
Director of Religious Education, Patricia H. Murphy
Co-Directors of Music, Dr. Carolyn Clark and Dr. Peter Yourke

Church Secretary, Stella Fishman
Supervisor of Buildings & Grounds, Brian Fontana
Building Attendant, Frank Caterina

March 8, 2009

Climate Change!

10:45 AM

This title is a little deceptive because it's not really about the melting polar ice caps or acid rain this time. This service is about the climate change that's happening within this church and in our communities. It's about our rapidly changing culture and the blessings and challenges that accompany such transitions. And it's about this congregation and the changes we are facing as we envision the kind of community we long to be.

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson
Worship Associate: Jill Hueckel
Hospitality: Risa & Mike Anderson

Music Director: Dr. Carolyn Clark
Flowers: Virginia Allen

Greeters: Larry Schwabacher and Carol Lodato

March 15, 2009

Take Care—The Ministry of Caring for One Another

10:45 AM

I was pondering the meaning of that expression "take care". What does it mean to take care? I wonder if it is derived from the world view that there is only a modicum of caring to go around. In truth, when we are in caring mode, whether caring for ourselves or others, we do **take-care** for caring sends out endorphins that uplift us and keep us fully charged (unless we overdo it and expend our reserves!). This morning we look at the ministry of caring and the spiritual principles that undergird it.

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson
Worship Associate: Christine Johnson
Hospitality: Rona Solomon and John Bostrom

Music Director: Dr. Peter Yourke
Flowers: Marilyn Brook

Greeters: Larry Schwabacher and Carol Lodato

March 22, 2009

"Spring is a tide that rises..."

10:45 AM

John Cummins wrote these words about the coming of spring and all it offers: "Spring is a tide that rises in the human heart, and will not be denied! Each of us like the small sea snail, builds our own shell of habit or illusion, erecting futile barricades against life. But then we hear the challenge from beyond..."

This morning we celebrate the coming of spring—with its multitude of colors and growing things. Like spring, something is awakening in each one of us at this moment. We explore the metaphor of spring and what it means to be awake, alive and full of promise and potential.

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson

March 29, 2009

Laugh Out Loud—A Service on Healing Through Humor

10:45 AM

I did an annual service on the gifts of humor in my last settled ministry. It was among the most popular services in terms of hits received on the web and attendance on those Sundays. I think it was because something in us yearns to laugh till we cry, to feel the restraints crack in our veneer. We want to let go with a belly laugh and feel the pure joy of just being alive in the moment. Laughter heals and replenishes the barren rough places in our lives. Join us for this mirthful service where we all are free to "Laugh out loud".

In the Pulpit: Rev. Susan Karlson

Caring Team: Our congregation now has a Caring Team. If you or your family are experiencing an extended illness, hospitalization, family death, birth, adoption, move or other transition, please let us know so that we can send a card, make a visit, help with transportation, child care, meals or other miscellaneous needs. Please contact Ann Kalil at 718- 556-0438, or akalil@si.rr.com, or Rev. Karlson, at 718- 442-1012, (home) or 347-466-0864, with any caring concerns. The Caring Team is part of the caring ministry of this congregation

Simply Susan

There will not be a column from Rev. Karlson in this newsletter. Unfortunately, due to the recent snowstorm earlier this week, Rev. Karlson was delayed in Houston, Texas unable to get a flight back to New York. She is scheduled to arrive back on Staten Island later today, Tuesday.

In inclement weather, please call the church office (718) 447-2204, or the parsonage, at (718) 442-1012 to find out if services or a particular program will be canceled.

SPRING FORWARD:

Please remember to move your clocks forward at 2:00 am on Sunday, March 8th for Daylight Savings Time.

Upcoming Events:

Unitarian Universalist & YOU Class:

Join our Membership Chair, Carol Lodato and Rev. Susan Karlson for the spirited UU and YOU workshops two **Sundays, March 8 and 15, 2009 from 1:00-3:00 PM.**

Learn about the history of **Unitarian Universalism** through a wonderful DVD, *Our American Roots*. Share with others about your journey to find the Unitarian Church of Staten Island. Hear about this church and its many programs and its place on Staten Island. Tell us about your needs for a religious community. Find out how to become a member or simply how to get more involved in this 156-year-old church that continues to be a beacon of liberty, justice and spiritual nurture right here in Staten Island.

Contact Carol Lodato, Rev. Susan Karlson, or the church office: 718-447-2204, uucsi.org@verizon.net for more information or to register.

UCSI Board Meeting: Wednesday, March 11, 8 PM, Library

“Telling Stories” the 2009 Arts Journal dedicated to Ben Jacobs needs stories, poems, drawings and photographs, all camera-ready and black and white. Send to patriciahmurphy@mac.com or, if mailing, c/o UCSI. Author/artist retains all rights, gets free copy and reduced price on more copies. Deadline is March 15th.

UU parents: Save the Date - Saturday, March 28th from 3:30 - 5:30 PM we will have a special parents meeting to envision a new day of R.E. and a family-friendly UCSI. Bring your wishes and ideas. We will provide refreshments and childcare.

Save the Date: 2009 Arts Festival Opening and Reception -Saturday, April 18, 3:00 PM.

Beat the Recession Auction

Bid on luxury items you'd never go out to buy in this economy and get them at a great price!

Bid on items that can help you to keep your costs down and fun quotient up-- lessons in cooking, gardening, knitting, budgeting, feng shui. Fun features for the kids too!

Save the date! Don't miss the fun!

Sunday, May 3, from 4:00pm to 7:00 pm

Unitarian Church of Staten Island

R.E. NEWS and NOTES:

News: Please calendar the special parents' meeting on Saturday, March 28th from 3:30 to 5:30 - Rev. Susan Karlson will facilitate a free-wheeling discussion of parents hopes and dreams for our church and the part religious education could play in our families' lives.. We need the thoughtful participation of all families but especially those who are new to the UCSI, members or not. We are poised for a new era. We will have childcare and refreshments.

Many thanks to Marjorie Ramos who has volunteered to donate her current computer and printer to R.E. by the time the new Religious Education Coordinator starts in August. This means the new coordinator will be able to work at the church far more and the continuity of the program maintained far better.

Notes: Virginia Allen presented an outstanding report on her trip to South Africa and what it meant to her this past Sunday. Several children showed their interest by asking penetrating questions about both the country and her experience. Thank you so much, Virginia!

Marjorie and Virginia have brought home to me, yet again, how loving our members can be to our children and youth. If you have a talent or special knowledge you can share, please let me know.

Even more important than any specific skill is the care and commitment with which we show our children the best of ourselves and the best of our faith.

With gratitude,
Patricia Murphy, DRE

Summary: Board Minutes 2/11/09

Treasurer's Report – June 1, 2008 through January 31, 2009:

Total Income YTD	\$78,930.75
Total Expense	\$97,274.10
Deficit	(\$18,343.35)

Task Force on Committee On Ministry:

The Task Force will extend its work thru May 2009.

It is currently working on a small brochure that explains the function of the COM. The members of the task force are also working out some details concerning how the COM might facilitate conflict resolution between congregants or between congregants and minister. In the meantime, congregants should be advised that they may come to any member of the current COM Task Force if they have any concerns regarding any aspect of the ministry of the church.

Welcoming Congregation “Statement on Affiliations”:

The Board has approved the following Welcoming Congregation Statement on Affiliations:

As a Welcoming Congregation church, it is important that our affiliations with outside groups support our first UU principle of affirming and promoting the inherent worth and dignity of every person. No set of guidelines can fully address the variety of partnerships that may materialize from our church work - lay, staff or ministerial - but the following commitments to inclusiveness can serve as a guide for determining if the potential affiliation is in accordance with our designation as a Welcoming Congregation. The Welcoming Congregation Committee offers itself as a resource for further information, inquiry or discussion.

** This group with which we seek to partner, support, or affiliate, understands the Unitarian Church of Staten Island's welcoming stance with regards to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) concerns, rights and matters; or,*

** This group with which we seek to partner, support, or affiliate, itself has demonstrated progressive actions, writings, or speech that affirms the rights of LGBT people; or,*

** This group with which we seek to partner, support or affiliate with has not actively engaged in any negative activity against or adopted a negative stance towards LGBT people.*

Movement/rearrangement of Church Pews:

The Board approved a policy governing the movement/rearrangement of the church pews, in order to minimize damage and further weakening. The pews might be moved only for events that benefit the church as a whole, under the supervision of the Building Superintendent and the Building and Grounds Committee. Any request for a deviation from this policy should be presented to the Board of Trustees.

Hours for Director of Religious Education:

Patricia Murphy, the current DRE, has recommended that the Board increase the paid position for the DRE to 20 hours and to structure salary at a fair compensation level.

Rev. Karlson suggests that we apply for grant money to grow the RE program, as we are currently able only to fund a 10-hour position. Meanwhile, Rev. Karlson has asked the Personnel Committee to review the job description and advertise for a 10-hour position.

Personals: Lost: A man's tan colored raincoat with **no** inside zipper belonging to Brad Green, was switched in error from the coat rack in the church library. Please return it and pick up the other tan colored raincoat that was left behind. You may call the church office, 718-447-2204.

JUST A REMINDER: Please update preferred or new e-mail addresses by informing the church secretary, Stella Fishman, at 718-447-2204, or, e-mailing her at uucsi.org@verizon.net. Thank you.

The next UCSI newsletter deadline is Monday, March 16, 2009, at 9 AM. Please get all material to Stella at the church office

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