

SOUNDS OF THE SEA

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

SOUNDS OF THE SEA IS PUBLISHED

SEP. THRU MAY - TWICE A MONTH, JUNE THRU AUG. - ONCE A MONTH

BY THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI,

6901 HOLLY ROAD, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78414

POSTMASTER: SEND ADDRESS CHANGES TO:

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI,

6901 HOLLY ROAD, CORPUS CHRISTI, TEXAS 78414

**REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON
FOR APPOINTMENTS: 986-8855
EMAIL: DFARRINGTON@UUCORPUS.ORG**

**CHURCH WEBSITE:
[HTTP://WWW.UUCORPUS.ORG/](http://www.uucorpus.org/)**

**PRESIDENT: DR. PAT HUDSON
RELIGIOUS EDUCATION: DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM
MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE: JESSICA LATIMER
NEWSLETTER AND DIRECTORY: DEBBIE NEWPORT**

SOUNDS OF THE SEA



NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI
JUNE 6, 2007 VOLUME 101, NO 129

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

SUNDAYS 11:00 AM SUMMER SCHEDULE ONE SERVICE ONLY
CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND NURSERY

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 11:00 AM

REVEREND FARRINGTON

SUNDAY, JUNE 10, 12:00 PM

MEET THE CANDIDATE
REVEREND DAVE FARRINGTON

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 11:00 AM

REVEREND FARRINGTON

SUNDAY, JUNE 17, 12:00 PM

MEET THE CANDIDATE
REVEREND DAVE FARRINGTON

SUNDAY, JUNE 24, 11:00 AM

REVEREND FARRINGTON

SUNDAY, JUNE 24. 12:00 PM

CONGREGATIONAL VOTE

IN THE INTERIM

DEAR U2C3 FRIENDS: JUNE 5, 2007

It was a year ago that I came to Corpus Christi and first experienced your joy and hospitality. Now having worked with and among you as an interim minister since, I continue to share in the excitement of a church in transition. That is the greatest reward of interim ministry, actually. Every year or two you meet new folks and a new situation with new challenges. The down side is that it happens every year or two.

The people who handle the settlement of ministers at the UUA will tell you that in a “normal” year they settle ministers in all but about 10 % of the congregations seeking new ministers, and that something less than 5% of those placed are over age fifty. Well, this year they were unable to fill over 20% of the pulpit vacancies with settled ministers – and this is turning into good news for those of us over fifty!

Heretofore, interim ministers could serve a maximum of two years at any given church and had to agree not to seek a permanent position with that church for at least three years after leaving. The UUA is now relaxing these restrictions.

A church may now request the UUA to nullify an interim ministry, to allow the incumbent to become an acting minister and to candidate for the vacant pulpit. However, the “inside candidate rule” still applies. It requires that if there is an incumbent seeking to fill the vacant pulpit, that person must be considered first and be voted upon (up or down) before the church can go into search.

We have, by many accounts, enjoyed a very successful year.

Almost from the beginning, many of you have in one way or another said they wish I could stay. I am, therefore, asking you to request the UUA to set aside my interim ministry status and consider me as an inside candidate for settled ministry here.

I became aware the UUA was thinking of these changes when I visited there in March, and it was first discussed openly at a conference I attended in Florida in April, and was only recently made available to church Boards and Search Committees. For that reason you are being asked to consider the possibility of changing the status of my ministry here from interim to settled with little notice, preparation or discussion.

Concerns about these abrupt changes and the urgency of settling the matter early rather than late were expressed at last Sunday’s congregational meeting when it was announced. The Board and I cognizant of what is being asked of you. But we do it with the confidence that this is a congregation of such quality that it can resolve a difficult issue, thoroughly, equitably and in a timely manner.

If we don’t start these actions now it would be a full year before you could do so, due to the schedule of events required of churches and ministers in search. This is something few, if any, see as a desirable alternative.

For my part, I am confident that any decision you make will be a good one – one that I can live with and by which you will prosper. It is fortuitous that I am here and not at some of other church, for there are few where I would want to serve a settled ministry and fewer yet where I could ask for such consideration without fear of a congregational split. However, as my job is always to make things better and never worse, I wish to make one final point – that I make this request with much forethought and prayer, and should the formation of a split become apparent, I will withdraw from further consideration.

All of that said, some are wondering what my settled ministry might look like and how it might differ from my present interim ministry here. The Board has set after church on Sundays June 10 and 17 as a time to “meet the candidate.” I will stay as long as you have questions and I am available to meet individuals or groups of individuals at other times if they are unavailable for those Sunday discussions.

My thoughts going into it are that this church is exceptionally well-poised to grow numerically, organizationally, spiritually and as a force to be reckoned with where there is social or economic injustice. Growing churches in these ways are what makes interim ministry so appealing to me (though I am coming to believe that a year is rarely adequate to both make and institutionalize desired changes.) So one possibility would be that we agree on certain numbers – membership and budget to name two – as well as the amount of time we want to allow to get there, and make that a primary goal of the proposed ministry. We might want to consider such goals in terms of paying off the existing mortgage and/or building the new sanctuary.

In any event, we are probably looking at two to five years to become settled at the membership and budgetary size we desire and to become the force for change we envision for ourselves. If you find me worthy of such a job, in addition to the routine tasks of any ministry, I am grateful. If you find me adequate after that – we can take a look at our future together. If you prefer some alternative to this proposal, I respect your wisdom and choice, knowing that we are all made of the “right stuff” and that we will all do just fine.

BLESSINGS,

REVEREND DAVID W. FARRINGTON

RECONNECTIONS: RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

Having children is the single greatest factor in the influx of new adult members in our congregations.

— **DR. WADE CLARK ROOF**, author of *A Generation of Seekers: The Spiritual Journeys of the Baby Boom Generation*

REVISIONS:

Summer is here! We have some wonderful classes for the kids lined up, with guest teachers including SONIA McLAUGHLIN, RACHEL PAYNE, JAN MILLER, AND LILLIAN WALBESER

On May 27th, The past year's religious education teachers were honored with a special service followed by a luncheon. In case you missed it, the honoree's were:

Preschool: CHERI RANDALL, CARRIE CHENEY, MARLET DATH

Elementary: KELLY RUSSELL AND DORA WILBURN

First-Sunday elementary yoga/meditation class: DEBRA McQUEEN

Middle school: MARGARET LUCERO, LAURA HEIL, AND SHANNON TULLER

High school: WAYMAN TOOLES, SHERI PHILLABAUM, AND NANCY CHRISTENSEN

Second-service monthly social concerns class: SYLVIA SAMANIEGO

Youth group leader: NANCY CHRISTENSEN

Also honored were Religious Education Committee: DORA WILBURN, WAYMAN TOOLES, KELLY RUSSELL, AND LOIS WRIGHTSMAN

Newsletter editor/electronic mail communicator: DEBBIE NEWPORT

These names are not the sum total of everyone who contributed to religious education throughout the year; for the rest of you, you know who you are!

Have a great summer, everyone!

— SHERI PHILLABAUM, RELIGIOUS EDUCATION DIRECTOR

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR FRIENDS,

As those of you who were present at the congregational meeting know by now, our interim minister, REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON is interested in becoming our settled minister, rather than interim minister. On Sunday, June 24th we are going to have a congregational vote about this decision. Prior to that vote we are going to have two "Ask the Candidate" Sundays, June 10th and 17th. These will begin with the Search Committee sharing what they found that the congregation as a whole expressed as their needs and priorities in a settled minister. Then DAVID will answer questions from the congregation. These meetings will start fifteen minutes after the service has ended on those two Sundays. DAVID FARRINGTON has a thorough, excellent letter within this Newsletter explaining all the forces which lead to this UUA decision to create the opportunity to have this vote and so let me refer you to his letter. The only thing I would want to add is if DAVID'S status does not change then we will need to quickly get a Search Committee together to get going with another search. KIRK NEWPORT OUR VICE PRESIDENT is going to be in charge of the vote. If you are going to be out of town, please get your absentee ballot from KIRK.

Other news: Because we thought we should change the security code, due to missing keys, as of June 4th there is a new numeric code to enter into the security system and a new password. If you have a key and have not gotten the new code and password, please call PAT HUDSON, KIRK NEWPORT, OR BILL RANDALL. Our numbers are all posted on the doors so, should you get to the church and suddenly remember that you needed these to use your key and did not know the code and password, you may call us.

We have an interesting and varied summer of sermons planned for you. I hope you are looking forward to these opportunities to observe our talented and thoughtful members do their thing!

BEST WISHES,

PAT HUDSON, PRESIDENT

MINISTERIAL SEARCH COMMITTEE

You have read elsewhere in this newsletter regarding REVEREND FARRINGTON'S interest in becoming our called minister and the events surrounding the congregation's consideration of, and vote on, that candidacy.

The search committee process is designed to deal with applicants who are not known by the congregation and for whom confidentiality is important. We now have a different circumstance, in that we all know Dave Farrington. So this time, the congregation as a whole will perform much of the usual function of the search committee. In fact, you have already done much of that work. You have seen our applicant in action, heard his sermons, worked with him on committees, perhaps been counseled by him, and observed his organizational skills and influence on us.

What the search committee is expecting to do, as an introduction to the Ask-the-Candidate sessions on June 10 and 17, is give you a quick presentation on what we learned from the congregational survey and focus groups and how we translated that into selection criteria. We'll describe the various factors as we saw them and show you their relative importance to the congregation. It is our hope that this will leave you comfortable in considering the desires of the congregation as a whole, in addition to your own desires, as we all progress through this new process.

If you think we are leaving out something important, ask us. It's easy to ask. We want you to have the information you need. This is a new process for all of us; let's work together on it.

We previously reported that the "Congregational Packet" that we assembled to send to ministerial applicants had been misplaced. It has been found. It was in a file cabinet at the church. It is now being left out on the credenza in the foyer. Look for it in a 3-ring binder. The U2C3 web site now also has a copy of the packet in PDF file form. The full packets we distributed, as the one in the foyer, also included a CD of the choir, a CD with a slide show of the church, courtesy of Mike Reed, and some CC real estate information.

— **HATCHER CHALKLEY, MSC SECRETARY**

PLEDGE STATEMENTS

The pledge statements from January 1 – May 31 are available at the church. Will you please pick up your statement if you have not already done so. This will save on postage.

POETRY REFLECTIONS

OUTWITTED

*He drew a circle that shut me out,
Heretic, rebel, a thing to flout.
But love and I had the wit to win:
We drew a circle that took him in!*

— EDWIN MARKHAM

Change has a considerable psychological impact on the human mind. To the fearful it is threatening because it means that things may get worse. To the hopeful it is encouraging because things may better. To the confident it is inspiring because the challenge exists to make things better. — KING WHITNEY, JR.

Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.

— RALPH WALDO EMERSON

CHURCH GROUNDS THANK YOU/ VOLUNTEER'S WELCOME

The Grounds Volunteers deserve our kudos for the great job they've been doing to keep our church grass and trees looking spiritual, so give a hug to these guys next time you see one: KIRK NEWPORT, BILL RANDAL, BOB ALLEN, JIM FUGATE, TOM BOOKOUT, PAT LACY, QUENTIN MASTERS, CARROLL PATE, JOE PIERCE, THOM WALKER, BILL BODRUG, ROY ELLZEY, JOHN LLOYD-REILLY AND NOW TWO NEW RECRUITS, KEVIN DATH AND ERIC PAYNE.

Their work takes considerable dedication and perspiration. They save the church well over \$4,000 a year. We are always looking for volunteers. We are short on females, NEVADA KENNEDY having got out of the Navy and left the area. Science has proven that women have greater endurance than men; and you can get a hug out of the deal.

TO VOLUNTEER CALL ROY ELLZEY, 992-8048 OR

TOM BOOKOUT, 658-6060.

JUNE ANNIVERSARIES

JUNE 5 DEANNE AND JOHN PIERCE

JUNE 6 SHERRI PHILLABAUM AND ROY ELLZEY

JUNE 23 MONICA VAUGHAN AND ROBERTO ALANIZ

JUNE 30 JUDY AND COLIN SYKES

JUNE BIRTHDAYS

JUNE 4 SCOTT CHERRY

JUNE 16

DEANNE PIERCE

JUNE 21 DEBORAH SUNDERMANN

JUNE 9

ALICE HEMPEL

JUNE 26 SADEE RUSSELL

JUNE 10

PETE BRASWELL

JUNE 30 JEREMY CHENEY

JUNE 14

MONICA VAUGHAN

JUNE 4 CARLA STRAUBE

JUNE 8 DAVID RANDALL