



# Unitarian Universalist Village Church

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Jerry Offermann '16

## August 2016 Newsletter

### President's Column

UUVC President Court Mathey



On Thursday night July 7 five police officers were killed in Dallas. It was therefore somewhat eerie leaving the Village bound for Dallas on Friday July 8 with Penny Beed. I had lived and worked in Dallas for 43 years and had been a resident when President Kennedy was assassinated there in November 1963. Another black spot on the city, yet it could have been Any City, USA. With 7 billion people in the world there are always some who are controlled by EVIL.

We arrived in a quiet city and the President's Convocation went off as planned. Penny and I both felt we had gotten many ideas from the other 20 people representing about twelve other Arkansas, Texas and Oklahoma UU churches. The Sunday service at UU Dallas, with a great sermon by Rev. Daniel Kanter about Unity, Peace and Love was very moving. A group of two guitars and a bongo drummer with a lady vocalist was an added pleasure.

Yes, Black Lives Matter but so do All Lives. I'm sorry I wasn't able to get in the meeting in Little Rock on Saturday, July 23, with Jerriann and Dane Nielsen to learn the language and methods to talk about and act for racial justice in our city, families and organizations.

We'll be having a Congregational meeting on July 31 to discuss further repairs to our parking lot. David Ruffin will be our worship speaker in August. Immediately following that service four of us will go to Leadership Training, DBLE. Normally held in Denton, Texas we will have to trek 40 miles to the 4H campus in west Little Rock for the five day training. Attending will be Penny Beed, Judy

Johnson, Tom Tirrell and I. The Board decided to send four this year instead of two because of the close proximity.

The "Dog Days" of summer are here with the heat, showers and high humidity. Stay cool!

### August Sundays at UUVC

**June Attendance: All Souls webcast, 65  
UUVC, 315**

Share the Plate: Arkansas Red Cross: \$1,056

August Share the Plate: **All About Kids Food Program**

August 7, Worship, Rev. David Ruffin, "In Defense of Enthusiasm"

August 14, Insight, Rabbi Levy, "Choose Life: But What Kind?"

August 21, Worship, Rev. Bob Van Hook, "Campaigning for God & the Prosperity Gospel"

August 28, Insight, Rev. Bud Hearn, TBA

*May your life preach more loudly than your lips.*

William Ellery Channing

## TREASURER'S REPORT

Kim Townsan



Well, we have both ended our fiscal year 2016 on a high note and started fiscal year 2017 on the right foot! Our results for 2016 were positive on both sides of the equation, i.e. income exceeded budget AND expenses were less than budget. So kudos to all for their generosity and a special call out to our committee chairpersons for their diligence in managing our expenses. To see the details of the fiscal yearend financial results, please go to the UUVC website, Friends & Members section, Financial Documents link to access financial statements.

This past fiscal year was a significant one for UUVC financially as we began the pay down on our building mortgage with the Village Church of Christ. The payments included a \$22,000 lump sum paid in July of 2015, in addition to starting last August with monthly mortgage payments of \$2,278. Funding of our monthly mortgage payments comes from two sources. The portion associated with Interest is paid out of our Operating Fund, and is our second largest single line item expense. The Principal amount of the mortgage payment is paid out of our Building Fund account. Since 2011 the Building Fund has received over \$240,000 in pledge commitments from our members and friends. The Building Fund, in addition to funding our mortgage principal payments, is also the source for financing significant improvements and expenses associated with the building and property. Building fund expenditures are authorized by the Board, with expenditures exceeding \$5,000 to be voted on by the Congregation.

I mentioned that interest payments are the second largest expense item in this year's budget. Which begs the question, what is our largest? That would be what we have budgeted for a developmental minister. So Fiscal Year 2017, like last year, provides another financial "first" for us with the funding of this new, exciting phase of UUVC. In addition to our financial statements, the budget for this fiscal year is also posted on the website ... if you want to review the details.

Following the start of this fiscal year, we have received a few more operating fund pledges. I know I speak on behalf of the Board when I extend our sincere appreciation for the level of pledge commitments by members and friends ... an 18% increase over last year's actual pledge payments!

### From Building Chair:

**HELP WANTED:** Looking for a member to become Vice Building Chair beginning July 1, 2016, who will become the Building Chair beginning July 1, 2017 for a 2-year term. You don't have to do it all, unless you want to.

If interested, please contact me at 501-226-5136 or [tmarx@live.com](mailto:tmarx@live.com). Let's talk. Terry Lynne Marx, present Building Chair

### Long Range Planning

Judy Johnson

Judy Johnson became chair of the Long Range Planning Committee, with Jerriann Nielsen and Tom Henderson remaining on the committee. Bob McCleskey and Kim Townsan will also be asked to stay. The newest addition to the team is Frank Hubbard. Our goals remain the same as our ongoing activities. The LRP will work to become certified as a Welcoming Congregation under the leadership of Kim Harrison. We also plan to use the UUA Curricula as a tool to provide UU education, increased participation with the Interfaith Council and with Social Justice Ministry through the Arkansas UU Cluster Group.

The minister search remains ongoing and a new brochure has been completed and sent to a variety of potential candidates and location.



*Perhaps we never appreciate the here and now until it is challenged.*

Anne Morrow Lindbergh

# WHAT'S HAPPENING?

## CPR/AED TRAINING CLASS IN SEPTEMBER

Tom Tirrell



We are planning another Red Cross Training Class to learn or review the use of our own AED (defibrillator) machine which is pictured above and which can be found hanging on the wall in the foyer across from the Gay Pride flags. This 2-3 hour class is designed to train a non-medical volunteer such as yourself to be capable of operating our AED device in an emergency situation until the arrival of the professionally trained EMT squad and ambulance who will have been summoned with a 911 call.

The more people like us who have been trained in the use of this lifesaving device, the greater the likelihood that someone will be able to help you or me when we suddenly find ourselves in an emergency cardio situation.

We will also learn and practice the "hands only" (no mouth-to-mouth) CPR technique. This aspect of the training will involve you getting down on the floor on your knees to practice this aspect of CPR. Participants will need to wear appropriate clothing to allow this. To make it easier on our knees, past participants have also brought a towel/cushion to kneel on while practicing.

Please sign-up in the Community Hall on Sundays for this vital class which will be held some **evening in September** at our UUVC. We will contact you later to find out which evening will work best for our class participants and instructor. Call Tom Tirrell if you have further questions regarding your participation in this class.

## Summer Jobs

Mike Kloack has been busy removing mud dauber nests on our Church buildings, and painting the outside Sanctuary doors. Thank you, Mike.



## Social Action Committee Projects

Pam Harrison, UUVC Jackson House Coordinator

UUVC volunteers at Jackson House Thrift Shop and Kitchen have devoted many hours of service and love. They truly are awesome!!



Jackson House Kitchen Crew, July 19th, 2016: Wally Johnson, Martha Graham, Junell O'Hara and Kim Townsan (not pictured Tom Drake).

UUVC volunteers (6) work one day a month in the Jackson House kitchen and two volunteers work in the Thrift shop once a month.

During the first five months of 2016 (April was covered by a business doing community service) UUVC has prepared **594**

lunches for homeless and needy people. Sometimes this is the only meal they have that day.

The UUVC Food Drive which started in October 2015 has been very successful. Through the generosity of our UUVC congregation we have provided **22** bins of food for the Jackson House Food Pantry. This project will continue: the need is greater now than ever.

Also, as part of our outreach program the Social Action Committee has started a "Back to School Blue Jean Project" for Jackson House. We are collecting blue jeans sizes 6-18, boy or girl, to be given to families with school age children. Two years ago we donated 45 pairs of blue jeans. So far we have collected **15** pairs of jeans in just two weeks.



Jackson House Thrift Shop Manager Patsy Ware accepting 20 pairs of blue jeans from UUVC Back-to-School Blue Jean Project.

The love and generosity UUVC has for our outreach programs is amazing!

*The strongest principle of growth lies in human choice.*

George Eliot

## Social Action Committee

Alana Clegg, Chair



The next meeting date is 8/10 at 3 pm with Anais Troadec presiding. It will be a planning meeting for the October 22 Hunger Banquet. For more information or to join in the planning process please attend.

The August Share the Plate recipient will be the All About Kids food program. Michael Regauld, PhD. is the Village Church of Christ program coordinator and will be the speaker on August 7th.

Meg Koziar showed us her report on the amount of Share the Plate contributions for the 2015-2016 fiscal year. From July 2015-June 2016, STP totaled \$14,794. \$1000 from the operating budget was donated to Jackson House. Total donations were \$15,794.

In regard to Langston Backpacks: From January 7 through May 26, 2016, approximately 51 volunteers packed approximately 839 grocery bags, one for each backpack. The average time expended each week was 70 minutes.

Please notice the 3 flags in the front entrance that flank Dave Allen's memorial plaque. Dave purchased the flags before he passed away and hoped we would display them. Well here are 3 of them, the Rainbow flag signifying the LGBTQ community, the Love flag with the heart, and the Peace flag with the peace symbol. Dave was a peace-loving and loveable gentleman who is missed by many. A memorial bench is on the Cedar Creek Trail.

The Social Action Committee still needs a Vice Chair to be mentored for next year. If anyone wants to know what this committee does and would like to join please come to the next meeting on 8/10 at 3 pm, and/or you may call me, Alana Clegg, current Chair holder at 501-626-1930. I'd be happy to talk with you. You may email me also at [alanaclegg@yahoo.com](mailto:alanaclegg@yahoo.com).

## Social Committee: Excursions

Sam Stout

On Monday, June 27, 2016, members of the social committee joined Joe and I at Whittington Park for a band concert. Unbelievable that people are able to play their instruments, not to mention hanging unto them, in that humidity. The yellow, plastic tuba was quite interesting. Great concert.

The following people were ushers, passing out programs and collecting money for the band during intermission: Dee Offerman, Cindy Nance, Bari Searls, Lee lafrate, Sue and Loren Loberg.

Thank you so much for helping out, heat, humidity and all. What a great bunch of people we have at UUVC!

## Fourth Friday Film Fest

Cloe Bayer

The movie chosen for the August 22 Film Fest is "The Big Short". This is a thought provoking movie about the housing bubble of 2007-2008, its causes and how so many profited from it. Sounds like a boring story, but that's not what the critics and the audience reviews had to say. Some remarks: "A brilliant mix of stellar acting and a cast to give you a quite memorable cinema experience. It gives a pretty good in-depth look at the economic meltdown ... a must see". Another said "The Big Short may be difficult to understand all the business terminology, but the film explains itself to the audience all while being creative, hilarious, and well acted." Also, "One of the best films of the year. They take a complicated topic and make it easier to understand and tell the story with a lot of humor, although it is a terrifying tale. The cast is excellent. Definitely, worth checking out." The all star cast being lauded by the reviewers consists of Brad Pitt, Christian Bale, Steve Carrell, Ryan Gosling, Marisa Tomei, and Karen Gillian. A bit different from our usual fare at the **FFFF**, but in keeping with our goal of bringing only the best in high quality entertainment to UUVC.



## SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Cindy Nance & Bari Searls



To work on this effort, a steering committee has been formed consisting of Kim Harrison, Tom Tirrell, Judy Johnson and Jerriann Nielsen. Those involved in this effort will be members of the Program, Membership, Communications and Social Action Committees, along with several others here and there.

So, keep a look out for upcoming opportunities to learn more, become more accepting and understanding of issues facing LGBTQ in our community and state.

### The Red, White & Blue Ice Cream Social is Labor Day, Monday, September 5<sup>th</sup> - 1:00-2:30 PM.

Your friends and family are invited to attend with you. There is no cost for this but we are asking people to sign-up to give us an idea of expected attendance. Ice cream and alternative choices will be served with lots of yummy toppings. Join in the fun!



Share your ideas for new events or excursions.

The 1<sup>st</sup> Social Committee Meeting of the church year is Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup>, at 10:00 AM at UUVC. Please consider joining this committee! Email or call Cindy Nance [cindy102153@aol.com, 337 278-4004] or Bari Searls [barisearls@sbcglobal.net, 501 915-9357] for more information.

### DINNERS FOR EIGHT (or seven or six)

We are planning another round of our "Dinners" series for this coming Fall/Winter season. When you join us you will be dining one evening per month in the home of a UUVC member or friend from your assigned group. Note: We will not meet in November and December to avoid conflicts with the busy holiday season. This first round will include dinners in Sept., Oct., Jan. and Feb. One of our goals is to meet and involve the **newer** members and friends in our UUVC family in these more intimate social gatherings. If you are a newer member or friend-we particularly want you join us now for this coming session. Here is another way that you can get to know us better. We are hoping that many more of our long standing members and friends will be a part of this upcoming "Dinners" group which starts in September. We **really** do want lots and lots of dinner groups for this first round in our UUVC 2016-17 church year.

Our emphasis is always on the social gathering while the food is just an enjoyable means to that end. Your group members will all pitch in to help you with the food when it comes to your turn to be the monthly host. Flexibility is the operative word here. If the weather is pleasant perhaps outside dining could be an option. There has even been a

dinner hosted on a party barge! Fun and friendship is the goal. Singles often team up to share the hosting load together while some singles handle it by themselves. Whatever works for you will be fine.

Sign-up sheets are in the "Dinners" folder on the table in the Community Hall before and after the Sunday services. A Guidelines Sheet is also available in the "Dinners" folder. Please do call us if you have any questions. Call Tom & Brenda Tirrell at 922-0057.

### Welcoming Congregation

Kim Harrison

As was stated in the Long Range Plan Report given by Jerriann Nielsen a few weeks ago, UUVC is preparing to start the process to become a Welcoming Congregation. Welcoming Congregation is an official certification from the UUA that states that our congregation is welcoming all, but especially welcoming to those of various gender identities. We will go through a process of education, reviewing all of our documents for inclusive language, having Sunday programs that discuss LGBTQ issues, and hopefully form cooperative and collaborative relationships with local organizations.

After we have done these things, the congregation will vote to apply to the UUA for recognition as a Welcoming Congregation. Being designated as such will allow UUVC to be listed as such on the UUA website, and will allow us to affirm our status on the minister search website. It will allow us to publicly declare what we currently do.

(continued on next column)

**Articulating Your UU Faith**  
Dane Nielsen, Education Coordinator

A new class will start September 4th and 18th, October 2nd and 16th in Room 2 in the Community Hall. Sign-up sheets will be available in the Community Hall.

Practice how and what to say in various settings in which you might be called upon to explain your faith. You will share their current beliefs, what you used to believe, mistruths about Unitarian Universalism, times when you were not able to respond adequately to questions about their religion, and times when you were.

You will be led through an exercise to write "coffee hour chat" responses to questions about Unitarian Universalism. The course also includes short statements about Unitarian Universalism and examples of ways to concisely explain what Unitarian Universalism is. Participants use these to help write their own. Includes essays by the authors on "What Do I Say After I Say I'm Unitarian Universalist?" and on explaining UU history.



If you missed a session or two of the, "The Long Strange Trip", a history of Unitarian Universalism, the entire six CD set is available for checkout from the library.



## Birthdays

8/3	Barbara Butler
8/4	Don Phillips
8/10	Helen Stark
8/11	Bette Clark
8/14	Larry Enders
8/15	Nestor Dokousian
8/17	Kay Croshaw
8/18	Lisa Clem
8/18	Penny Beed
8/18	Jeanne Sabino
8/19	Laura Nick
8/21	Ron Saldino
8/22	Lee Zuege
8/25	Mike Gold
8/29	Tom Henderson



## Anniversaries

8/1	Brenda & Tom Tirrell
8/3	Marjorie & Paul Lakey
8/8	Madelyn & Robin Young
8/13	Cloe & Ed Bayer
8/18	Phyllis & Wally Johnson
8/21	Marie & David Welch
8/24	Lee & Jack Iafrate

## Resolve Your Conflicts

Steve Rittenmeyer

The Conflict Resolution Committee stands ready confidentially to assist members and friends in resolving disputes and misunderstandings with other congregants that affect their lives in church. For more information about the conflict resolution process, please contact:

Steve Rittenmeyer, 915-0575,  
SD-Rittenmeyer@wiu.edu

or

Cloe Bayer, 922-3810,  
cloebayer29@sbcglobal.net



*Fawns on the UUVC lawn. Photo by Meg Koziar*

## Poetry Corner

### DISTANT DOORS

Far above one soars

To take a look through distant doors  
Places much the same in image  
but eternal consciousness to explore

This Place. or that symbol,

All express a purpose

To arouse the eternal sleeper

To once more return the seeker.

Once found soul knows no return

To time and space.

It rests at peace within its homeward place.

Elaine Voda

*Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice  
everywhere.*

Martin Luther King

The family of UUVC bid a fond farewell to June Harris, who is leaving Hot Springs Village to live in Plano, Texas. June served on many committees and as Board Secretary while creating the post of Office Administration and organizing the volunteers who staff the office. We'll remember the good times and memories and wish her well in her new place.



**Try the UUVC Website:  
[www.uuvc.org](http://www.uuvc.org)**

# Interest Groups (IGs)

Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator



Enjoy the company of people with a similar interest by participating in one of the Interest Groups (IG). Stop by the IG table on Sunday mornings to check out the folders that provide information about each group. It's great to participate in more than one.

Also, if you have a special interest that is not currently represented, contact me (501-781-8489 or email: [vzuege@gmail.com](mailto:vzuege@gmail.com)) to inquire about starting a new group.

## Game Night

Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (August 13.) Game night will be held @ 5:00 PM. We will eat first and play games afterwards. Bring a dish to share. It's always a surprise!  
(Kay Croshaw)



## Fourth Friday Film Fest

Please watch the bulletin for information on the film selection but please mark August 26, at 7pm on your calendars for the next film night. (Cloe Bayer)



## Grief Support Group



The Grief Support Group has been meeting since November 2009, providing comfort and support to those who wish to attend. Grief Support meets the second Monday of each month, at 10:00am. (Cynthia Saalfeld, 915-8577)

## Social Justice Book Group



Please contact me if you would like to join the group for the discussion. Meg Koziar -- [Kozimeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:Kozimeg@sbcglobal.net).

## The Poetry Group

This group was formed by people who write or have written poetry, but has expanded into a poetry appreciation group. If you enjoy reading poetry, com join this fun group. Next meeting will be August 11th at 10 am in room 4 off the Fellowship hall. (Lee lafrate)



## Meditation Group

This is a new group. We recognize it is sometimes easier to meditate in a group than by oneself, so we are creating a sangha. We are all learning, and welcome anyone who would like to meditate with us.



We meet Monday afternoon 4:30-5:30 and Wednesday mornings 8:30-9:30 in the Church library. You are invited to join either or both times. (Quay O'Hara, 501-984-2030)

## Table Tennis



The group will not meet during the summer. (Jay Williams, 922-1849, [jayw66@gmail.com](mailto:jayw66@gmail.com))

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UUVU**