

NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

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UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI,
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SOUNDS OF THE SEA



NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CHURCH OF CORPUS CHRISTI

APRIL 2, 2008 VOLUME 101, No 138

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

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

SATURDAY, APRIL 5 MEMORIAL SERVICE 11:00 AM
A MEMORIAL SERVICE FOR AUDREY ELLZEY - TICER

MINISTER REVEREND DAVID FARRINGTON
FOR APPOINTMENTS: 986-8855
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CHURCH PHONE 986-8855

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FIRST SUNDAY LUNCHEONS LAUREN CANTATORE-CAUSEY **LAY MINISTRY** AGNES MAIER
CONGREGATIONAL LIFE(MEMBERSHIP) JESSICA LATIMER
SOCIAL ACTION COMMUNITY- OUTREACH COLIN SYKES

DEAR U2C3 FRIENDS,

As this edition of our newsletter goes to press, our religious community mourns the sudden and unexpected death in New Orleans, LA of **AUDREY ELLZEY - TICER**.

AUDREY, the beloved daughter of ROY ELLZEY, had many friends and acquaintances in our congregation and we struggle to understand her sudden and unexpected passing.

She was a 1987 graduate of CORPUS CHRISTI KING HIGH SCHOOL AND SMITH COLLEGE. She enjoyed a successful career as a writer.

AUDREY was a beautiful and gifted person. Our deepest sympathy goes out to her husband BERNIE OF NEW ORLEANS, HER FATHER ROY, HIS WIFE SHERI PHILLABAUM, HER BROTHERS CLIFTON, AND JACOB, AND HER MOTHER, SUSAN.

IN LOVE AND REVERENCE,

DAVE

TOWN HALL GET TOGETHER

Your Ministerial Search Committee wants as many people as possible to have the pleasure of meeting PHILIP AND SUSAN DOUGLAS during candidating week of April 20-27 but it seems there just aren't enough days! So the committee is going to host a "TOWN HALL GET TOGETHER" on Thursday, April 24.

Join us "OUT BACK" at 6901 Holly for hot dogs, hamburgers, CARROLL PATE'S special root beer and all the trimmings. We'll start about 5:30 and then at 7:00 we'll gather in the sanctuary for any questions that you may have for REVEREND PHILIP. Hope a lot of you can come!

PLEASE R.S.V.P. MARILYN BODRUG BY PHONE AT 949-6790 OR EMAIL, MBREMSE@STX.RR.COM OR DIANA MASTERS BY PHONE AT 991-2746 OR EMAIL, MASTERS.DIANA@GMAIL.COM so we know how many to prepare for. Hope to see lots of you there!



APRIL BIRTHDAYS

APRIL 5 MIKE REED
APRIL 8 ELLEN LLOYD-REILLEY
APRIL 13 PATRICK O'HANLIN
APRIL 13 STEVE BRIODY



APRIL ANNIVERSARIES

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



POETRY REFLECTIONS

*The passing spring,
Birds mourn,
Fishes weep
With tearful eyes.*

— HAIKU (MATSUO BASHO, 1644 - 1694)

CANVASS COMMITTEE

What does it mean to you to pledge to our church? When you put money in the basket as it comes by, what do you think about? Do you think about those that came before you and pledged and paid so that our church is here for us now? Do you think about all the great people you have met since you came to our church? Do you think about the things you have learned since you started attending one of the focus groups at the church?

Maybe you think about how much you like to listen to the music played each Sunday during the service or how much fun you had at the last Coffee House. When it's hot, maybe you think about how grateful you are for the air conditioning keeping the sanctuary cool. When you are hungry, it's nice to think of the coffee and snacks awaiting you at the end of the service. Are you relishing the peace and quiet of the sanctuary knowing that your children are being cared for in the nursery? Do you imagine how beautiful and well-maintained our grounds are and how much you like sitting outside with your coffee? Whatever it is, it is important to you and that's enough. Pledging to our church makes possible many of these things and more. You can feel proud that you have pledged to a very noble cause and your pledge is changing the world.

We have passed our first quarter of 2008 and I will take this opportunity to remind you to keep current on your pledges for 2008. This gets more and more important as the year progresses. Some of our pledgers pay their entire pledge at the beginning of the year and our budget is easy to maintain in the early months. As the year rolls on, those of us who pay monthly or weekly must make sure to keep the money coming in so the Finance Committee can keep the bill paid.

If you are new to our church and haven't yet pledged, now is a great time to do so. When you pledge, you become part of a group of people committed to working in Corpus Christi for social change and equity, a group of people committed to learning more about our world community and our impact on it, a group of people who love to gather together over food and drink to enjoy each other's company. With a pledge, you join thousands of Unitarian Universalist across the nation and the world making changes in their communities.

Pledge cards are available from JESSICA LATIMER and the Membership Committee and from EVERETT PHILLIPS AND NANCY CHRISTENSEN of the Canvass Committee. Please do not hesitate to ask for one and turn it in. It's a Community worth supporting.

Thanks so much for being a part of our Community. PEACE, NANCY CHRISTENSEN,
NANCYCHRISTENSEN@SBCGLOBAL.NET

OPERATION PAINTBRUSH (OP) SATURDAY MAY 17, 2008

The church has been invited once again to participate in the annual painting of houses for the elderly, poor and disabled citizens in the city. Many of us have participated (and enjoyed) this project in the past, our first involvement was in 1985. COLIN has been asked by the organizers to submit an estimate by April 18 of the number of church members who will participate this year.

For those readers not familiar with OP, it works as follows: A house of appropriate size will be assigned to us, so that it can be painted in approximately half a day. The paint, which is usually white will be supplied, drinks and lunch vouchers are also part of the package. OP painters provide their own brushes stepladders and other appropriate equipment. Prior to the painting day we usually arrange for a wash down of the building and commence painting at 8:00am to avoid the hot afternoon sun.

This is an opportunity to bond with other members of the church. With a good crowd of volunteers it is always a pleasant experience. This is a worthwhile, short duration project. Please sign up in the church lobby to make a small part of the world a better and more attractive place.

FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL COLIN SYKES AT 853-7992

— COLIN SYKES, SOCIAL CONCERNS & COMMUNITY OUTREACH

POT LUCK LABELING SUGGESTION

There are members of the congregation who are vegetarians, and others who have food allergies of various sorts. To help them identify which foods on our potluck table fit within their needs, BARBARA BRIODY is proposing a quick and easy labeling system. She will bring preprinted labels, as well as blank ones, that can be affixed to toothpicks and inserted into the dishes. If you have a special needs that you'd like identified, such as honey, or wheat, please send Barbara a note and she can include that in the list of labels.

BARBARA'S email is MSBRIODY@EARTHLINK.NET or phone at 853-2951

SEARCH COMMITTEE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Search Committee is pleased to have a candidate to present to the congregation. REVEREND PHILIP DOUGLAS AND HIS WIFE SUSAN will be here in Corpus Christi the week of April 20-27. PHILIP will be in the pulpit both Sundays, and we will have a vote on calling him on the April 27, as detailed in KIRK'S letter elsewhere in this newsletter.

PHILIP is a second-career new minister and he has been preparing to be a UU minister for 15 years. During that time he's been active in his church, leading volunteers, committees, and boards. He attended the District Leadership Experience, church seminars, and conferences. When he got a chance to enter the seminary, he attended part-time and continued to work. He graduated with honors and was ordained in September 2007.

The Search Committee was very impressed with both PHILIP AND SUSAN on the weekend we recently spent with them. Before that, we'd read his packet, spoken to him on the phone, and contacted the references he provided. Every one of those references was very positive in recommending him to us and all would be happy to have him for their minister, and consider him a friend. One, the minister who supervised his internship, told us that PHILIP would be a perfect fit for our congregation. PHILIP is currently serving as interim RE DIRECTOR AT FIRST JEFFERSON, his "home" church in Fort Worth, as well as a chaplain on an oncology ward at Children's Hospital in Dallas. He's a warm and caring person, and we think he's just right for us.

We have his information packet, and can answer questions you may have about him before his arrival, so ask one of us, we're the ones with the gold name tags.

Respectfully,

BARBARA BRIODY, SEARCH COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSON

POETRY REFLECTIONS

*The butterfly is perfuming
It's wings in the scent
Of the orchid.*

— MATSUO BASHO, 1644 - 1694

FROM OUR BOARD PRESIDENT

DEAR UU CHURCH FRIENDS, MINISTERIAL CALL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING ON APRIL 27

The Board of Trustees has unanimously approved the Search Committee's selection of REVEREND PHILIP DOUGLAS to candidate for Settled Minister to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Corpus Christi. REVEREND DOUGLAS will be in the pulpit on April 20 and April 27. In addition to the Sunday services, he will be our acting Minister for that week and will be available to meet with members of the congregation at various functions currently being scheduled. Please plan to host or attend at least one of these events so that you can meet REVEREND DOUGLAS and inform your decision.

FOLLOWING THE SERVICE ON APRIL 27, THERE WILL BE A CONGREGATIONAL MEETING TO CALL REVEREND DOUGLAS AS OUR SETTLED MINISTER. Please make every reasonable effort to participate in this important decision!

The Board is making arrangements for the congregational call. Only members of the U2C3, as defined by the current bylaws, are eligible to participate in the election.

A MEMBER IS DEFINED AS FOLLOWS:

All members are expected, as they are able, to participate in the life of the church, including an annual pledge of support to the church. A pledge of support is a good-faith intent to financially support the church but is not a binding contract. If for reasons of financial hardship a member is unable to make a financial pledge, it is still expected that a pledge of support, not necessarily financial, will be made to indicate a desire and intent to support the ministry of the church. If you are uncertain of your status, please contact a member of the Board. The current bylaw requires an 80% affirmative vote to approve the call.

REVEREND DOUGLAS grew up in Oklahoma, but is coming to us after many years in the Ft. Worth Area. He is a graduate of the SMU Perkins School of Theology and a long time Unitarian Universalist. PHILIP AND HIS WIFE, SUSAN, have grown children and are recently retired from previous professional careers.

I'm sure that all of you have many questions to ask, but it would be more appropriate to direct those to members of the Search Committee, all of which are very excited to bring REVEREND DOUGLAS to Corpus Christi!

RESPECTFULLY YOURS,

KIRK NEWPORT, PRESIDENT, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

RECONNECTIONS: YOUTH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

FROM THE RE DESK:

March was an exciting month for the kids with Easter and all the excitement that brings. In the weeks leading up to Easter, we read several books in the elementary class and talked a bit about whom Jesus was and what Easter means to Christians. We learned about the relationship between Easter and the Easter Bunny and how a bunny came to be an egg-layer. Several of the children walked through the self-guided meditation we had set up to teach them about the crucifixion of Jesus on Good Friday. Many thanks to EVERETT PHILLIPS, SHERI PHILLABAUM AND DAVE FARRINGTON for being readers for the Tenebrae Service. Thanks also to the PHILLIPS KIDS for designing and constructing the labyrinth.

April brings the wind-down of the curricula the individual classes are moving through. The middle scholars and high scholars are spending their classes talking about traditions from different religions that we and draw on as Unitarian Universalists, while the younger children are learning about the creation of the earth.

Also, in April, the ministerial candidate will be visiting our congregation. The RE children and teenagers will meet with him for breakfast on Saturday, April 26, 2008, at the church. This will be a breakfast prepared by the older kids and the classes will spend some time beforehand talking about what they would like to ask the candidate. Please put this time on your calendar so your child will be able to participate. We need adult volunteers (just 1-2) for this activity as I will be at a Girl Scout sleep over in Seguin.

The RE Selection committee will meet in April and begin the process of selection of the new RE director. This process needs to be completed by the end of May. The members of that committee are NANCY CHRISTENSEN, MARLET DATH, WAYMAN TOOLES, AND DAVE FARRINGTON. Input is welcome from everyone in the congregation.

Thanks for all you do for our children. They are better off for it.

PEACE,

NANCY CHRISTENSEN

NANCYCHRISTENSEN@SBCGLOBAL.NET