CIRCLE 6 SUPPER will be SATURDAY, JANUARY 20, AT 6:30 PM. This is a time to gather in small-group settings for dinner and conversation. If you would like to attend or host a dinner, you may sign up at the church or call NANCY CARLTON AT 884-7077 OR EVELYN BOOKOUT AT 887-7514. We particularly encourage our new members/friends to attend. This is a great opportunity to get to know each other better.

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your search committee has made substantial progress on our path to finding a new minister. Our announcement of our search to the UUA (with the details of our Congregational Record that you have heard about) has resulted in our receiving expressions of interest from four prospects. Copies of our information packet have been sent to four candidates and we have received information packets back from the four. Telephone interviews have been conducted with two, and two more are expected shortly.

Arrangements have been made for one weekend of face-to-face meetings with the first prospect, including a sermon at a neutral pulpit somewhere in Texas. Sorry, folks, we can't say much more. We expect to schedule another prospect soon and one more within a couple of weeks. The "neutral pulpit" is a way for the search committee to hear and see a prospect in action without breaching confidentiality. Our prospect will be just another guest speaker to the hosting congregation. We'll also be guests, trying to be unobtrusive. Typically, only one or two folks at that church know how the initial contact was made to arrange the guest minister. This effort toward confidentiality is important for two reasons: The prospect's own church may not know the minister is looking elsewhere, and if a prospect is not our final candidate, they may not want to advertise not being chosen, whether they change employment or not.

— HATCHER CHALKLEY