

Detailed History of the Unitarian Universalist Village Church

Milestones

1965 organized as Hot Springs Unitarian Universalist Fellowship.
1996 moved to Hot Springs Village and renamed Unitarian Universalist Village Church.
2010 purchased church building at 403 Barcelona Road and moved in February 2011.
2016 Rev. David Ruffin served as Developmental Minister, August – February.
2017 Rev. Mark Walz became half-time Minister of UUVC in August.
2019 Rev. Walz was installed as settled Minister in May.

Overview

1. Organized in 1965 as a Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, (later renamed Church) and chartered with the UUA, the congregation met in Hot Springs in various locations twice a month from September to May on the first and third Sundays. The membership was as few as 10 some years.
2. In 1990, a discussion group was organized in Hot Springs Village, meeting twice a month during the week.
3. As Hot Springs Village grew, the number of church members living in the Village increased and a larger meeting space was needed.
4. In 1996 the members voted to begin holding services in Hot Springs Village, in rented facilities in the Coronado Center. A few of the members who lived in Hot Springs did not want to move and started a new congregation there.
5. In January 1997, the name was changed to the Unitarian Universalist Village Church. The membership was 27.
6. In 1999 the discussion meetings were moved to Sunday and renamed Insight, so that the congregation met every Sunday from September until May or early June.
7. The membership grew slowly for several years, doubled in size during 2005-2007 and was 73 by 2010.
8. In 2010, the members voted to buy the building owned by the Village Church of Christ and moved into the building on February 19, 2011.
9. Rev. David Ruffin served as a part-time developmental minister from August 2016 to February 2017, when he resigned for personal reasons.
10. In August 2017 Rev. Mark Walz became UUVC's half-time minister and was installed as called minister on May 8, 2019.

From 1965 to 1996

On October 10, 1965, at the Convention Auditorium in Hot Springs, sixteen Hot Springs citizens gathered to organize the Hot Springs Unitarian Universalist Fellowship which was then chartered with the Unitarian Universalist Association. The leader was DeVere Dierks Jr. Dierks was from a well-known family and the Executive VP of the family lumber corporation (which later became Weyerhaeuser). In August of 1967 he was killed in an automobile accident. Funeral services at Westminster Presbyterian Church

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were attended by Gov. Rockefeller and many other notables. Dierk's dream of building a home for the UU church died with him.

The HSUU Church, like many small societies in the Southwest, never had a full-time minister. Harold Marley, a retired UU minister who had been one of the signers of the original Humanist Manifesto, guided the young church as a volunteer for several years. The congregation grew to 28 after one year, but during the '80s and early '90s the membership was between 10 and 15. The congregation met twice a month and held services at many locations, including the Hot Springs Holiday Inn, the Convention Center, YWCA, the Hot Springs Art Center, House of Israel Synagogue, the Bridge House, the bar at the Quality Inn, and The Art Foundation. In the early years, the times of the services were adjusted so members could attend other services before or after the UU service.

By 1982 the Fellowship consisted mostly of politically conservative older people and singles though there were a few children in later years. Services twice a month were a sermonette followed by discussion. The topics of services ranged from other religions to the lives of famous Unitarians. In the late 80s it was decided to assume the designation of "Church," meeting national guidelines, rather than "Fellowship," but there was no increase in membership. The most significant change came about when people from Hot Springs Village began to attend, starting in the late 80s. By the spring of 1995, 22 of the 30 members lived in Hot Springs Village. They were largely politically liberal. The services gradually became more formal, and by 1995 included a chalice lighting, printed order of service and a choir, in addition to a speaker.

In 1995, Joe Groseclose started a fund to buy something for the new Garland County Library, with a promise to match funds raised. A children's kiosk was purchased for about \$3500 and installed there, with a brass plaque identifying that it was a gift from the church. The group also occasionally took up collections of food for Jackson House and had a Birthday program for a mental health residence. While meeting at the Arts Center, there was financial support of that organization. A Growth Fund was started in 1995, to be used only for a minister or a building.

Except for sending three persons to the UUA General Assembly in Little Rock in 1987, there was little involvement in the larger denomination in the early days. Meg Koziar attended the UUA General Assembly in 1994, and she and Billy Jane McIntosh attended a District meeting.

In 1990, a discussion group was organized in the Village by Margaret Perritt and Ruth Knox. They met twice a month, on Thursday afternoons, in members' homes. Eventually the group grew too large for homes and started meeting in the Good Samaritan Cedar Lodge library.

1996-1997 Move to Hot Springs Village

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The group had been meeting in the gallery of the artist Benini (The Art Foundation) since January of 1993. By 1995 it was outgrowing the facility and there were concerns about the security of the valuable art. During the next year, a committee looked extensively, but unsuccessfully, for a new meeting place. In August 1996, a congregational meeting was held in Hot Springs Village at the home of Alan and Linda Scott, with all the members present except one Hot Springs resident, with new President, Sigrid Rowin, presiding. A motion was made to move the services to rented facilities in Hot Springs Village. The motion carried unanimously, except for one Hot Springs resident who abstained. By the next week, however, several members in Hot Springs got together to start meeting on their own. The UUA District Director tried unsuccessfully to get them to stay as one congregation meeting on different Sundays. The congregation in the Village, including several people who lived in Hot Springs, continued as the Unitarian Universalist Church of Hot Springs until January of 1997, when it was voted to change the name to Unitarian Universalist Village Church. It was considered by the UUA to be the chartered congregation and the one in Hot Springs a new congregation.

1996-2008 – Services at the Coronado Center

What follows is a brief list of significant occurrences or changes that were made over the years. All were continued unless a change is noted.

1996-97

Board: Pres. Sigrid Rowin
VP Pat Killmon
Sec. Ginne Horn
Treas. Tom Killmon
Past Pres. Meg Koziar
Librarian Phil Horn
Meeting Place Chair Bill Wright
Music Director Willie Wright
Newsletter Meg Koziar
Publicity Allan Scott

Membership 27

- Meetings were held in room 6 of the Coronado Center at 10 a.m. on the first and third Sundays, September to May.
- The Discussion Group continued to meet at the Good Samaritan Lodge Library on the 2nd and 4th Thursdays, at 4 p.m. Several people from other churches were regular attendees.
- After a committee, chaired by Allan Scott, researched various charities to support, Jackson House Crisis Center in Hot Springs was chosen. The church collected winter clothing and blankets from the community for Jackson House in a November "Thanks for Giving" drive, and volunteers started preparing lunches at Jackson House once a month.

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

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- Small Group Dinners were started.
- Portable Church signs were purchased, with funds from UU Southwest District Chalice Lighter grant of \$200, to place in front of the meeting place door, and at the corner of the main road on Sundays
- The Annual meeting was held in May at the Cortez Pavilion, followed by a picnic.

1997- 98

Board: Pres. Pat Killmon

VP Bill Wright

Sec. Jean Hany

Treas. Tom Killmon

Past Pres. Sigrid Rowin

Denominational Affairs and Librarian Meg Koziar

Music Willie Wright

Membership Darwin Hany

Newsletter Sigrid Rowin

Publicity Allan Scott

Membership 30

- Golf scrambles were started, with proceeds to the Growth Fund.
- A summer seminar, two days in July, was led by Jay McDaniels, Professor Religion at Hendrix College, "Jesus, God, and the State of the World -- a Unitarian Universalist Approach."
- A church library was organized by Phil Horn.
- The choir rehearsed in the home of the pianist, Shirley Scheel, with Willie Wright the leader.
- A Growth Seminar, "Creating a Free Church in the 21st Century," led by Ron Robinson, from Talequah, OK, was held on November 1.
- Pledging to the Operating Fund was started, with the option of also pledging to the Growth Fund.
- The congregation became incorporated and received IRS 501(c)(3) status through the efforts of the Treasurer and with the legal assistance of Attorney Gary Green, a Friend of the Church.
- Meetings were moved to Room 5 in December, and UUVC gained a storage cabinet.
- Card nights in member's homes started, with proceeds to the Growth Fund.

1998-99

Board: Pres. Bill Wright

VP Bob McCleskey

Sec. Joanne Hupp

Treas. Marjorie McCleskey

Past Pres. Pat Killmon

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Denominational Affairs Meg Koziar
Discussion Group Meg Koziar
Membership Pat Killmon
Music Willie Wright
Newsletter Sigrid Rowin
Publicity Allan Scott

Membership 34

- A web site was launched by Allan Scott in July.
- Bill Wright and Bob McCleskey attended Southwestern Unitarian Universalist Conference (SWUUC) Fall Leadership Conference in Tulsa.
- The choir dressed in bathrobes for the Christmas Celebration and sang "We Three Queens Unitarians Are."
- Discussion group, meeting in the Library at Good Samaritan, used the program "Building Your Own Theology" with Meg Koziar as facilitator.
- A one-day summer Seminar was led by Dr. Brent Smith, minister of All Souls in Tulsa, titled "The True Jesus."

1999-00

Board: Pres. Bob McCleskey
VP Kay Croshaw
Sec. Wanda Bodemann
Treas. Marjorie McCleskey
Past Pres. Bill Wright
Community Outreach Joann Hupp
Discussion Group Meg Koziar
Membership/Social Pat Killmon
Newsletter Linda Scott.
Program Kay Croshaw

Membership 31

- Bob McCleskey and Kay Croshaw attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) in July.
- An ice cream social was held at the home of the McCleskey's August 29.
- The Discussion Group met on Mondays at Woodlands, with Rev. Bud Hearn leading a series on ethics.
- In December, discussion group meetings were changed to the 2nd and 4th Sundays at the Coronado Center.
- Meetings were moved back to room 6 because another church needed their children in room 5, but UUVC kept the storage space in room 5.
- A Members' "Profiles" book was assembled.
- The congregation decided that net income in the Operating Fund at the end of the fiscal year be moved to the Growth Fund, except for 20% of the next year's budget for a beginning balance.

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2000-01

Board: Pres. Kay Croshaw

VP Darwin Hany/Willie Wright

Sec. Wanda Bodemann

Treas. Marjorie McCleskey

Past Pres. Bob McCleskey

Insight Allan Scott

Worship Willie Wright

Community Outreach Joanne Hupp

Librarian Helen Stark

Membership/Social Bob McCleskey

Music Willie Wright

Newsletter Linda Scott.

Publicity Pat Killmon

Membership 34

- An ice cream social was held at the Cortez Pavilion in July.
- Hymnals were purchased with donations from individuals in the congregation.
- The Sunday Discussion Group meeting was renamed "Insight."
- A women's group was organized and adopted the name "Ovarians."
- IIIU Umination, initiated by UU Church of Little Rock, was adapted by Meg Koziar, and first celebrated on December 17.
- Six women attended the Southwest Unitarian Universalist Women's Conference in Tulsa.
- Meg and Leon Koziar were delegates to the SWUU District Conference in Baton Rouge, Louisiana.
- Margaret Perritt died. She had moved to Little Rock when she became ill, and services were held at the UU Church in Little Rock.
- Socials: Trip to Petit Jean State Park.

2001-02

Board: Pres. Willie Wright

VP Darwin Hany

Sec. Pat Killmon

Treas. Meg Koziar

Past Pres. Kay Croshaw

Insight George Foehringer and Joe Groseclose

Librarian Jean Hany

Music Wanda Bodemann, Pianist Shirley Scheel

Newsletter Linda Scott

Publicity Bob McCleskey

Social Pat Hearn

Worship Joanne Hupp

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Membership 34

- Willie Wright and Joanne Hupp attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) during the summer.
- The church purchased a pewter chalice in Margaret Perritt's memory, and a base and rings were made by Bill and Willie Wright's son, Michael.
- A one-day Seminar was held at Woodlands in August led by Allan Ward - "UUism, You and Your World View."
- An outing was held at Garvan Gardens with the Hot Springs Congregation on a 5th Sunday when neither had services scheduled.
- Group meetings were held with a facilitator for each, on the topics of Care, Intellectual, Spiritual, and Service. The groups reported at an evaluation session in April.
- Retired UU minister Rev. Jim Barr, who had been in the Village for a few years, started attending UUVC services mid-year.

2002-03

Board: Pres. Bob McCleskey

VP Pat Killmon

Sec. Elaine Voda/Bobbie Bateman

Treas. Meg Koziar

Past Pres. Willie Wright

Community Outreach Bob Stark

Insight Bill Wright, Fred Voda and Jerry Scheel

Membership/Social Roger Bessmer

Newsletter Linda Scott.

Worship Joanne Hupp/Willie Wright

Membership 35

- Two rooms at the Coronado Center were used for Sunday services, room 5 for coffee time and room 6 for the service.
- Rev. Jim Barr began preaching one sermon a month, with his pay going to the Growth Fund.
- Joe Groseclose died in October, at age 62. Rev. Barr spoke at the funeral in Hot Springs. Donations were made to the Growth Fund in his memory.
- The newsletter was sent out electronically for the first time by Linda Scott.
- Cooper Community, Inc. was asked to donate land for a church. The request was denied based on our size.
- A proposal to hire a UUA consultant to help us begin planning for a building was voted down at the Annual Meeting in May.
- Socials: Christmas Party at DeSoto Club.

2003-04

Board: Pres. Pat Killmon

VP Joanne Hupp

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Sec. Marjorie McCleskey
Treas. Meg Koziar.
Past Pres. Bob McCleskey
Community Outreach Linda Scott
Insight Phil Simpson and Jim Felker
Music Willie Wright
Newsletter Mayo Stiles, George Foehringer and Bob McCleskey
Publicity Bob McCleskey
Worship Joanne Hupp

Membership 35

- Meg Koziar attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) during the summer.
- Rev Bud Hearn led a Summer Study on the five Wednesday evenings in July. The book used was *Meeting Jesus Again for the First Time* by Marcus Borg.
- A Water Ceremony was held at the first service in September.
- Mayo Stiles and George Foehringer became newsletter editors, with Bob McCleskey doing the electronic part.
- UUVC increased community donations to ten percent of the operating fund budget.
- Socials: Halloween Party at Wright's home, Christmas Party at the DeSoto Club, **85th Birthday Party for Jim Barr at DeSoto Club.**

2004-05

Board: Pres. Meg Koziar
VP Cloe Bayer
Sec. Marjorie McCleskey
Treas. Darwin Hany
Past Pres. Pat Killmon
Insight Robin Young and Bill Wright
Membership Cindy Calhoun
Newsletter Mayo Stiles, and George Foehringer.
Publicity Bob McCleskey
Social Roger and Sally Bessmer
Worship Cloe Bayer

Membership 35

- Cloe Bayer and Robin Young attended SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) during the summer.
- Rev. Bud Hearn led a Summer Study on the four Wednesday evenings in July on the non-canonical gospels, titled "A Different Kind of Company," for the church and others in the community.
- A church banner was made during the summer. It was designed by Meg Koziar and constructed by Cloe Bayer, Marjorie McCleskey, and Meg. As UUVC had no building, the Village Fountain was featured in the design.

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

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- Anita Byers and Meg Koziar attended SWUUSI (Southwest UU Summer Institute) in Oklahoma in July and carried the banner for the first time.
- UUVC had a booth at the HSV POA's first Community Fair. A new church brochure and UU History brochure were made by Bob McCleskey for the occasion.
- A five-session course *Articulating Your UU Faith*, was facilitated by Dane Nielsen in January and February.
- Meg Koziar presented the shared church history at the Hot Springs UU Church's building dedication in April. The physical membership book was given to them, with a copy placed in UUVC's membership book.
- The first annual Flower Communion Ceremony was held in May.
- At the end of the year, Rev Jim Barr retired from monthly sermons for UUVC.
- Socials: **Picnic at Bessmer's Home**, Christmas Party at DeSoto Club, **Good-bye Party for Bessmers at Bayer's Home**.

2005-06

Board: Pres. Cloe Bayer
VP Robin Young
Sec. Marjorie McCleskey
Treas. Darwin Hany
Past Pres. Meg Koziar
Insight Dane Nielsen
Membership Jean Hany
Newsletter Meg Koziar
Social Ed Bayer
Worship Pat Hearn

Membership 34

- Cloe Bayer and Meg Koziar attended UUA General Assembly in Texas. Cloe carried the UUVC banner in the GA banner parade for the first time.
- Rev. Bud Hearn led a Summer Study on the four Wednesdays in July on "Truth and Fiction in *The DaVinci Code*."
- Rev. Bud Hearn preached one Sunday every month.
- Rev. Mac McPherson presented a series on World Religions at Insights once a month.
- Two new member ceremonies were held with ten people joining in January and nine more in April, increasing the size of the congregation from 35 to 54 (a 54% increase).
- A Men's Group was organized in April.
- **The choir wore Bonnets at Easter service.**
- Willie Wright died in October and Friend Ned Croshaw died in December. Rev. Bud Hearn conducted both services.

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- A keyboard was purchased with funds donated in memory of Willie Wright and dedicated in May.
- Socials: **September Picnic at Cortez Pavilion, Oktoberfest at Bayer's Home, Christmas Party at DeSoto Club.**

2006-07

Board: Pres. Joanne Hupp Umphrey
VP Dane Nielsen
Sec. Jerriann Nielsen
Treas. Darwin Hany
Past Pres. Cloe Bayer
Communications Bob McCleskey
Insight Steve Rittenmeyer
Membership Kay Croshaw
Newsletter Meg Koziar.
Social Jim Umphrey
Social Action Cynthia Saalfield
Worship Art Saalfield

Membership 58

- Dane Nielsen and Cynthia Saalfield attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) during the summer.
- Rev. Bud Hearn led a Summer Colloquy on the four Wednesdays in July entitled "Stepping Outside the Box" with sessions including, Misquoting Jesus, and the Gospel of Judas, Violence in Sacred Scripture and Ecological Humility.
- The Water Ceremony took place lakeside at the Cortez Pavilion following a church picnic on the Friday evening before the first Sunday Service.
- Services were recorded and podcasts available beginning in October.
- UUVC received a pewter chalice - the *UUSC Spirit of Justice Chalice Society Award* - in November, in recognition of UUVC's 100% participation in UUSC. The chalice it replaced was given to the Hot Springs UU Church in May.
- A Peacemaking Group was sponsored by the Social Action Committee. Sessions were held monthly January through April on the UUA Study Action Issue "Peacemaking."
- A Covenant Group was formed and met monthly at the Nielsen's home beginning in January.
- Rev. Mac McPherson led Insight one session a month with a series on the brain and religion.
- Seven new members were welcomed at a ceremony in October, ten in February and three more in May bringing the congregational membership to 71.
- A facilities committee searched for a new meeting place to no avail.
- A sound system was purchased in March.

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- A Mission/Vision Workshop was held at the Balboa Club in two all-day sessions in March and May, facilitated by Gary Paramore, SW UU District Consultant.
- A Social Justice Empowerment Workshop was facilitated in June by Rev. Carole Ann Cole from the UUA.
- Ten years of UUVC were celebrated at the Annual Meeting and picnic June 10 at the Cortez Pavilion, and the 17 persons who have been members since before 2000 were honored.

2007-08

Board: Pres. Dane Nielsen

VP Steve Rittenmeyer

Sec. Jerriann Nielsen

Treas. Ed Bayer

Past Pres. Joanne Hupp Umphrey

Communication Art Saalfeld

Insight Steve Rittenmeyer

Membership Eileen Broom

Newsletter Meg Koziar

Social Action Cynthia Saalfeld

Strategic Planning Bob McCleskey

Worship Karen Williams

Membership 69.

- Jerriann Nielsen attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) over the summer.
- Rev. Bud Hearn led a Summer Colloquy on the four Tuesdays in July, entitled "Where's the Religious/Christian Right Leading Us?"
- A second covenant group, all women, facilitated by Jerriann Nielsen, started in August.
- Fair Trade Coffee, Tea and Chocolate sales were started by the Social Action Committee.
- Thursday evening activities at the Coronado Center were initiated. First Thursday Movie night was held for four months, before being cancelled over licensing issues, then that night became Game night, 2nd Social Action, 3rd Board Meeting, 4th Book Discussion, 5th Congregational Conversations.
- A monthly Arts/Crafts project for the children at Ouachita Children's Center was initiated by the Social Action Committee.
- UUA Southwestern Conference Executive Director Rev. Susan Smith spoke at a Sunday Service in December.
- Four choir members attend the Southwest Women's Conference in Little Rock in February, featuring Carolyn McDade, composer of "Spirit of Life" and other UU hymns and choral music.

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- The annual business meeting was held in April, following the Insight program, instead of at the picnic. ?
- On May 25, the congregation adopted, by a 2/3 majority vote of all members in a mail-in ballot, the following: Resolution: "The Unitarian Universalist Village Church formally supports the Smart Teens /Healthy Decisions Coalition for the purpose of providing comprehensive sexuality education to the teens of Garland County."
- Rev. Mac McPherson presented programs the five Sundays in June entitled "Exploring Unitarian Universalist as a Moral Community."
- Choir Director Jo McPherson died in August, Member Jim Felker in December, and former President George Foehringer in March.
- **Socials: Christmas Party at Terrace on the Green Restaurant, St. Pat's Party at Townhouse Center, Annual Meeting/Picnic at Cortez Pavilion in May.**

2008-09

Board: Pres. Steve Rittenmeyer

VP Art Saalfeld

Sec. Pat Hearn

Treas. Jay Williams

Past Pres. Dane Nielsen

Worship Karen Williams

Insight Robin Young

Communications Jerriann Nielsen

Membership Cloe Bayer

Social Justice Cynthia Saalfeld

Strategic Planning Dane Nielsen.

Newsletter Meg Koziar.

Music Director Sigilda Naidin

Membership 65

- Rev. Bud Hearn led a Summer Colloquy on "Myth: Recapturing Its Purpose in A Post-Modern World."
- **The Water Ceremony was held at Lake Cortez on August 31.**
- Sigilda Naidin was hired as Music Director. She played for Sunday Services and for the choir practices held in the Good Samaritan Chapel.
- \$500 was sent to the UU Knoxville Relief fund following violence there.
- Covenant Group One took photos of members and friends for an online church photo directory.
- A Blessing of the Animals service was held at the Cortez Pavilion in October, led by Rev. Pati Trippel.
- A group helped with the Heifer's living gift market.

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- Beginning in October "Share the Plate" collections were taken. All cash on the first Sunday of each month and designated checks were given to a community group selected by the Social Action Committee.
- Information about Free Pulpit Free Pew given to all new members.
- Affinity interest groups were organized. Art, Games, Humanism Discussion and Investments were the first to get started. Investments was short-lived.
- Ovarians and Men's Groups were discontinued.
- UUVC's Mission and Vision Statements and Strategic Goals for 2009-14 were finalized and adopted.
- Attendance records of 83 for a Sunday Service and 85 for Insight were set in January.
- Former President Bill Wright died in October, VP Art Saalfeld in November, former Member Hal Rowin in January (in Arizona), Friend Ron Brubaker in April and Rev James Barr in June. The church benefited from an estate sale of Rev. Barr's belongings.
- Socials: Polka Party, Christmas Party, Mad Hatter Party, **Annual Meeting Picnic at Cortez Pavilion in May.**

2009-10

Board: Pres. Jerriann Nielsen

VP Alan Trippel

Sec. Colleen Gaynes

Treas. Jay Williams

Past Pres. Steve Rittenmeyer

Communications Tom Henderson/Carl Ford

Membership Cloe Bayer

Program Alan Trippel Social June Harris/Lee Duckfield

Social Action Cynthia Saalfeld

Strategic Planning Dane Nielsen

Newsletter Meg Koziar

Webmaster Carl Ford

Music Chana Caylor

Membership 71

- Colleen Gaynes, Pati Trippel and Alan Trippel attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) in July.
- Sigilda resigned due to job conflicts. Chana Caylor was hired as Music Director. Her husband Randy accompanied her on the guitar at Sunday Services.
- Small group dinners were discontinued, a monthly outing was started.
- A Care and Concern Committee was started.
- A book club was started.
- Rev. Mark Walz was our speaker December 6 and again May 16.

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- The widows' support group was changed to Grief Support. The Humanism group was disbanded. Current Issues group was started.
- A laptop computer and digital projector were purchases with funds from the Jo McPherson memorial fund for use in Insight programs, and for the treasurer's use.
- A Peace Banner was created by Cloe Bayer and Bobbie Bateman, funded by the sale of peace pins donated by Barbara Chaplik.
- Discussions were held to consider facilities for the church and/or hiring a minister. Several possible facilities were investigated by a committee.
- Becoming a Welcoming Congregation was discussed. It was decided to add a Human Right's Watch logo to our newspaper ad.
- Chaired by Bob McCleskey and Jerriann Nielsen, a successful Service Auction was held in May at the Balboa Club with about 100 in attendance. Steve Thacker was auctioneer. Over \$9000 was raised for the Growth Fund.
- The Village Church of Christ offered to sell UUVC their building. Whether to buy it was discussed in large groups and in small groups.
- A tour of the Village Church of Christ building included a potluck dinner.
- The bylaws were amended to enable a mail ballot and a vote was taken to buy the building with 72 of 73 ballots returned and a 75% positive vote, exceeding the 2/3 required.
- **C4K donated many computers to students at Langston School in July.**
- The Social Action Committee presented three classes on Teaching Tolerance on Sunday mornings in July.
- A Memorial service was held at UUVC in November for George Marshall who had died in July in Minnesota.
- Socials: Fall Fest, Mamma Mia Party at Balboa Club, A Sunset Supper at Cortez Pavilion.

2010-2016 A Church Building, No Minister

2010-11

Board: Pres. Alan Trippel

VP Dane Nielsen

Sec. Lee lafrate

Treas. Bob McCleskey

Past Pres. Jerriann Nielsen

Communications Cynthia Saalfeld

Membership Carl/Sheila Ford

Program Alan Trippel

Social Cloe Bayer

Social Action Pati Trippel

Strategic Planning Robin Young/Dennis Abraham

Building Transitions (ad hoc) Bobbie Bateman/Jerriann Nielsen

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Newsletter Meg Koziar

Webmaster Carl Ford

Music Director Sigilda Naidin

Membership 71

- Enough Funds were raised by members' contributions during July to add to the Growth Fund to make the down payment of \$150,000 for purchasing the building at 403 Barcelona Road from the Village Church of Christ. The purchase was final on July 31. VCC rented the building from us until their building was completed, but UUVC was able to use it for special events and Board meetings. They moved out and UUVC moved in in February 2011.
- The Village Church of Christ held the mortgage at 4%, with interest-only payments and principle payments of \$20,000 due 12/12 and \$10,000 due 7/15. The remaining to be paid over the last 15 years.
- A Building Transition ad hoc committee operated until a Building Committee was added to the board in February.
- UUVC took over the Computers for Kids program that began in the Fountain Lake Schools by Bob McCleskey. Beth Zabel took the lead in the program and expanded it to other local school districts, starting with Mountain Pine Schools.
- A Neighborhood Network was organized by Lee Duckfield for Care and Concern. Each of five neighborhoods in the Village had a coordinator who could be called in case of illness or other need.
- UUVC formally sponsored Rev. Bud Hearn's six-week seminars. They were held three times a year for on a weekday in the Community Hall. He also presented a one-day workshop for the congregation "Becoming a More Inviting Congregation."
- UUVC participated in the Green Leader Certification Program sponsored by the Garland County Beautification Commission and received Silver Certification.
- A joint Service with the Hot Springs UU Church was held at their church in November, followed by a Thanksgiving potluck, and another in April in our new building with Rev. Mark Walz as the speaker, followed by an Easter potluck.
- A party was held to honor Don Stiles' 100th birthday, but he was not able to attend.
- Volunteers began working at the Jackson House Thrift shop once a month.
- A book fair was held in December, with proceeds to the Building Fund.
- A collection of blankets and winter clothing was given to the Oaklawn migrant workers.
- Singing meditation services were held before Insight services from January through May.
- Delfin Bautista, UUA's LGBT Ministries Program Coordinator was a speaker.
- February 12 was move-in day to 403 Barcelona Rd, and the first Insight service was held on February 13, with Dr. Alan Ward the speaker.
- Congregational Conversations took place on Saturdays.

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- Woodworkers in the congregation constructed a sign (Ed Bayer), a chalice emblem for the front of the sanctuary (Ed), a chalice table (Jay Williams), and a lectern.
- A Conflict Resolution Policy was adopted in February.
- Outside groups using the building were AAUW, who rented space for their book sorting and sale, Sewing for Orphans in Tanzania, and groups with one-day events.
- The library, finally having a permanent home, was expanded and expertly cataloged by Carl Ford.
- The Art Group AIG put up a display of congregants' art in the Community Hall, and Members and Friends loaned or donated art for the rest of the building.
- An election was held in April with, for the first time, more than one nominee for President and VP, and a paper ballot. Nominees for president presented their goals in speeches to the congregation.
- Rev. Mark Walz and his wife gave the congregation 7 banners of the UU Principles.
- A tornado came through the Village in April with extensive damage to some members' homes, but not to the church.
- UUA Southwest District Director Susan Smith taught "UU 101" on May 21. A building dedication was held on May 22, with Susan Smith, Rev. Bud Hearn and Rev. Pati Trippel conducting the service. Invitations were sent to other churches and 130 people attended. A formal reception was held after the service.
- Following suggestions that UUVC hold Worship services every Sunday, it was voted at a congregational meeting that the membership must approve any changes in Sunday morning programming, and to continue having Sunday programs through the summer for the first time.
- A new website was developed, replacing the internal and external sites.
- An AED (defibrillator) was purchased for \$1500 of which \$1000 was donated.
- Nametags with lanyard cords were first used.
- A used Baby Grand piano was purchased.
- Recycling boxes were placed in the church by the Social Action Committee for newspapers, aluminum cans, white paper, batteries, and ink cartridges.
- Socials: Ice Cream Social in our new building, Oktoberfest at the Cortez Pavilion, Winter Wonderland in January at Tranquilo Restaurant. Cruise into Spring in March at UUVC, a Cinco de Mayo party at Cortez Pavilion, **Annual Meeting Picnic at Cortez Pavilion. ?** Recognition Dinner at UUVC **in June**. Excursions: KARK TV Station. Arkansas Arts Center, Oaklawn, Heifer Ranch.

2011-12

Board: Pres. Robin Young
VP Bobbie Bateman
Sec. Lee lafrate

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

Treas. Bob McCleskey
Past Pres. Alan Trippel
Building Tom Tirrell
Communications Cynthia Saalfeld
Membership Sheila Ford/Dick Robbins/Dan Ost
Social Cloe Bayer
Social Action Meg Koziar
Strategic Planning/Long Range Planning Tom Henderson.
Parliamentarian Steve Rittenmeyer

Other committee chairs: Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Memorial Meg Koziar.

Newsletter Meg Koziar

Webmaster Carl Ford

Music Director Sigilda Naidin.

Membership 72

- The SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) attendees were Bobbie Bateman, Lee Iafrate, and Carl and Sheila Ford.
- UUVC received a \$25K First Home grant from the UUA.
- A Personal Planning Form was developed by the Memorial Committee.
- A catalog of Art in the building, donated or loaned, was placed on the website. It excluded the art wall, which changes quarterly.
- Sound insulation was installed in the Community Hall, at a cost of \$10K.
- C4K distributed 60 refurbished computers to Langston School.
- Fair trade products were sold only 2 Sundays per month.
- Dan Ost delivered 169 articles of bedding and clothing, plus 100 bars of soap to Oaklawn's Chaplain.
- Rev. Mark Walz spoke on November 8 and met with the congregation regarding hiring him as a consulting minister. It was voted at the annual meeting, to hire him as consulting minister, for five days a month, (including a Sunday service), for 6 months beginning the last week of June.
- UUVC hosted Holocaust survivor Rosa Blum for the Interfaith Council program.
- The Board's Policy Documents were completely revised by Meg Koziar. Policies were numbered and were posted on the website.
- A hearing loop was installed in the sanctuary to assist those with hearing aids.
- The first annual Candlelight Christmas Eve Service was followed by a soup supper.
- UUSC Banner Vision of Justice Banner was awarded to UUVC for 74% of congregation being UUSC members. The previously earned banners were put in storage.
- A Sleeping Mat group, open to the community, began making mats for the homeless from plastic bags.
- A presentation on possibly acquiring a columbarium for a memorial garden was made in February by Sheila Ford and Meg Koziar.

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- *UU World* study group was organized to meet before Insights.
- A dogwood tree was planted in front of the sanctuary in an Earth Day Ceremony.
- A Speaker from UUSC, Ariel Jacobsen, brought two people from NW AR Workers Justice Center.
- A Memorial Committee was established. Three members with overlapping 3-year terms were elected in May.
- Plans for a Columbarium and Memorial Plaque were completed. Names engraved on the Memorial plaque included all Members, and Friends and former Members of significance, who had died since the church moved to the Village.
- A group started going to Langston School bi-monthly to read to children.
- A group started helping with the food backpack program at Langston School.
- A Service Auction May 8, chaired by Bob McCleskey and Jerriann Nielsen, netted \$11K.
- The six weekly study sessions on Immigration as a Moral Issue in May and June was sponsored by the Social Action Committee. Participants included some outside UUVC.
- Memorial services were held for David Allen in August, Herb Renner in February, Dick Robbins and Don Stiles in May, and John Foster in June. Services for Bob Stark, who died in April, were in Michigan.
- Socials: Halloween, Christmas Party, First Christmas Eve Soup Supper, Chinese New Year, Potluck Hors D'oeuvres Goodbye (Zabel, Brubaker), Annual Picnic in June at UUVC. **Middle Eastern Party in July..** Excursions: Bowling Party, Tour of Stone World, Winthrop Rockefeller Institute.

2012-13

Board: Pres. Jerriann Nielsen

VP Nell Brewer

Sec. Meg Koziar

Treasurer Bob McCleskey

Past Pres. Robin Young

Building Sandy Garcia

Communications Cynthia Saalfeld

Long Range Planning Sue Loberg

Membership Pati Trippel

Social Cloe Bayer

Social Action Martha Thomson

Other committee chairs: Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Memorial ?

Newsletter Penny Beed

Webmaster Carl Ford

Music Director Sigilda Naidin

Membership 81

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- Nell Brewer and JoAnn Bowen attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) during the summer.
- A new projector was purchased for the sanctuary.
- Choir risers were built and installed by church woodworkers.
- Extensive repairs, including adding French drains, were done to the parking lot. Cost was \$25K.
- Rev. Walz started his monthly consultations in August. His suggestion that a person from the Share the Plate recipient organization present each month resulted in more donations to Share.
- A Friends event was held in August, and another in February.
- A hearing loop was installed in the Community Hall.
- A rummage sale was held in November It raised \$2700.
- The Village Interfaith Thanksgiving Service was held at UUVU with Mark Walz as main speaker.
- Hot Springs UU were invited to our Thanksgiving service and meal.
- **A poetry group was organized.**
- A vote requiring 2/3 majority of all members by paper ballot was taken in November to have a Worship Service and Insight every Sunday. The votes failed.
- A new sound system was installed in the sanctuary.
- The UUA changed its districts. UUVU became part of the Southern Region instead of the Southwest District.
- A presentation on Covenant Groups was made at an Insight Service.
- Soup bowls and plates were purchased, used for Christmas Eve soup supper.
- Monthly Open Mic Night/Coffee House started in January, with members of the community invited.
- Two benches for the Memorial Garden were purchased with funds donated in memory of Leon Koziar.
- A commercial dishwasher was purchased.
- The Affirmation of Covenant and closing "Peace Be with You" were added to Insights.
- The documentary film "The Invisible War" about sexual harassment in the military, was shown in February in the Sanctuary.
- The columbarium for those who wished their remains to be at the church and memorial plaque for members whose remains were elsewhere, were installed in March, and a dedication held in April, with information about all the persons whose names were on the memorial plaque.
- The Table Tennis Interest Group purchased tables for weekly games.
- Sigilda Naidin gave a piano concert to benefit UUVU.
- The Church Library was dedicated to Rev. Bud Hearn.
- Interviews of members were placed in a "Shining the Light" book, but not all were interviewed.

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- UUCHS hosted UUVVC for a picnic in April at Lake Ouachita.
- Sigilda Naidin was honored for her services as our pianist and choir director at a salad lunch in June. A new music director was sought.
- Attendance folders were placed in pews.
- **The first inurnment in the new columbarium took place in June were for Leon Koziar and Art Saalfeld. (moved from 12-14)**
- Speakers included ministers from All Souls Tulsa, including Rev. Barbara Prose.
- Memorial services were held for Leon Koziar in November, Bob O'Hara in March, Barb Ost in April, and Milt Matzek in May.
- Socials: Ice Cream Social, Arabian Nights, Columbus Day, St. Patricks' Day, Luau, Picnic. Excursions: Governor's Mansion.

2013-14

Board: Pres. Nell Brewer

VP JoAnne Bowen

Secretary June Harris

Treasurer Meg Koziar

Past Pres. Jerriann Nielsen

Building: Terry Marx

Communications Penny Beed

Long Range Planning: Jerriann Nielsen

Membership, Anne Hagen

Office Administration June Harris

Program JoAnn Bowen

Social Sue Loberg

Social Action Martha Thomson.

Other committee chairs: Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Memorial ?.

Newsletter Penny Beed

Webmaster Carl Ford

Music Director Harvey McIntyre, Pianist Donna Grisso

Membership 82

- Penny Beed served as pianist over the summer until Harvey McIntyre was hired as Choir Director, and Donna Grisso as pianist.
- Share-the-Plate donations began to be considered as part of the goal of giving at least 10% of our income to community organizations. The amount that had to be budgeted from the Operating Fund could thus be reduced.
- Two refrigerators were replaced.
- A deep sink was installed with funds donated in memory of Dick Robbins, who had washed our large coffee pots with difficulty in the shallow one.
- A Safe Church plan was overseen by Tom Tirrell.
- The Interfaith Council showed films on social justice issues in various churches including UUVVC on October 1.

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- UUVC was authorized as a Red Cross Emergency Shelter.
- The flagpole in front of the church was destroyed by winds. It was not replaced.
- Congregational Conversations topics were the reconfiguration of the Board and getting a minister.
- Marilyn Matzek organized volunteers to staff the office.
- A cold snap burst pipes in the ceiling of room 2, requiring extensive repairs.
- Orange lanyards for returning visitors were added.
- "New UU" classes held for six sessions on worship Sundays beginning in January
- Small group Principled Commitment for couples began in January for 11 months, led by Dane Nielsen.
- UUA Consultant Marguerite Mills came in Feb to help us develop a new 5-year Long Range Plan.
- A Facebook page was developed in March.
- Members of the congregation hosted a woman from Nashville UU whose son was in a nearby treatment facility for spinal injuries for several months.
- A mentoring relationship for UUVC with All Souls in Tulsa was established.
- The Service Auction May 2, chaired by Bob McCleskey and Jerriann Nielsen, benefited the Building Fund.
- Offering plates began to be passed every Sunday, using envelopes for cash contributions of record, and accepting "Share" contributions all month, which increased collections.
- Recycling items from congregants' homes was changed to only batteries, aluminum cans and ink cartridges.
- The Social Action Committee set up a keyhole garden west of the sanctuary as a demonstration to assess developing a community garden.
- Socials: Ice Cream Social, Earth Day Celebration, Beach Party.

2014-15

Board: Pres. Cloe Bayer

VP Kim Harrison

Sec. June Harris

Treas. Meg Koziar,

Board Member at Large Court Mathey

Board Member at Large Peggy McCoy

Past Pres. Jerriann Nielsen

Committee chairs: Building Terry Marx, Communications: Penny Beed/Larry Enders, Long Range Planning Jerriann Nielsen, Membership Anne Hagen/Bill Mulcahy, Program David Welch, (Worship Penny Beed, Insight Dennis Abraham, Education Dane Nielsen), Social Cindy Nance and Bari Searls, Social Action Martha Thomson.

Other committee chairs: : Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Memorial ?

Newsletter Penny Beed

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Webmaster Carl Ford

Music Director Harvey McIntyre, Pianist Anne Bowes

Membership 82

- Kim Harrison and Cloe Bayer attended the UUA President's Convocation in July.
- Dennis Abraham and Kim Harrison attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) in August.
- The Office was opened three days a week from 10-2.
- A sign was placed near the portico entrance showing the time of Sunday Service.
- All exterior lights were changed to LEDs.
- UUVC entered into an agreement with All Souls Unitarian Church in Tulsa for one year of monthly webinars, newsletter articles, and help with training for a \$10K fee., Half of the fee was donated anonymously.
- At the Ice Cream Social on September 1 an "Ice Bucket Challenge" was held to raise funds for ALS Arkansas in honor of Karen Williams, who had ALS.
- At a congregational meeting in September, the Bylaws were revised to restructure the Board, removing the chairs of standing committees from the Board, and adding two Members at Large.
- A Council of Committee Chairs was organized for exchanging information between the Standing Committees. The Chairs reported monthly to the Board through the Vice-President.
- The first All Souls Tulsa webinar in September was training for the new Pastoral Care team. Other topics for monthly webinars were Leadership, Program development, Social Justice, and Stewardship.
- The agreement with Tulsa was that they would send article for the local newspaper, but the *Voice* would not publish from people outside the Village, so the articles went in with President Cloe Bayer's name.
- Video of All Souls UU Tulsa service shown in the sanctuary at 9:00 was initiated in September.
- The painting of the exterior of the church, a two-year project by volunteers, was completed.
- The Social Action Committee held a "Jobs Fair" to renew interest in its volunteer projects.
- Rev. Bud Hearn's seminar, formally sponsored by UUVC, included "Exploring Faith in a Changing World."
- The Social Action Committee started a "Blue Jeans for Kids" collection for Jackson House.
- \$3K Grant was received for the C4K program from West Central Arkansas Planning and Development District, to purchase flat screen monitors.
- "New UU" classes were led by Dane Nielsen In October and November

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- First “Arkansas Cluster” meeting of UU Churches in AR was held at UUVVC Oct.31-Nov. 1, facilitated by Rev. Susan Smith, UUA. Eight UU churches in Arkansas, 43 persons, attended. Myra Rustin headed the planning committee.
- Skills and Interest Surveys were collected from all Members and Friends and placed in the office.
- Monthly themes for Sunday services were introduced.
- Dane Nielsen attended District Fall Leadership Training in Dallas.
- New 3-year pledges to the Building Fund were asked for in November It was promised that any new pledges would be used to pay down the mortgage.
- The Office Administration Committee was established in January.
- Rev. Susan Smith, UUA Consultant, facilitated a workshop in January on needs of various sizes of congregations and explored the steps of hiring a minister, beginning with a developmental minister.
- A Friends dinner was held in January.
- UUVVC hosted the Village Interfaith Earth Day Service.
- Parking lot was resurfaced. \$10K.
- A mentoring system was set up. Chairs would serve for two years, the second with a vice-chair appointed by the Board. The vice-chair who would become chair the following year.
- The per mile reimbursement for speakers was increased from \$.25 to \$.40.
- A Pledge dinner, "A Celebration of Generosity," in May focused on the history of UUVVC. The elegant dinner was free to participants; its cost was underwritten by a few members.
- A new Interest Group, Dinner for 8, was started. The Art Group was discontinued.
- A desk and chairs were donated for use in the office.
- A roof leak was repaired for \$1500.
- The first all-music service was held on the 5th Sunday in June.
- A New Member Celebration Lunch was held in June, with recognition of those who have been members 5, 10,15, etc. years.
- A map of the Neighborhood Network was placed in the Community Hall.
- A Denomination Affairs position was added, to report to the Board.
- A new projector for the Community Hall was donated.
- All Souls Tulsa donated a print of their painting representing UU. It was impetus for our planning for our own painting.
- An Indoor Labyrinth program was presented by Rev. Garfinkle from Tulsa on a Saturday in the summer.
- Memorial Services were held for Mavie Emmons. and Karen Williams.
- Socials: Ice Cream Social with an Ice Bucket Challenge for ALS, Karen's Kronies, Oktober Fest Beer-Tasting, Thanksgiving with UU Hot Springs, Mardi Gras, Spring Brunch. Excursions: Garvan Woodland Gardens, Bowling Party, Pulaski Tech Culinary Arts.

2015-16

Board: Pres. Kim Harrison

VP Court Mathey

Sec. Suzette Watson

Treas. Meg Koziar

Board Members at Large Peggy McCoy

Board Member at Large Janet Enders

Past Pres. Jerriann Nielsen

Committee chairs: Building: Terry Marx, Communications: Bobbie Bateman, Long Range Planning: Jerriann Nielsen, Membership: Bill Mulcahy, Office Administration: June Harris, Program: David Welch, Social: Cindy Nance and Bari Searls, Social Action: Alana Clegg.

Other committee chairs: Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Memorial , Ministerial Search Bob McCleskey and Jerriann Nielsen, Pastoral Care Court Mathey, 50th

Anniversary Cloe Bayer

Newsletter Suzette Watson

Webmaster Carl Ford

Choir Director Harvey McIntosh, Pianist Ann Bowes

Membership 94

- Court Mathey and Kim Harrison attended the UU Presidents Convocation in Dallas in July.
- After the second lump sum payment of \$22K, which included the \$10K planned, plus \$12K from new pledges made in the November 2014 Building Fund pledge drive, UUVC began making monthly mortgage principal payments from the Building Fund.
- A women's history play was presented by a Hot Springs Group.
- An upright piano was donated by Holy Trinity Episcopal Church.
- Celebrating 50th Anniversary of the Church kicked off with elegant dinner party on the anniversary date of October 10, with a survey of the 50-year history of the congregation led by Bob McCleskey, and photos shown.
- A special service was held October 11 with Rev. Susan Smith, UUA Consultant, as the speaker.
- Kim Harrison began process of certification of Welcoming Congregation status.
- Lifetime membership for those over 90 was established, so they could remain members even if not attending or donating.
- The Rainbow Flag donated by David Allen was displayed in the lobby.
- UUVC was accepted as a Red Cross Daytime Emergency Shelter.
- A Wayside Pulpit was investigated, but POA regulations made it impractical, so inspirational quotes were placed inside the church.
- A meditation group lead by Quay O'Hara met for several months.

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- Jerry Offerman agreed to produce a painting representing UUVC Values. The painting was dedicated on February 14 and placed in the entrance lobby, along with an explanation. An article about the painting was published in the *UU World Magazine*. Tee shirts and notecards with the image were available for purchase.
- The Board approved 4 Webinars with All Souls for leadership training. At the first one, the ministers at All Souls challenged UUVC leaders to raise \$20,000 for a ministerial fund. If accomplished, All Souls would waive the \$4K charge for their support services for the year. \$20,150 was contributed before the end of June.
- Other All Souls Webinars were December 6 on the topic "What we are, what we want to become," Feb 28 on leadership development, and April 10 on stewardship.
- The congregation voted on Feb 7 to begin the search for a part time UU developmental minister, and an ad was placed in UU publications. A candidate was interviewed in April.
- On Valentine's day, February 14, UUVC held its first Jazz Service, headed by Dr. John Leisenring, with Doc Ryan, Earl Hesse, Clyde Pound and Paul Stivits. It was such a success that the Board decided it should be an annual event.
- A Social Justice Book Study group discussed "Just Mercy."
- A plaque was made for names of 25-year members. Dottie Foehringer and Mayo Stiles were the first listed.
- A Service Auction was held on May 6 and was highly successful. It was chaired by Bob McCleskey and Jerriann Nielsen.
- May 15, 2016 the congregation voted to offer a 1-year contract as half-time developmental minister to Rev. David Ruffin, Tulsa, Oklahoma to begin in August.
- A Membership Luncheon honored three new members and Mayo Stiles and Dottie Foehringer, who have been members for 25 years.
- The final Open Mic night was held June 16.
- The Share the Plate offerings for various area charities averaged over \$1,000 per month
- The Installation of new Board Members was done at a Sunday Service in June.
- Socials: Ice Cream Social, 50th Anniversary Party, Thanksgiving Dinner (without Hot Springs Church), Christmas Eve Soup Supper, Chili Cook-off, Mother's Day Brunch hosted by the men of UUVC. Excursions: Historic Arkansas, Murray's Dinner Theater (A Bench in the Sun), Alliance Rubber, Bowling Party, Reilly Art Studio.

2016 -- Church with a Minister

2016-17

Board: Pres. Court Mathey

VP. Penny Beed

Sec. Suzette Watson

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

Treas. Kim Townsan

Board Member at Large Janet Enders

Board Member at Large Tom Tirrell

Past Pres. Kim Harrison

Committee chairs: Building, Terry Marx, Communications Bobbie Batman/ Katherine Wheeler, Finance Meg Koziar, Long Range Planning: Judy Johnson, Membership: Pam Harrison, Office Administration: Meg Koziar, Program David Welch, Social Cindy Nance and Bari Searls, Social Action Alana Clegg.

Special Committees: Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Memorial Jay Williams, Ministerial Jerriann Nielsen, Ministerial Search Bob McCleskey, Pastoral Care Ministry Court Mathey,

Newsletter Suzette Watson

Webmaster Jerry Fay.

Choir Director Harvey McIntosh, Pianist Ann Bowes

Membership 90

- Penny Beed attended the UU Music Network Conference in WI in July.
- Penny Beed, Court Mathey, Tom Tirrell and Judy Johnson attended the SW District Leadership Experience (DBLE) in Little Rock. This was the last DBLE.
- The Board established that certain committees required chairs to be Members: Finance, LRP, Membership, Pastoral Care, Program and Memorial.
- In July, the Board initiated having Congregational Conversations with lunch supplied by the Board.
- The parking lot was repaved at a cost of \$20K.
- Rev. David Ruffin was contracted for one year, as a part-time developmental minister. He spoke two Sundays a month from August until February, but then resigned for personal reasons.
- A Jazz Service led by Dr. John Leisenring was held September 18.
- Monthly themes for services were adopted.
- Insight services added the Affirmation of Covenant at the beginning and closing with singing "Peace Be with You."
- Educational sessions following the service were started, including *UU World* Discussions.
- In November, Callie Williams from the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program gave a talk to the community on E. Faye Jones, the famous Arkansas architect and student of Frank Lloyd Wright, who designed several structures in the Village. The program was a delayed part of UUV's 50th anniversary celebration.
- Dinners for 8 groups were started.
- "A Hunger Banquet" in October, led by Anais Troadec, brought a diverse group of people from all over the area to learn about hunger in Arkansas.
- Policies were revised to be consistent with Welcoming Congregation language, and welcoming language was added to Sunday services.
- Two heat pumps were replaced.

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- Sunday services were videotaped with a new camera.
- Rev. David Ruffin facilitated study of “Rewire –Examining Whiteness” to two groups.
- In January, Dane Nielsen led a four-week class "Understanding Poverty."
- A collections bin for items for Clarion Call were added to that for Jackson House.
- The website was redesigned with Jerry Fay as webmaster. Carl Ford was thanked for maintaining UUVC's website for the previous 7 years.
- There was an electronic vote of all members in April to hire Mark Walz as part-time minister beginning in August.
- The Arkansas Universalist Unitarian Justice Ministry (ARUUJM) was organized within the Arkansas Cluster. Anais Troadec, Steve Rittenmeyer, and Dane Nielsen served on the Board of Directors. A congregational questionnaire helped select priorities for ARUUJM ministries: gender justice, racial justice and environmental justice.
- UUVC hosted the Arkansas UU Cluster in May.
- A railing on the steps to the lectern was installed in the sanctuary.
- A book signing party was held for Doug Beed's book about Vietnam.
- Socials: Red White and Blue Ice Cream Social, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Eve Soup Supper, Chili Cook-Off, and Mother's Day Brunch. Excursion: Pulaski Tech Culinary Arts.

2017 - 18

Board: Pres. Penny Beed

VP David Welch

Sec. Suzette Watson

Treas. Kim Townsan

Board Members at Large Tom Tirrell

Board Members at Large John Leisenring

Past Pres .Court Mathey

Committee chairs: Building Cliff Harrison, Communications Katherine Wheeler, Finance Kim Harrison, Long Range Planning Jerriann Nielsen, Membership Pam Harrison, Office Administration Meg Koziar Program Mary Rittenmeyer, Social Cloe Bayer, Social Action Meg Koziar.

Special Committees: Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Memorial Jay Williams, Ministerial Jerriann Nielsen, Pastoral Care Ministry Court Mathey

Newsletter John Swinburn

Webmaster Jerry Fay

Choir Director Harvey McIntosh, Pianist Ann Bowes

Membership 89

- Mary Ann Rittenmeyer attended the UU Music Network conference.
- Rev. Mark Walz begin his ministry August 1. His office hours were set for Tuesday and Thursday.
- The Board adopted the Democratic Rules of Order (instead of Robert's Rules).
- UUVC's investment account was moved to the UU Common Endowment Fund.

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- All fluorescent tubes were changed to LEDs.
- A replacement heat pump was donated, and the sound system was upgraded.
- Dining-out groups were added to dining-in Dinners for 6.
- Sermons were recorded on video for the website.
- After service education includes Sunday Funnies and Current events. Sunday conversations were led by Warren Searls.
- David Welch led a 6-week series "How Jesus Became God."
- An Interfaith prayer vigil was held at UUVC after the events at the Charlottesville Unite the Right rally.
- Traveling musician Jim Scott gave an evening concert in August.
- At a luncheon for new members in October, Meg Koziar was recognized for 25 years of membership, and Robin Young was bid good-bye.
- A Jazz service was held October 22.
- A UUA Healthy Leadership course was held with participants fee paid by UUVC.
- A minister's discretionary fund was established to pay for services for a person in need.
- A safety and security team was formed to review policies.
- Standing on the Side of Love and Rainbow flags were displayed outside.
- A Volunteer luncheon was held with information on volunteer opportunities.
- Tulsa video sermons were moved to room #2 so the choir could rehearse in the sanctuary.
- Movies with Mark and Myra began in January.
- Meatless lunch group was started as an Interest Group.
- A group helped pick up litter as part of the Village Pride cleanup.
- AED/CPR training was done by a Red Cross volunteer.
- A Service Auction held in March, chaired by Bob McCleskey and Jerriann Nielsen, raised \$15K for the Building Fund.
- UUVC allowed the use of the sanctuary for a March 5 Forum for POA Board Candidates. There were a few empty seats, but NO parking places left.
- The Conflict Resolution Committee changed its name to Dispute Mediators.
- April 29th was the first 5th Sunday "Music on Barcelona." Service. The Village Strings, directed by John Leisenring, performed.
- Sigilda Naidin rented the Sanctuary for a voice recital in May.
- The American Flag was added to the flags on the podium.
- After much deliberation about what to do about new concealed carry laws, in Arkansas, the Board voted to ban firearms and to put signs on the doors: "Firearms are banned in our church in accordance with Arkansas law."
- John Leisenring was hired as the new Music Director to begin in July.
- A "Rise and Shine" church cleanup day was held in June.
- A reception was held for Harvey McIntyre to thank him for his four years as UUVC's Music Director.

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- The Meg Koziar Award for Distinguished Service was established. Meg was given a plaque at the last service in June. A stained-glass chalice holding a plaque for the names of future recipients was placed in the sanctuary lobby.
- David Welch and Myra Rustin were delegates to the UUA General Assembly in Kansas City in late June.
- Memorial services were held for Mike Kloack in October, Barb Robbins, in November, Tom Henderson in February, and Bill Mulcahy in March.
- Socials: Labor Day Ice Cream Social, Oktoberfest, Thanksgiving Dinner, Christmas Eve Soup Supper, Mother's Day Brunch. Excursions: Whittington Avenue Band Concert, Chinese Lantern Festival, Belvedere Nursing and Rehab Tour, Mt. Pine Museum.

2018 -19

Board: Pres. David Welch

VP Janet Holt

Sec. Debbie Bostick

Treas. Kim Townsan

Board Member at Large Frank Hubbard/Myra Rustin

Board Member at Large Mark Hamilton

Past Pres. Penny Beed

Committee chairs: Building Cliff Harrison, Communications Lorri Street/Patty Dacus, Finance Kim Harrison, Long Range Planning Jerriann Nielsen, Membership Nell Brewer/Pam Harrison, Office Administration Jim Watson, Program Mary Ann Rittenmeyer, Social Cloe Bayer, Social Justice Meg Koziar.

Special Committees: Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Green Team Janet Holt, Memorial Jay Williams, Ministerial Jerriann Nielsen, Pastoral Care Ministry Court Mathey, Safety and Security Tom Tirrell

Newsletter John Swinburn/Cindy Perez

Webmaster Suzette Watson

Music Director John Leisenring, Pianist Ann Bowes/Clyde Pound

Membership 101

- Tile was replaced in all the uncarpeted areas.
- A "Peace Totem" was added to the Memorial Garden, a gift from Doug Beed.
- The Social Action Committee was renamed Social Justice.
- POA put a sign on DeSoto and Calella pointing to the Unitarian Universalist Church.
- A discussion group, "Civil Conversation for Adults" took place once a month on Wednesday for several months.
- A Council of Past Presidents was established to meet annually.
- A Building Fund Pledge Drive was held, with pledges payable over 3 years.
- A Beautification Task Force was appointed as part of the Building Committee.
- A Fall "Rise and Shine" cleaning day was successful.

Updated June 2020 by Meg Koziar

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- A Farewell reception for long time member Cynthia Saalfeld was held in September
- Toby Hamilton signed during opening and closing of Sunday services.
- Meg Koziar led a Humanism Covenant Group using the book "Becoming More Fully Human," by William Murry.
- UUVC's Computers for Kids (C4K) program became an official EPA E-Recycle site.
- An electronic election to call Rev. Mark Walz as UUVC's settled minister was held in October, with a 90% positive vote.
- Warren Searls was given the 2018 AARP Andrus Award. He designated UUVC as the charity to receive the \$1000 award. The ceremony was held at UUVC.
- A workshop was held to develop the next Long Range Plan, with Rev. Carlton Smith from UUA assisting.
- Popular books from the Church Library were displayed on a cart in the Community Hall.
- A collection of food for Jackson House took place at the Thanksgiving Dinner.
- The Meg Koziar Award recipients were Bob McCleskey, Dane Nielsen and Jerriann Nielsen.
- Rev. Bud Hearn was recognized as an Honorary Member.
- Thermostats were replaced with "smart" thermostats, controlled remotely, paid by Entergy.
- Motion-sensitive light switches were put in the bathrooms.
- Fire alarms and smoke detectors were added to the Sanctuary.
- As part of Black History Month, students from Parkview High School in Little Rock put on a concert, open to the public, on February 20.
- The hail-damaged roof was replaced. Insurance covered the cost.
- The "Green Team" was formed as a special committee, for recycling and environmental awareness.
- Internet conversations were initiated for discussion of books and articles.
- A ramp was built from the back of the sanctuary for safe exit in emergencies.
- Eco-theologian Michel Dowd led the worship service April 7 and held a public forum on Tuesday evening.
- In April, Rev. Walz changed the title of his weekly columns in the Hot Springs Village Voice from "Beyond Belief" to "Spiritually Fearless."
- Rev. Mark Walz was installed as UUVC's settled minister on May 18.
- A fire drill was held following a Sunday service.
- A Facebook page was created for the Green Team.
- Janet Holt and Warren Searls were delegates to the UUA General Assembly in Seattle.
- Joe Burleigh died in October, Memorial services were held for Ed Bayer in May, and Bill Spears in June.

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- Socials: Luau, Ice Cream Social, Chili Cookoff, St. Patrick's Day, Cinco de Mayo.
Excursions: Coleman Mine Tour, Flyway Brewery, Heifer Ranch.

2019 – 20

Board: President Janet Holt

VP Warren Searls

Sec. Debbie Bostick

Treas. Kim Townsan

Board Member at Large Myra Rustin

Board Member at Large Mark Hamilton (Mary Rittenmeyer, sub).

Past Pres. David Welch

Committee Chairs: Building Ducky Berkley, Communications Patty Dacus, Finance Kim Harrison, Long Range Planning John Swinburn, Membership Ronnie Zuege, Office Administration Jim Watson/Cindy Perez, Program Lee Iafrate, Social/Events Dee Offerman and Stephanie Hubbard, Social Justice Sue Loberg.

Special Committees: C4K Bob McCleskey, Conflict Resolution Steve Rittenmeyer, Green Team Janet Holt, Memorial Jay Williams, Ministerial Jerriann Nielsen, Pastoral Care Ministry Court Mathey, Safety and Security Tom Tirrell

Newsletter Cindy Perez

Website Tom Calhoun

Music Director John Leisenring, Pianist Clyde Pound

Membership 110

- Janet Holt and Warren Searls were delegates to the 2019 General Assembly.
- A blog "The Sacred and the Secular" was initiated by John Swinburn.
- "Free Pulpit, Free Pew" policies, and emergency exit information were laminated and placed in the pew pockets.
- The Social Committee was renamed "Events Committee."
- A Voter Justice Team was organized.
- Surprise get togethers were started by the Dining Out Interest Group.
- Rev. Walz changed the title of his articles in the Voice from "Beyond Belief" to "Spiritually Fearless."
- The siding on the church was replaced by Wilson's Window and Siding for \$90K.
- Cloe Bayer was the recipient of the Meg Koziar Award for Distinguished Service.
- The documentary film "American Heretics" was shown free of charge in February. The community was invited.
- After large bills from leaks in the sprinkler system, that system was turned off.
- Cinnamon Rolls taken to Police/EMTs as Thank You.
- Two heat pumps serving the sanctuary were replaced for \$18K
- A new projector for the sanctuary was purchased.
- UUVC joined the Village Chamber of Commerce.
- Singer Roy Zimmerman gave a concert on February 4, \$20/person was requested.
- A Welcoming Congregation Application was submitted to the UUA.

Unitarian Universalist Village Church History – Detailed Version

- The Board suspended all meetings in the building effective March 13 due to the coronavirus.
- Messages and sermons were videotaped and put on the church website.
- Because of the Covid-19 pandemic, all meetings in the building were suspended on March 13, except C4K, which arranged for social distancing of volunteers.
- Jackson House Volunteers were suspended from March until mid-May.
- Sunday services were videotaped and available on the church website. Rev. Walz spoke every Sunday until May 10, when Insights resumed. Music was provided on Worship Sundays by Clyde Pound and John Leisenring and a few choir members.
- A video of mid-week messages by Rev. Walz were also placed on the website.
- A volunteer (Deanna Tolliver) made masks. They were delivered by Kim Townsan, who also delivered Fair Trade items to members of the congregation.
- Board meetings were held using Zoom beginning with the March meeting.
- The Annual Meeting was held by Zoom, and voting for Board members, the budget, and a minor revision to the bylaws done by email with 90 members voting.
- Discussions, interest group meetings and committee meetings were by Zoom.
- UUVC was recognized as a Welcoming Congregation by the UUA.
- A record \$7,815 May Share the Plate was given to Jackson House.
- Warren Searls, Patty Dacus and Meg Koziar were delegates to the virtual UUA General Assembly in June. Kim Townsan and John Swinburn also participated.
- A Welcoming Congregation Celebration was held in the church parking lot on June 27. A rainbow ribbon joined the members of the congregation who were physically distanced on the church lawn. There was music, readings, and an address by Rev. Walz. The event was live on Zoom and recorded for the website.
- Hildy Nyberg died in October, and Helen Stark and Ann Simpson in November. No services were held at UUVC. Cynthia Saalfeld died in March, but services were delayed due to the pandemic.
- Socials: Picnic at Cortez Pavilion, Thanksgiving, Trivia Night. Excursions: Clinton Museum ("Washed Ashore" exhibit), Lake Ouachita Eagle Watch Boat Tour.