

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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SOUNDS OF THE SEA

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OCTOBER 4, 2007

VOLUME 101, No 132



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

SUNDAY MORNING WORSHIP SERVICES AT 11:00 AM ONE SERVICE ONLY
SUNDAY MORNING 11:00 AM CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EDUCATION AND NURSERY

“BELOVED COMMUNITY”

*The spiritual community freely gathers to live out a shared ministry.
Every human being is sacred and is called to the tasks and joys of love.*

*We do not limit the truth of God (even to the word “God”),
but live in openness and belief in human freedom and dignity.*

We celebrate the gift of life, and join in taking on the sufferings of a fragile world.

*We are this generation's bearers of an eternal message that truth
must grow, enlarge, and glow in creative freedom.*

*Revelation has not been sealed. It is lived anew in every heart,
including your own. And through our transformed hearts, awakened souls
and acts of love emerges the Beloved Community.*

THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH PROMOTES

*The inherent worth and dignity of every person. Justice, equity, and compassion in human
relations. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth in our
congregations. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning. The right of conscience
and the use of democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.*

The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which are a part

IN THE INTERIM

DEAR U2C3 FRIENDS,

Your response to the growth initiative is inspiring, to say the least. The questions and comments that follow services dedicated to the topic are broad in scope and deep in character. I was particularly pleased with the many responses to the idea of establishing small groups. While not modeled after the familiar “enrichment” model, there is certainly no reason not to use it. But, to me it does not make sense to use it or any other model as a mould that every such group might use. I would hope that people interested in initiating a group activity would discuss the many possibilities with me, then perhaps even trying one or two, before making a final choice.

To facilitate such discussions it would be helpful to have other information, such as:

- What is your purpose or objective?
- Who will organize it? Who is sharing that responsibility? (Remember Stuff happens! It is always best to have a senior/junior partnership so the work can go on even if the leadership becomes unavailable.)
- How long will it run? (ongoing, as long as there is need, “X” number of weeks)
- What is the minimum number you need to start? The maximum you can have?
- Where will you meet? How often? For how long? (Remember: church space is limited, so a check with the calendar lady is advised. Alternative meeting places are encouraged.)
- What resources will you require from the church? (Such as keys, easel, flip charts and markers, rooms, audio/computer use)

During this period when we are setting up an organization to support the development of new groups on an ongoing basis, I am taking responsibility for this project. I hope you will continue to bring me your ideas for fun-filled or otherwise pleasing and fulfilling group activities.

AGNES MAIER is taking responsibility for being the senior Lay Minister. She needs a junior partner and one or two people to learn and provide pastoral care. This is a way of allowing us to minister to each other – a practice as old as religion itself.

— Continued on next page—

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On a parallel track is a Caring Ministry. This is often confused with Lay Ministry or Chaplaincy. Its purpose is to intervene in a situation with the objective of easing another’s burden in times of need. Providing a covered dish, for example, when someone has had day surgery or lost a family member. Or circulating a “get well” card among the membership

Lay Ministry, by comparison, engages that person in conversation about the spiritual/religious aspects of their reality and helps that person accept what is usually an unpleasant reality. Like railroad tracks, they run parallel to each other. Each is dependent on the other while never actually meeting.

JOE PIERCE AND HATCHER CHALKLEY are leading the effort to organize use of our audio-visual equipment. Shortly, they will be looking for volunteers to be trained in their use and to actually run the equipment during worship and otherwise as needed.

Similarly, there has been a wonderful response to NANCY CHRISTENSEN AND EVERETT PHILLIPS’ efforts to engage members in the upcoming canvass – a good example of a group which will have definite start and finish dates as well as clear objectives!

GAIL GOO is still looking for a senior partner and volunteers for the upcoming silent auction. This fundraiser is absolutely vital to our fiscal wellbeing and needs the support of all of us as volunteers to work, as buyers and sellers. Again, it is a ministry of limited duration with clear objectives.

We have gratitude for those who are submitting ideas and turning them into real programs of opportunity for the church and others. We look forward to having twenty to thirty such groups at any given time – serving a purpose for a finite time or on an ongoing basis. Perhaps you have thought about doing something too. But you’re not really confident others would share your interest or that you have the “right stuff” to organize it. Let’s not lose any good idea. Before giving up on it – talk to me! We can find away through or around nearly any impediment!

Thanks for your enthusiasm. Thanks for your creative suggestions. Thanks for sharing the ministry of our church within and beyond its hallowed wall!

BLESSINGS,

DAVE

RUMMAGE SALE SATURDAY, OCTOBER 6

THE CHURCH RUMMAGE SALE IS Saturday, October 6, from 8:00 am till 1:00pm. We still need help. We would like lots and lots and lots of help!!!!!!!!!!!! We need 6 people on the 7:30 am to 10:30 am shift. Then we need 6 people on the 10:30 am to 1:30 pm shift. If you have special items to be donated, we will have a Boutique area for nicer items. If you have items you wish to donate, then bring them to the church by Friday, October 5.
— **THANKS, FROM THE TRI-CHAIR RUMMAGE COMMITTEE, JEAN EVANS, JESSICA LATIMER, CHERYL MILLER**

WOMEN'S GROUP OCTOBER 15 MEETING

The Women's Group will meet October 15, 7:00 pm at the new BJ's Pizza, located at 6662 South Staples. Come celebrate Oktoberfest with the Women's Group for fellowship, conversation and enjoy letting someone else do the cooking.

AUDIO-VISUAL AND COMPUTER GROUP FORMING

We are trying to streamline the use of the computer and A/V equipment in the Sanctuary. A group of 5-6 volunteers is needed to be trained in running the equipment for Sunday and other services and events, everyone interested is welcome to join. The plan is to "lock out" random program installations and manipulations of the computer by those not authorized to do so. So, if you want to have access to installing programs, using the computer, or just helping out, join the A/V group! Future contact names and numbers will be made available as the group is formed and trained, and if you need access to the A/V equipment, you will have access to those who can help you.
— **THANKS, JOE PIERCE JPIERCE@STX.RR.COM 361-985-9980**

LANDSCAPE HELP KUDOS

We had a very successful landscape work day on September 15, at the church. A big Thanks go to JEAN EVANS, KIRK NEWPORT, TOM AND EVELYN BOOKOUT, LOIS WRIGHTSMAN, JESSICA LATIMER, RON HAMILTON, NANCY CHRISTENSEN, CHRISTY STOCKMAN AND WES BURKETT, AND 3 YOUNG KIDS WHO WERE ESPECIALLY HELPFUL, MARY CHRISTENSEN, ALEXANDRA BURKETT AND MEGAN BURKETT. The area on Joplin is looking great, and we are still working on the Holly road side. Again a BIG THANKS TO EVERYONE who was able to come out and help.

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATES

Your new Search Committee has begun meeting, and will continue to meet weekly to undertake the process of finding a new called minister for this congregation. Our task is simply stated. We are to find a prospective candidate for the ministry of this congregation and present him/her for approval by a vote. The reality of how that task is accomplished is anything but simple. The Search Committee members are **SUELLEN ABAJIAN, MARILYN BODRUG, BARBARA BRIODY, KEVIN DATH, EARL HERRICK, AGNES MAIER, DIANA MASTERS, AND CARROLL PATE** as an alternate. We will be building on the work done by last year's committee. The first task of any Search committee is to determine what sort of minister the congregation wants. We will be updating information supplied in the survey done last year. If you did not fill out such a survey, please get one from a member of the committee this Sunday, October 7 or next Sunday, October 14, and return it as soon as you have filled it out. We will be seeking out new members of the congregation to add their input to what was gathered last year. We have a short time frame to work with, so we must input our information into the UUA Transitions system, by mid-October. We will be communicating with the congregation regularly, through the newsletter, to keep everyone up to date on where we are in the process. As you may know, we are bound by confidentiality restrictions, to protect the privacy of prospective ministers. That means we can't tell you who we have heard from, or are considering, but we welcome your input on what you consider most important in our new minister. We plan to identify ourselves by our name tags as the Search Committee so you can comment on Sundays or by e-mail which would be preferable, since we can then forward your input to all members of the committee. Please send your comments to Barbara Briody by email which is in the directory or on the order of services and she will forward them to the other search committee members.

— **BARBARA BRIODY, SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIR**

WHICH WAY DID THEY GO? OR BANNER, BANNER, WHO'S GOT THE BANNER?

When we moved out of the old church building on Horne Road, we were not going directly into a place of our own, so various items were taken to be stored in members' homes. Two items that haven't been seen since are the church banner and the pulpit cloth, which is ivory, with a stitched flaming chalice, in rainbow colors. Please take a look around your homes; if you have one of these items please bring it back to the church. While you are at it, keep an eye out for church hymnals, since we don't have a lot of them, but before ordering more, it would be good to know just how many we already own. If you'd like to have one of your own to use at home, you could arrange to pay for one when we place an order.

POSITIVE QUOTES

*Living on Earth is expensive, but it does include a free trip around the sun every year.
Birthdays are good for you; the more you have, the longer you live.
Happiness comes through doors you didn't even know you left open.
Ever notice that the people who are late are often much jollier than the people who have to wait for them?
If Wal-Mart is lowering prices every day, how come nothing is free yet?
You may be only one person in the world, but you may also be the world to one person.
Some mistakes are too much fun to only make once.
Don't cry because it's over; smile because it happened.
We could learn a lot from crayons, some are sharp, some are pretty, some are dull, some have weird names, and all are different colors....but they all exist very nicely in the same box.
A truly happy person is one who can enjoy the scenery on a detour.
Working for God on earth does not pay much, but His Retirement plan is out of this world.
Church is a place where you get to practice what it means to be human
An idea is a curious thing. It will not work unless you do
You need not think alike to love alike.*

OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS

OCTOBER 5	REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON
OCTOBER 14	JOHN LATIMER
OCTOBER 15	PAT HUDSON
OCTOBER 17	JERRY JONES
OCTOBER 24	JACOB GRIFFIN
OCTOBER 25	ELLEN MURRY

OCTOBER ANNIVERSARIES

OCTOBER 5	MARGARET LUCERO AND ROBERT ALLEN
OCTOBER 23	PAUL AND KIM BISSELL

If you would like to have your **SPECIAL OCCASION LISTED**, state your name, occasion, and date and email **DEBBIE NEWPORT - NEWSLETTER EDITOR AT KNDCCTEX@YAHOO.COM**

IT'S ALL RELIGIOUS EDUCATION!

FELLOWSHIP

The church PALS PROGRAM is a fun way for anyone in the church to find a new friend. It's basically a secret PEN-PALS PROGRAM in which children are matched up with adults in the congregation. Everyone gets to meet their secret pal in person at a special Valentine's gathering in February. Registration will be open Sundays, October 7 and 14.

WORSHIP

Come and celebrate life with an intergenerational service for DAY-OF-THE-DEAD 11 am, Sunday, October 28!

CELEBRATION

DIA DE LOS MUERTOS Community celebration, Sunday, October 28, 5:30 pm at the church

MINDFULNESS

Come to the Church Saturday, October 27 any time from 1:00 – 4:00 pm and build your own OFRENDA, or altar to a dead loved one or some else whose life you would like to celebrate.

AFTER SERVICES

Trick-or-Treat for UNICEF Sunday, October 28 after the day of the Dead service. Please give generously!

— **DR. SHERI PHILLABAUM** — **DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**
AVAILABLE 7 AM -10 PM ALL WEEK AT 947-0863