For Vivian and me, June will conclude our first year as Villagers and conclude our first trip through the UUVC annual cycle. The weather forecast suggests a really warm beginning to the month. Perhaps highs at 100 or above. Nothing could compare, however, to the warmth with which you welcomed us to your community.

We moved here July 1st of last year. Even though we spent most of that first month unpacking and setting up house, and my service didn’t begin until August, we couldn’t resist attending church here almost immediately. And from the first visit, we knew that we were home.

The opening phrase to a song we will sing June 3rd says, “When all the world is a hopeless jumble, and the raindrops tumble all around, Heaven opens a magic lane. When all the clouds darken up the skyway, there’s a rainbow highway to be found, leading from your window pane to a place behind the sun, just a step beyond the rain...and the dreams that you dare to dream really do come true.”

I’m not sure about the world being a hopeless jumble, but I know dreams do come true. We had dreamt of finding a beautiful place for Vivian to retire to and a quality church for me to serve. We wanted a forest, or a beach, or maybe a mountain retreat? Who knew that you could find all of that, and more, in Hot Springs Village. And with it came the chance to serve a wonderful UU community with a lovely church and even lovelier people inside.

Your incredible warmth and goodness hasn’t been given only to us. You extend it every time you open the doors, and it is abundantly shared on Sunday Mornings. Neighbors also dream of the church you are building and are rewarded when they explore inside. Here they find a sanctuary where integrity, curiosity, and joy are served. They soon realize that the welcome extends to all, and our religious tent is large enough and joyful enough to hold them all—regardless of their complex spiritual identities—regardless of being gay, straight, young, old, rich, poor, married, single, widowed, divorced, wherever they come from, whomever they love, however they name the sacred, the holy, or the divine.

Our Service June 3rd will include a New Member Ceremony welcoming 10 new members, bringing the total for the year to 24. Your kindness and compassion infuse our ministry and are compelling the Village to come and see for themselves. You’ve ‘opened a magical lane’ to our church. May it always be so. Mahalo.

See you Sunday.

—Mark
President’s Column

Penny Beed

Reflecting Back...

As I look back over this past year at UUVC, I am astounded at the energy, the activity, and the generosity that has occurred. Not only has our usual vibrant programming continued, there have been many wonderful changes and innovations within the church and in our outreach!! In this, my last column as UUVC President, I would like to highlight and celebrate some of what has occurred since July of 2017. 

Rev. Mark Walz began his first year, in August, as our minister.

- Average attendance for Sunday Worship services has grown to 101.
- Reverend Mark’s Beyond Belief column in the Voice has drawn much interest and has brought many visitors.
- UUVC has welcomed 24 new Members and many new Friends since August.

The music programming has expanded and many new changes are coming.

- Music on Barcelona (5th Sundays) began in April, with 140 in attendance (thank you, John Leisenring).
- Dr. Leisenring begins as our new Music Director July 1 and has many other ideas to enhance our music programming.

The generosity of this congregation this year has been breathtaking!!

- We are approaching $20,000 in charitable giving since last July—for outreach programs funded through Share the Plate, our sister church in San Miguel de Allende, and the Black Lives UU campaign.
- A new fund for members in need has been established.
- The Service Auction netted $14,862, almost $5000 more than the auction in 2016.

Our building and grounds continue to be beautifully

~Continued on page 3

Treasurer’s Report

Kim Townsan

We are closing in on the end of another fiscal year! May is always our most active month in terms of the financial management of UUVC. Our upcoming fiscal year 2018-2019 (FY’18-19) budget was approved by members at the May 6 Annual Meeting. Highlights of the approved budget of $132,073 include:

- Salary/housing increase of 5% for Reverend Walz
- Hiring of Music Director John Leisenring
- Expansion of music program to 12 months from 10
- Long Range Planning Consultant for our next 5-year plan
- Addition of a Members Need Fund to be managed by the Pastoral Care Ministry
- Increased hospitality and office expenses associated with attendance increases
- Reductions in conference related expenditures

Now as to the funding of the FY’18-19... this year’s UUVC Operating Fund Pledge Drive was kicked off at the May 20 Service. Our Pledge Goal for the upcoming fiscal year is $123,310…a 16% increase over last year’s pledge goal. The significant increase is because our past two years budgets included carryover funding from a ministerial account. While this year’s pledge goal is a stretch from last year, it is certainly attainable. MY GOAL FOR UUVC … 100 members and friends pledging $2.73/day! With pledges already received from Board and Finance Committee members, that 100/$2.73 a day would generate $100,000!

An email from Kim Harrison, Finance Chair and Pledge Co-Chair, was sent to all members and friends with pledge information. Pledge commitments are to be received by the Treasurer by June 14. Please show your commitment to UUVC...when you are completing the pledge form, please ask yourself “HOW MUCH DOES UUVC FILL MY HEART”?

June Sundays at UUVC

June 3, Rev. Walz, Seven Principles, Membership Sunday
June 10, Insight, Rev. Walz
June 17, Rev. Walz, Choir Music Sunday
June 24, Insight, Beverly Salisbury, The Declaration and the Men Who Signed It

Attendance and Generosity

April Attendance: All Souls Tulsa webcasts: 71—UUVC: 415
Music on Barcelona: 140 (+14 musicians)

June Share the Plate, The Caring Place
May Share the Plate, Black Lives UU, $1500
April Share the Plate, All About Kids, $2118

Integrity is doing the right thing even when no one is watching. C.S. Lewis
New Member Ceremony

It is with great joy we WELCOME 10 New Members into our Church Family on June 3rd. They are: Kim Traw, Marlene Kloack, Lorri Street, Patty Dacus, Janine Bethscheider, John Swinburn, Todd Carter, Glenish Gillespie, Craig Johnson, and Tammy Hanks.

Potluck Salad and Dessert Luncheon

Members, Friends, and Visitors are invited to attend our 4th Potluck Salad and Dessert Luncheon on June 3rd after church service. This will be our last membership event before summer begins. Please bring a salad or dessert to share. Rolls, drinks, and wine will be provided. We will be celebrating new members who joined UUVC this church year and honoring members with 10 plus years with UUVC— a time to visit, eat, and share the love. **Sign-up sheet in the Community Hall**— See you there.

Celebrating UUVC New Members for Church Year 2017-2018:


Honoring UUVC Members with 10+ years:

10+ Years: Cloe & Ed Bayer, JoAnn Bowen, Bette & Merrill Clark, Elizabeth Foster, Wally Johnson, Jerriann & Dane Nielsen, Junell O’Hara, Mary Ann & Steve Rittenmeyer, Cynthia Saalfield, Helen Stark, Martha Thomson, and Jay Williams.

15+ Years: Bobbie Bateman, Patricia Hearn, Hildy Nyberg, Ann & Phil Simpson.

20+Years: Kay Croshaw, Marjorie & Bob McCleskey.

25+ Years: Dottie Foehringer, Meg Koziar, and Mayo Stiles.

I would like to thank everyone for their support, time, and love.

See Page 9 for brief bios of some of our members. More to come in future newsletters.

~President’s Column, continued from page 2

maintained, and there have been some important additions.

- The Rainbow and Standing on the Side of Love Flags fly from the front entrance.
- The black sign with our beliefs has brought visitors to our services.
- Much-needed improvements in the sound system in the sanctuary have helped with the flow of our discussions.

A number of new activities have generated expanding interest and participation.

- Mark and TED’s excellent adventures (TED talks—viewing/discussions).
- Movies with Mark and Myra (Movies and discussions).
- After-church Discussions with Warren.
- Leadership classes from the UUA Institute.
- New Interest Groups—Mahjong, Meatless Lunch Group, Dining Out.
- Updating of photographs of all Members and Friends for the website (thanks to Loren Loberg and Ronnie Zuege).

Our all-important Committee and Ministry work has continued to be strong, vital and impactful!! New ones include:

- A Ministerial Committee to work with Reverend Mark.
- The Safety and Security Panel to monitor our safety systems and make needed recommendations.

~Continued on page 10

Nothing is at last sacred but the integrity of your own mind. Ralph Waldo Emerson
Beginning in June, the **Sunday Conversations @ 11:15** will change for the 2018-2019 UUVC year. In addition, we’ll hold **Wednesday Discussions @ 3:00**.

The first Sunday of the month, **Sunday Conversations @ 11:15** will be devoted to discussion of a *UU World* article. The article will be selected and discussion led by one you. The article may be from any issue of *UU World*. A copy will be attached to a congregational eblast during the preceding week.

The third Sunday will be “Mark and TED’s Excellent Adventure.” Reverend Mark will select a TED talk for presentation and discussion. TED (Technology, Entertainment, Design) is a media organization which posts talks online for free distribution, under the slogan “ideas worth spreading.” And we add, “Well worth discussing” with Rev. Mark.

On the second and fourth Sundays, **Sunday Conversations @ 11:15** we will hold civil conversations concerning a current social/political issue that significantly and divisively affects the world we live in, especially the United States. The purpose of the Conversation is to better understand how different Worldviews create divisiveness and problems in the world. We begin with the premise that each of us perceives the complexities and involvements of an issue differently because our Worldview is different. Our personal Worldview provides the perspective from which we interpret the world around us. Worldviews can be conscious or subconscious—consistent or inconsistent—true, partially true, or entirely false. Therefore, a seemingly rational worldview can be terribly wrong. Even the most educated person alive can hold a false view of reality.

On the second and fourth Wednesday afternoons from 3:00 to 5:00 there will be the newly formed **Wednesday Discussions @ 3:00**. These discussions will be in-depth continuations of the preceding **Sunday’s Conversation @ 11:15**. We will examine through civil discussions: (1) our personal worldviews during which we express our views and rationales; (2) what we perceive to be the Worldview and rationales of others, (3) the Worldview of various religions as applied to the issue at hand, and (4) the understanding and application of the Seven Principles of UU.

**News from the Rev. Bud Hearn Library**

Meet Kim Traw. She is this month not only a new member of our congregation but has agreed to chair our UU library committee, to our delight, for she comes with many years of library work experience. Martha Graham and Bette Clark continue on the committee; feel free to consult with any of us about things library. Thanks to Cliff Harrison for the new rack in Community Hall on Sundays displaying library materials for checkout and past issues of UU World for the taking. Our review this month is from our library’s namesake, Bud Hearn.

John Shelby Spong’s recent book, *Unbelievable*, encapsulates all Spong’s previous writings. Those who have followed his writing career will find nothing new. Spong recycles previous thoughts. *Unbelievable* provides a summary of his thinking. For first time readers, the book offers an introduction to his thinking. He asserts that traditional Christianity has been debunked by science and reason. The platitudinous statements found in creed and dogma no longer speak to a post-modern world. To his credit, he understands their place in time, but omits seeing them as metaphoric or mythical. Spong struggles to resolve the conflict between his religious heritage [he calls himself a believer in exile] and cultural context of science and reason. However, he does not offer what the new orthodoxy [or reformation] might be. His comments are more descriptive than prescriptive. Perhaps such intention as change must come via the efforts of the ecclesia [community]. He uses phrases that seem ambiguous to this reader: i.e., “God intoxicated,” “God filled,” “a God experience,” “a Christ experience,” “be all that you can be.” A more careful read of Spong might provide insight. In fairness, he is looking at the church, making his faith statement, through his own experience, his own brand of Christianity; however, it shuts out those who do not share his views. That is, those for whom the divine is expressed as “serendipitous creativity.” Those understand “God” and “Christ” as human constructs. The book does have “take-aways.” Heard is the voice of one deeply committed to the church while questioning its problematic teachings. *Unbelievable* shakes the dust off conventionalism. It is a good read for “believers in exile,” believers at large, and Unitarian Universalists.

---

**Rev. Bud Hearn**
The Social Committee excursion to the Mountain Pine Museum proved to be very worthwhile. Not only were the exhibits interesting, but meeting the native Arkansas proprietors was a treat in itself. They are rightly proud of their heritage and the history of Mountain Pine, and listening to their stories of the past glory of this area, and their hopes for a new future for their town, were fascinating to us non-native listeners. After saying goodbye to our hosts, the group drove further along Mountain Pine Road, past Mountain Pine school to Blakely Dam. This scenic spot provided a good photo op, and afterwards we proceeded to the Corner Café for lunch. A very lovely morning, well spent in learning about regional history.

Our next social event will be a Hawaiian Luau on July 21st. Besides the Hawaiian menu, this party will feature a performance by the Village Ukulele Band, as well as hula dancing lessons for all from one of their members. So get out your Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, or anything vaguely tropical, and join the fun. Further details to follow, so watch for your invitation via email.

The Social Committee excursion to the Mountain Pine Museum proved to be very worthwhile. Not only were the exhibits interesting, but meeting the native Arkansas proprietors was a treat in itself. They are rightly proud of their heritage and the history of Mountain Pine, and listening to their stories of the past glory of this area, and their hopes for a new future for their town, were fascinating to us non-native listeners. After saying goodbye to our hosts, the group drove further along Mountain Pine Road, past Mountain Pine school to Blakely Dam. This scenic spot provided a good photo op, and afterwards we proceeded to the Corner Café for lunch. A very lovely morning, well spent in learning about regional history.

Our next social event will be a Hawaiian Luau on July 21st. Besides the Hawaiian menu, this party will feature a performance by the Village Ukulele Band, as well as hula dancing lessons for all from one of their members. So get out your Hawaiian shirts, grass skirts, or anything vaguely tropical, and join the fun. Further details to follow, so watch for your invitation via email.

The Social Action Committee
Meg Koziar, Social Action Committee Chair

Over the summer we will be collecting sample and small toiletries, such as the giveaways in hotels, for a Spa City Kidz in Hot Springs. This is at the request of Dr. Jade Sierra, who is now part of our C4K team. Please drop any of these you collect on your travels in the bin in the office hallway, near the bins for donations of items for Clarion Call and Jackson House. Pam Harrison reports there are more and more people coming to Jackson House for help. The UUVC volunteers served 167 lunches the last day they were there.

The Share-the-Plate donations for May for "Promises and Practices of our Faith Campaign for Black Lives of Unitarian Universalism" totaled $1500, and qualifies for matching. This is our part in helping all the churches which make up the UUA to "connect our finances with our theological values as we commit to nurture a radically inclusive, justice centered, multiracial and multigenerational religious faith!" To learn more about this program go to www.uua.org/giving/areas-support/funds/promise-and-practice.

The Share the Plate for June will go to The Caring Place in Hot Springs, which provides daycare for people with Alzheimer/Dementia, giving respite to their caregivers. To learn more about their program go to their website.

The Social Action Committee has responded to the request of the First Universalist Church of Southold, NY. Their 178 years old church, the longest-standing...
It is long past time to bring the UUVC congregation up to date on the status of the Computers for Kids (C4K) program. As one of the longest running UUVC social action programs (second only to the Jackson House), the C4K program has made a significant impact on the community it serves, namely students from low income families and non-profit organizations and their recipients.

Although I started the program in 2008 while I was a member of the Fountain Lake school board, it would not have survived and had the impact it has without other volunteers. I would like to acknowledge (somewhat in order of volunteering) those who have been and those who are currently involved in the program. The first volunteer was Beth Zabel who moved to Austin with her sister Jean Brubaker several years ago. For several years, Beth not only did a lot of the technical refurbishing work but created an information data base which Loren Loberg continues to use to keep the records which Microsoft Corporation requires. Randy Flueckiger followed Beth as the program director with Loren Loberg replacing Randy. Because of the recent attempt to update the photos of congregation members, many people know Loren as a photographer, which he is, but he wears many hats, one of which is the current C4K program director, the longest continuously serving director.

Other members of the congregation who are active C4K volunteers are: Jerry Fay and Marian Sowka who have been active for 2 or more years. More recent additions to the volunteers are Calvin Doody, Todd Carter and Craig Johnson. Plus, we have a non-UUVC volunteer (Dr. Jade Sierra) who discovered the program and has become a valued member of the C4K team. Calvin, Todd and Craig are involved in the technical refurbishing part of the program whereas Jade serves as a outside placement person. Because of her background in public education, she has been very successful in introducing the program to schools and boys and girls clubs.

Three relatively recent C4K activities which are noteworthy include: (1) A recent letter to the Voice editor which has brought in several much-needed laptops. (2) We have received notice that a grant request to the HSV AR Community Foundation was approved ($500 check received) and will help with financing the program. (3) Several of the C4K team will be attending a Saline County e-recycle event in HSV which is occurring too close to the newsletter deadline to be able to report the results.

In the future, we plan to share the many good things which are happening in the C4K program on a more routine basis.

---

**June Celebrations**

**Birthdays**

- 6/2 Frank Hubbard
- 6/7 Mark Hamilton
- 6/8 Warren Searls
- 6/9 Ralph Butler
- 6/10 AC Watts
- 6/11 Mary Ann Rittenmeyer
- 6/12 Barbara Nick
- 6/13 Becky Fay
- 6/14 Gary Vogt
- 6/15 Junell O’Hara
- 6/19 Sam Stout
- 6/20 Jeanie Calhoun
- 6/22 JoAnn Bowen
- 6/26 Wade Selph
- 6/27 Kim Townsan
- 6/28 Janine Bethscheider

**Anniversaries**

- 6/11 Judy & Ron Saldino
- 6/17 Dane & Jerriann Nielsen
- 6/18 Lou & Norm Elliott
- 6/24 Alan & Patti Trippel
- 6/30 Anne Bowes & Elmer Burrall
Interest Groups (IGs)

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 at 501-922-3878 or email vzuege@gmail.com to inquire about starting a new group. Ronnie Zuege, IG Coordinator

Game Night
Come to play board/card games on the 2nd Saturday of each month (June 9). 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! (Marjorie Lakey, 262-8231)

Grief Support Group
The Grief Support Group meets monthly on the fourth Tuesday from 9:30-11:00 A.M. We welcome members, friends and any others experiencing grief/loss from any life changing event. If you have questions or concerns, contact Liz Miller at 922-5457.

Mah Jongg
Currently, our mah jongg group is playing most Mondays at 1:00. If you would like to join us, or suggest another time to play, contact Ronnie Zuege at 922-3878.

Fourth Friday Film Fest
Several recent movies are under consideration for the next movie night on June 22; a final decision will be announced within the next couple of weeks, depending on availability of the names on the list. They are: The Darkest Hour, which stars Gary Oldman as Winston Churchill at his finest during WW II. Next is All the Money in the World, the story of J. Paul Getty and the events surrounding the kidnapping of his grandson. Christopher Plummer was nominated for an Academy Award for his performance. Thirdly, there is The Florida Project, a critics’ favorite. This is the story of life in a Florida trailer park, the interaction of three generations of residents, and how they keep it all together in troubling times. Willem Dafoe stars as the older generation character. Lastly, we are considering Three Billboards in Ebbing Missouri. This one stars Frances McDormand as a mom whose daughter has been murdered, and she commissions the billboards to harass the police force into solving the crime, which she thinks is taking them too long. Woody Harrelson is the police chief. So there you have it, all of them good movies which we will show in the future— which will be first is still undecided.

Meatless Meal Group
The Meatless Meal Group is on hiatus and will return when temperatures are cooler and summer travel has slowed the exodus of people who might, if not for travel plans, want to participate in a casual group that likes to experiment with meatless recipes. We may make it an evening event. Sue Loberg.

Dining-In and Dining-Out Groups
Our Spring "Dining In" and "Dining Out" groups should have had their final meals of the season by this time. We will be taking a dining break over the summer. Thanks to all who participated for making this a successful social activity. If enough interest is indicated, there could be a restart for the Fall season.

VILLAGE CLEAN UP DAY – LOOKING FOR A MAGNIFICENT SEVEN
UUVC will once again participate in KEEP HOT SPRINGS VILLAGE BEAUTIFUL clean up on Saturday June 23. We’ve got a number of our team members who will be vacationing or out of commission. Hoping we can get another seven volunteers to commit to about 90 minutes of clean up. If you are interested, please send an email to Kim Townsan at treasurer-en@uuvc.org.
UU church on Long Island, burned to the ground. Read their story at:


They asked for $1 from every UU to help them rebuild. After we read their story, we decided to send them $500 from our budget.

---

**Pastoral Care Ministry**

The Pastoral Care Ministry had its bi-monthly meeting on May 22 and one of the main subjects discussed was the need to get a few more members. As our Congregation grows it is important for us to grow as well so we can be prepared to assist. We are looking for some prospective members who could give care to those congregants who might be in need of emotional or spiritual compassion. If you would like to find out more please contact Rev. Mark or Vivian Walz, Liz Miller, or Court Mathey by phone or email.

---

**Future Newsletter Deadlines**

For **July Newsletter**, June 25 at noon
For **August Newsletter**, July 24 at noon
For **September Newsletter**, August 27½ at 12:33 p.m.

The editor would be grateful if you would let him know, five days in advance of the deadline, if you plan to submit something for the newsletter. Send contributions to:

John Swinburn, newsletter editor, jsswinburn@gmail.com

---

**Things to Think About & Random Tidbits**

- **Keep Up with UUVC on the Web**
  - UUVC Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/UnitarianUniversalistVillageChurch/
  - UUVC Website: http://www.uuvc.org
  - UUVC Video Sermons: https://www.uuvc.org/video-sermons.html
  - Buy Nothing Project: https://buynothingproject.org/
  - The Sheltersuit: A Wearable Homeless Shelter Made from Sleeping Bags: An article in Fast Company magazine, from December 2015, was intriguing. Sheltersuit was nominated for the 2017 Dutch Design Awards. The company that makes them has a website: https://www.sheltersuit.com/en/
  - The Empowerment Plan: An article in Inc. magazine led me to http://www.empowermentplan.org/, where I learned that the nonprofit company hires single parents from shelters for full-time work and trains them to be seamstresses. The employees manufacture coats that are needed in the homeless community. The employees, with skills and regular income, lift themselves out of poverty.
  - **Definition**: Irascible (ih-ras-uh-buhl)—easily provoked to anger, very irritable, e.g., “Edward, as irascible and hard to like as he can be, is at his core a compassionate man.”
  - **Sardicado Sandwich**: If you haven’t eaten one, you’ve missed one of life’s great gustatory pleasures!

---

**UUVC Principles**

- The inherent worth and dignity of every person;
- Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
- Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth;
- A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
- The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process;
- The goal of world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all;
- Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.
John Swinburn and Janine Bethscheider

John and Janine met in prison in 1976. Really. Not as inmates; they both worked there, conducting research. Married in 1980, they have lived in Houston, Chicago, White Plains (John), Arlington, Texas, and Dallas before moving to the Village in early 2014. Thirteen years before they retired in 2011, they founded and operated an association management company, Challenge Management, Inc. (CMI). Most of John’s career was spent in association management. Janine’s career, before John lured her into joining him in forming CMI, was in psychological research (involving statistics relating to aptitude tests and personality assessment instruments).

John is a native Texan. He was born in Brownsville, grew up in Corpus Christi, and went to college at UT Austin, earning a B.A. in sociology. His pastimes include writing, cooking, eating too much, and procrastinating about starting an exercise regimen. Janine was born in San Francisco and grew up in South San Francisco. She spent the majority of her career in psychological research, after earning a B.S. in mathematics and a Ph.D. in educational psychology, and she completed her career as EVP and CFO of CMI. Janine’s interests include reading, cooking, sudoku, travel, and just kicking back.

Warren and Bari Sears

Warren and Bari were married in 1957 while Warren was attending Stetson University Law School and Bari was working as a model for Young and Rubicam Ad Agency. Warren began his 33-year career with USDA and Bari became the mother of their first son Mark. Their second son Chris was born in Dallas, Texas. Prior to moving to Hot Springs Village in 2000 they lived in Washington, DC, Dallas, Texas, Arlington and Fairfax, Virginia, Bloomfield Hills, Michigan, Orlando, Florida and Denton, Texas. Bari was born in New York City, Warren in Wheaton, Illinois. Bari’s parents moved to Wheaton where she became the “girl next store.” For Warren it was love at first sight. They were married the following New Year’s Eve. Warren and Bari have been active as UUVC friends for five years. Bari serves on the Social Committee, while Warren serves as the Adult Education Coordinator. Both Bari and Warren volunteer with AARP-Arkansas. Warren is a member of the AARP-Arkansas Executive Council and is the Lead Volunteer for Advocacy. Bari and Warren are members of the AARP-Arkansas Advocacy A-Team. Warren currently serves as a member of the Strategic Planning Committee of the National Active and Retired Federal Employees.

Marlene Kloack

Marlene was the seventh of twelve children. Living on a farm, she learned responsibility and persistence which she applied to her education and her career in education. She attended a Methodist church and enjoyed the Bible stories and participation in Christmas programs. Church doctrines were never convincing. After moving to the Village she and her late husband Michael became loyal friends of UUVC. Now is the time to “drink the kool-aid.”

Craig Johnson

Craig Johnson and his wife Leslie moved to the Village from Libertyville, Illinois (a northern suburb of Chicago) in 2011. They were fortunate to find a house that fits them perfectly on Lake Granada. Leslie’s career was in teaching and Craig’s was in IT Management. Reading, travel (RV and otherwise), and learning are their favorite pastimes along with jigsaw puzzles, photography, and off-road driving in their Jeep. Their three children and four grandchildren live in western North Carolina; Madison, Wisconsin; and Gurnee, Illinois. Craig and Leslie look forward to meeting people, learning, and growing at UUVC!
Many thanks to Cindy Strong and Pati and Alan Trippel who led the Arts and Crafts class at the Ouachita Children’s Center in April. They helped the 6 youth in attendance paint on wood panels, photo frames, and Paper Mache boxes as gifts for Mother’s Day and for friends. If you would like to help out with the next class in June, please let Pati know—Pati Trippel, at ptrippel@hotmail.com or on her cell phone at 501-209-9079.

~President’s message, continued from page 3

• A Membership Subcommittee called “Connections”—to connect with Members and Friends.

As always, policies continue to be revised and new ones added (many thanks to Meg Koziar). This year’s new policies include:

• The banning of firearms in our facility.
• Guidance for individuals and groups “taking a public stand.”

Along with our significant social action and outreach activities the following were added:

• Hosting a Forum for POA candidates.
• Participation in the Village Pride Project.
• Participation in International Day of Peace in Hot Springs.

At UUVC this year, there has been a prevailing feeling of freshness and renewal. Obviously, having such a dynamic new minister has made a huge impact. Moreover, many of our new Members and Friends have brought novel ideas and enthusiasm to our midst. But our existing Members and Friends have also continued their contributions with vigor and passion. What a joy it has been to serve as president of this dynamic and growing congregation! I sincerely thank you for the opportunity.

Thomas Jefferson’s Letter to the Danbury Baptists

Gentlemen

The affectionate sentiments of esteem and approbation which you are so good as to express towards me, on behalf of the Danbury Baptist association, give me the highest satisfaction. My duties dictate a faithful and zealous pursuit of the interests of my constituents, & in proportion as they are persuaded of my fidelity to those duties, the discharge of them becomes more and more pleasing.

Believing with you that religion is a matter which lies solely between Man & his God, that he owes account to none other for his faith or his worship, that the legitimate powers of government reach actions only, & not opinions, I contemplate with sovereign reverence that act of the whole American people which declared that their legislature should "make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof," thus building a wall of separation between Church & State. Adhering to this expression of the supreme will of the nation in behalf of the rights of conscience, I shall see with sincere satisfaction the progress of those sentiments which tend to restore to man all his natural rights, convinced he has no natural right in opposition to his social duties.

I reciprocate your kind prayers for the protection & blessing of the common father and creator of man, and tender you for yourselves & your religious association, assurances of my high respect & esteem.

Th Jefferson, Jan. 1, 1802