



SOUNDS OF THE SEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI
APRIL 12, 2007

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*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, APRIL 15 REVEREND FARRINGTON

**SUNDAY, APRIL 15, 1:00 PM
RE HAPPENINGS: LET'S GO FLY A KITE AT COLE PARK**

SUNDAY, APRIL 22 REVEREND FARRINGTON

**SATURDAY, APRIL 28, 7:30 PM "SOME ENCHANTED EVENING"
CHOIR AND BAND FUND-RAISER**

SUNDAY, APRIL 29 REVEREND FARRINGTON

**SUNDAY, APRIL 29 RE HAPPENINGS: MAY DAY POT LUCK PICNIC
AFTER SECOND SERVICE**

IN THE INTERIM

GREETINGS,

Once again UUCCC has proven that when the going gets tough, the tough get going. Unless one has had the experience, I really doubt most can truly appreciate what members of a Search Committee endure.

The preparation, the meetings are obvious. But they are a divergent group, assembled in part for just that reason. They are not picked to agree as much as to represent their interests and views, while engaging in creative conflict to try and meld their diversity into a consensus.

But for all of that, they control only themselves. They rely upon the input of the congregation and the guidelines of the UUA and UUMA (Ministers' Association) which typically adds to – rather than mitigates -- their angst. Additionally, they have no control over the way potential candidates will view Corpus Christi or what other opportunities and offerings are out for there for candidates to choose between or among.

When all has been done and said, the Committee's fate rests with the candidates and their spouses and Committee members enjoy precious little input or control beyond offering the pulpit and hoping or praying it is accepted by the candidate and the candidate by the people. Should a candidate accept the invitation to "try out," there is no guarantee that she or he will like the church or the church them. All in all, a ministerial search can be a thankless task requiring tireless commitment and innumerable risks.

The congregation, for its part, gives the input early and then endures the confidentiality and secrecy required of the Committee. It dedicates precious thousands of dollars to the effort, with no guarantee of desirable results and with no say as to how the money is spent.

When things go well, all are happy, of course. But when they do not produce desired results, there can be a lot of Monday morning quarter backing; challenges to the integrity of the process and, at times, even the people who have labored so diligently. In the extreme the congregation can split into factions and take years to heal if, indeed, healing is even possible.

What a joy, then, to minister to a church where the Committee gives its best effort and in the end has the courage to say that the effort did not produce the desired results, and there will be no candidate for a settled ministry this year. What a joy to minister to a congregation that has the grace to say "thank you for a good job well done."

I heard of the decision the morning I was to meet with the Director of Transitions (ministerial settlement) at UUA headquarters in Boston. John Weston emphasized the importance of re-enforcing with you the idea that the only failed ministerial search is the one that brings in the wrong minister. So, let us congratulate the Search Committee and our Congregation for a successful search. I hope both will enlist my input and that of others from the "outside" in reviewing the process and results while avoiding self-recrimination, guilt or blame.

In sticking to your standards and laboring long hours you succeeded in your mission. If UUCCC is not competitive, then our mission is clear. If it is competitive, then we will be introspective and adapt. For my part I am honored that you have asked me to be a part of this process next year and I close hoping that I prove worthy of your trust.

BLESSINGS, DAVE

RECONNECTIONS: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

RE-VISIONS:

Religious education is a primary engine for growth in our association today.

~REVEREND WILLIAM SINKFORD, UUA President, 2001

THE PAST RE EVENTS

EASTER PHILANTHROPY:

Thanks to everyone in the church who brought in donations to make Easter baskets for needy senior citizens. There were enough donations to make 29 baskets, each containing food, toiletries, stationery, and other gifts. Look for photos on the bulletin board in the sanctuary!

RE KIDS SHARE THEIR WISDOM:

On April 1, "April Fools Day," religious education kids presented a short play entitled "How the World got Wisdom." Thanks to the following participants, BRITTANY DAVIS, CASEY DATH, ZULI DATH, MARY PHILIPS, AND LILY PHILIPS for their excellent work. Also, thanks to the parents, without whose help it wouldn't have had happened.

TRICKY TREATS:

In the spirit of April foolishness, RE kids supplied some tricky desserts for our first-Sunday lunch: Rice Krispies Sushi Treat, Dirt and Worms Pudding, and leftover wisdom.

THE FUTURE:

APRIL 15: Kite flying at Cole Park, 1:00 pm. Don't miss it!

APRIL 29: May Day celebration/pot luck picnic after second service. Games for the kids!

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS,

By now most of you know that our hard-working Search Committee was not able to secure a new pastor for the fall. We are very grateful for their efforts and we want to thank them for the great sacrifice they made to look for a new pastor for us. After all, the worst outcome is not finding a pastor but getting one that would not work for our congregation. We appreciate their carefulness and wisdom.

But the good news is that we will get to have our Interim Pastor David Farrington with us for another year. We have enjoyed his term with us and are pleased that he will be around to continue the improvements he has made and create new ones in the year ahead. We were very fortunate that the Interim Search committee had the good fortune and wisdom to find David Farrington for us.

The Board will meet in May for a retreat at which time we will set goals for the next interim year with Pastor Farrington. I know he has discussed some new ideas for growth that he has and I am eager that we get those implemented.

The implication for you is that you need to be considering if serving on the Search Committee for 2007-2008 would be a way you would like to contribute to the church. In the next three weeks we will again put out the applications for membership on the Search Committee. If you want to know what is involved, there are now seven experts in our midst: CLINE DAVIS, HATCHER CHALKLEY, LAURA HEIL, JENNIFER MARTIN, LINDA COOK, GEORGE CLOWER, AND EVELYN BOOKOUT. These excellent Search Committee members will be hard to replace but perhaps you would like the challenge for next year. Ask not what your church can do for you, but what you can do for your church, to steal and mess up JFK's words.

I feel like we have a bright year ahead and, in spite of the disappointment of the Search Committee, all will be fine. As I said when I made the announcement of the Search Committee results, this is a chance to demonstrate that the church is not only who is standing in the pulpit but who is sitting in the pews, or in our case, the stacking chairs.

Best wishes,

PAT HUDSON, PRESIDENT OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

“SOME ENCHANTED EVENING” CHOIR AND BAND SHOW – APRIL 28



ON APRIL 28, AT 7:30 PM, COME TO AN EVENING OF MUSIC FROM BROADWAY SHOWS, FILMS, AND OTHER GENRES SUNG AND PERFORMED BY THE CHOIR AND BAND MEMBERS AT THE CHURCH. THE COST IS \$15 OR 2@\$25, AVAILABLE FROM CHOIR MEMBERS, BY CALLING 853-2951 TO RESERVE AND PAY AT THE DOOR, OR AT THE DOOR. THERE WILL BE HOR'DOURVES, DESSERTS, AND BEVERAGES INCLUDING WINE. THIS IS A FUND-RAISER EVENT FOR OUR CHURCH.



APRIL 5	MIKE REED
APRIL 8	ELLEN LLOY-REILLEY
APRIL 13	PATRICK O'HANLIN
APRIL 13	STEVE BRIODY
APRIL 18	JEFF MCVEY
APRIL 25	HERTIE DOUDEN
APRIL 27	REBECCA QUAMEN

APRIL ANNIVERSARIES



APRIL 11 CAREY AND JEREMY CHENEY
APRIL 14 CHERI AND BILL RANDALL



ANNALISSE DIANA CHENEY was born February 11, 2007. Her proud parents are CARRIE AND JEREMY CHENEY, AND HER SISTER IS HAZEL. She weighed 7 lbs 7.5 oz and was 18 3/4 inches long. Congratulations to the Cheney family and a warm welcome from their UU Church Community.

POPCORN THEOLOGY DONATION THANKS

Thanks to Popcorn Theology for their recent donation of a new microwave oven for our kitchen. Popcorn theology, in which people come together to watch and then discuss a movie of theological and philosophical significance, meets at the church at 7 pm on the first Friday of every month.

LET'S GO FLY A KITE APRIL 15 AT COLE PARK

On April 15 at 1:00 pm in Cole Park the RE is having a Let's Go Fly A Kite gathering. Bring your kites! We have no pre-designated location; we'll just have to find each other. Religious education will supply cold drinks.

WOMEN'S GROUP MEETING ON APRIL 16

The next Women's Group will meet on April 16 at 7:00 pm in the restaurant Golden Kitchen located at 5333 S. Staples. The cost for the buffet is \$7.95. If you are new to the church, this is a good way to get acquainted with other ladies of the church and enjoy fellowship together.

BIRTH ANNOUNCEMENT



LANA MICHELLE HITCH was born March 6, 2007. Her proud parents are LEVI HITCH AND SHANA HEBERT, and the proud grandparents are DEBBIE AND KIRK NEWPORT. The parents and daughter live in Broussard, Louisiana. Congratulations to all.

POETRY REFLECTIONS

*And fairy month of waking mirth
From whom our joys ensue
Thou early gladder of the earth
Thrice welcome here anew
With thee the bud unfolds to leaves
The grass greens on the lea
And flowers their tender boon receives
To bloom and smile with thee*

- JOHN CLARE

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

Your search committee must, with regret, inform you that we have been unable to find a candidate for our new minister. We had some good prospects, and they gave us serious consideration. We made more than one offer, but they found some other church homes. That's not the outcome we wanted, but we wish them well; they are good ministers.

We're not the only searching church with this difficulty. We were recently passed the following comment from John Weston, who oversees the national UUA annual search process: "The current search year looks tough. Two or three of the largest congregations in search have not found a candidate, nor have some of the smallest nor, for that matter, some of the in-betweens. It is customary for some 10% or so of Congregations in search to come up empty. We're over 5% already, with only a third of congregations heard from." — John

You will, of course, have a lot of questions about what this search has been like. How many? What age and experience? What reservations did we and they each have? How do we compare to other churches? Where did they end up? We hope you will understand that we can answer some of these questions but not all. In particular, we want to avoid anything that could identify the applicants. We don't want to be seen as portraying prospects we didn't call in a bad light, or implying to next year's prospects that we cannot keep their confidence. And we trust them to do the same for us. You can help us meet that obligation. If you learn something sensitive from an out-of-town friend or on the internet, keep it under your hat.

When our search committee work began, we already knew that our church had a lot going for it in terms of opportunity for, and support of, a new minister. We have also come to understand that our church is unusually healthy in the way we work together and support each other. That was harder to appreciate, since we think that's the way it's supposed to be, so what's the big deal? You'll recall Reverend Farrington's sermon on this subject from his experience, but we've heard other stories too.

We have all been primed to welcome a new minister this year and this is certainly a letdown. Let us recall the old saw that a church is not its building, but its members. I might add that it's not its minister either. We're still the same great group of folks, and we will continue to stick together on our journey.

So, what's next? The Board has already announced that Reverend Farrington has accepted our offer to extend his interim contract another year. None of the current search committee expects to serve again. Some of our search committee efforts, for example the survey and focus groups to define our priorities, and our data collection for the congregational packet, will give the next search committee a head start on the process. You'll hear more from the Board.

It's been fun; here's your baton back. — **HATCHER CHALKLEY, MSC SECRETARY**

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