



# Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Fort Wayne

**Annual Congregational Meeting  
March 2, 2014**





# Welcome to UUCFW's Annual Congregational Meeting

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Sunday, March 2, 2014

## **Chalice Lighting**

## **Call to Order & Confirmation of Quorum**

## **REPORTS**

- ☪ Written Reports – Reflections from 2013
- ☪ Treasurer/Finance Report presented by Treasurer
- ☪ Remarks by the Minister
- ☪ Remarks by the President
  - æ Past years highlights
  - æ This year's goals

## **NEW BUSINESS**

- ☪ Approval of Bylaws Changes
- ☪ Recognitions
- ☪ Unsung UU Awards
- ☪ Oldenkamp gift

## **ADJOURNMENT**

# UUCFW ANNUAL MEETING

## Sunday, March 10, 2013

### Call to Order (determination of quorum)

President Ruth deWit called the meeting to order. Secretary Robin Newman confirmed the presence of a quorum. See attached membership list.

Recognition of 2013 BOT Members: Please stand:

Ruth de Wit – Congregational President  
Colleen Carpenter – Vice President/President Elect  
John Sheehan – Past President/Advisor  
Robin Newman – Secretary of the Corporation  
Beverly Brown – Treasurer of the Corporation  
Greg Kroemer – BOT Member and Finance Chair  
Kathi Weiss – BOT Member  
Gabe Dawkins – BOT Member  
Kira Downey – BOT Alternate Member

### Reading & Acceptance of 2012 Annual Meeting minutes

The minutes of the March 2012 Annual Congregational Meeting were unanimously approved as submitted.

### REPORTS:

- A. President deWit calls attention to the printed reports in the packets; UUCFW is a busy and active congregation. President deWit thanks all chairpersons and others who prepared written reports.
- B. Treasurer/Finance Report presented by Finance Chairperson, Greg Kroemer. Overall, the UUCFW is in fairly good shape financially. Despite some unexpected expenses (i.e. burglary, new laptop for the minister, etc.) we still managed to have a nice surplus at the end of the year 2012. Once we are past the first quarter of 2013, we will have a better idea of how things are panning out and can work on allocating the 2012 surplus dollars. We, as a congregation, need to remain mindful of the situation with the roof finances.
- C. Remarks by the Minister  
Rev. Shelly said that she and the BOT, at the “Start-Up” Retreat in January, discussed shared responsibilities and each group’s responsibilities. The BOT will look at shared responsibilities on a monthly basis. Rev. Shelly also distributed “How Can I Help? *A Lay Leader’s Guide for working with the Congregational Administrator*”.
- D. Remarks by the President  
President deWit is pleased to have the opportunity to serve UUCFW in this year of new adventure and discovery. She said that working with the BOT and Rev. Shelly is an opportunity to see our ministry at work (up close and personal). There is much to learn together but we have come so far in our journey. She remains excited about our future and happy to be among UU Family.

### NEW BUSINESS

- A. Moment of Silence for those who have passed. We would like to share a moment to honor those who have passed in the preceding year. From our UUCFW family we have lost members Charles Redd and, most recently, Midge Walters. Both of these members lived and lived well ... giving, growing, and serving others by living the UU principles.

General Assembly is June 19-23<sup>rd</sup>.

Thanks to the Auction Committee and Kitchen crew.

- B. President deWit sent out a church-wide email this year explaining the Unsung UU award. She also asked for, and received, numerous nominations from the congregation. The BOT voted and confirmed the large number of nominations for a single person. Our Unsung UU for 2013 goes to **Dr. Toni Kring**.

C. Certificates of Appreciation

Rebecca Reeder (3 years BOT)

John Moore (3 years BOT/Worship Chair)

Marsha Wallace (3 years BOT)

John Moore (Stepping down in 2012 as Chair of Worship)

Carol VerWiebe (Stepping down in early 2012 as Publicity Chair)

Carol VerWiebe (Stepping down in early 2012 as Chair of Endowment)

Karen Goldner (Stepping down as Finance Chair)

Lisa Johnson (Stepping down in 2012 as Stewardship Department Head/Auction Committee Chair)

Terri Swim (Stepping down in 2012 as Religious Education Department Head)

Jackie Moore (Stepping down in 2012 as Chair of Care Committee)

Christel Gehlert (2012 Canvass Chair)

Rachel McNett (2012 Garden Party Chair)

2012 Search Committee Certificates of Appreciation

Evan Davis (Chair)

Toni Kring

Terry Mihlbauer

Dennis Shipley

Dee Koehl

Kees deWit

Larry Curtis (posthumously)

We would like to further thank those three members of the Search Committee who continued on as members of the Interim/Committee on Ministry – through the end of 2012.

Dee Koehl

Dennis Shipley

Kees deWit

**Adjournment**

With no further business to be attended to, the 2013 Annual Congregational Meeting adjourned.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Robin Newman*

**Minister's Annual Report for 2013**  
**February 20, 2014**  
**Submitted by Rev. Misty-Dawn Shelly**

Connections, Covenants, and Courage, these are the three words that I named as my goals for our first year of ministry together. Upon further reflection, as we complete 2013, our first full year together, these three words are not simply goals, they are anchors for my ministry and our shared ministry.

Shared ministry is serving our congregation's mission and vision together. For shared ministry to flourish, there must be an established relationship grounded in clarity of power and authority; or what I like to call truth and trust. Our connections through committee meetings, congregational board retreats, religious education, worship, fellowship, and pastoral moments deepen our relationships and ground them in trust.

In 2013, I did my best to attend the majority of committee meetings, as this is the primary source of how I learn about what is happening in our shared ministry. Many of our congregational programs have found their slice of the shared ministry pie. Membership is connecting. Our Religious Education programs across the lifespan are equipping. Worship is creating. Buildings & Grounds are cleaning, clearing, and caring. Social Action is engaging.

One challenge in 2013 was the assessment of our Care Committee. On a Spring Saturday morning retreat, several members of our congregation and I discussed the difference between pastoral care and parish care. Pastoral care is primarily provided by the Minister, and parish care is another way of saying cards and casseroles. At the end of our morning together, I had a team of Care Coordinators ready to serve all of us. Our team of Care Coordinators includes: Jackie Moore & Kathi Weiss as our Memorial Service Hospitality coordinators, Cynthia Powers and Patty Davis as our Card & Calling Coordinators, and Toni Kring as our Care & Casserole Coordinator. This team meets with me every other month to review the caring needs of our congregation. In 2013, this team has coordinated hospitality for the Memorial Service of Eileen Davis (Patty Davis' mom), sent through US Postal Service approximately 45 cards, recorded joys and sorrows each week with pen and paper and submitted them to me for my weekly pastoral follow up, coordinated visits, care, casseroles, rides, and support for several members of our congregation. Please be sure to offer an expression of gratitude to Jackie, Kathi, Cynthia, Patty, and Toni for being the first Care Coordinator Team. I am certainly grateful for their willingness to try a different format to supplement our shared ministry.

In February 2013, our Board of Trustees and DRE Search Team decided that hiring a Consulting Director of Religious Education was beneficial for the growth of our religious education program. We welcomed Natalie Spriggs-Trobridge, the DRE at UU Indy, and succeeded in the goals set forth in our DRE start-up led by Nancy Combs-Morgan which included myself and the RE Committee. Our 'outside the box' thinking invited connection to our Regional Staff and a DRE professional that will continue to benefit our current DRE position and our Children and Youth Program. In addition, we practiced courage in thinking 'outside the box.'

We celebrated and cemented our shared ministry covenant on April 28, 2013 with fantastic music by our very own UUCFW choir, community participation, our Act of Installation, delicious food, and beautiful gifts to mark the occasion of my being your 8<sup>th</sup> settled Minister. This was another moment of witnessing connection, covenant, and courage; another 2013 moment of deepening our relationship and cultivating trust.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, the Board of Trustees, Committee on Ministry, and I submitted evaluations for my first renewal of my Preliminary Fellowship process with the UUA. While there were challenges with the process prior to our submission due to this being a first for both myself and our congregation, each of us learned an incredible amount about the practice of courage and the meaning of living into our covenant.

The Fall of 2013 offered up a few firsts for me:

monthly themes of worship and an overarching theme to our worship year: Where do we come from? What are we? Where are we going? I have enjoyed collaborating to connect these themes with Children and Youth RE. I also enjoy having the connection with a congregational hymn that we are able to try out in a variety of ways.

Our very first 3 days, 2 nights at Camp Potawatomi for a Multigenerational Congregational Retreat, complete with my attempt to climb the rock wall and archery. This retreat offered an intentional time of connection, covenant, and courage as we had conversations about our dreams and our next chapter in the life of UUCFW.

Notification from the UUA's Ministerial Fellowship Committee that I was granted my first successful renewal for Preliminary Fellowship. On the path to receive Final Fellowship, one must be granted three successful renewals. So, I have one down and two to go!

Throughout 2013, there have been moments of growth and transitions that have not always felt good for me and maybe not for you either. These moments are reminders that moving from what is comfortable to what is courageous is a risk. They also stand as a reminder that the deepening of relationships in truth and with trust makes us vulnerable to transformation; and for me our shared ministry makes all the growing pains worthwhile. I hope you find our growing pains worthwhile, too!

It is my privilege, and an honor, to serve as your Minister.

Respectfully submitted,  
Reverend Misty-Dawn Shelly

*As always, if you wish to have conversation about this report or our shared ministry, feel free to make an appointment with me*

## **UUCFW Board of Trustees**

### **Accomplishments: 2013**

- Approved the recommendation via the Memorial Gardens Committee to add the water Feature – to be installed prior to Rev. Shelly’s Installation in April;
- Officially signed a petition with “One Voice” of Board’s opposition of HJR6;
- Officially certified 128 active members for the official membership count for the UUA;
- Created a Behavioral Covenant for the Board;
- Nominated Betsy Berry to the Nominating Committee;
- Approved and set the date of February 17<sup>th</sup> to honor and thank our Congregational Administrator for her service – especially during times over the past several when she went above and beyond the call of duty due to a lack of ministerial leadership;
- Established a “Personnel Task Force”, consisting of Marsha Wallace and Jim Reeder, which reviewed the job descriptions of staff, researched UUA info on compensation, asked questions of our current staff, and then reported back to the board their findings and recommendations;
- Approved the hire of a Consulting DRE, Natalie Spriggs-Trobridge, and eventually approved an extension to her contract to stay on through January 2014;
- Approved and affirmed funding to send the Congregational Administrator to General Assembly in Louisville for Association of Unitarian Universalist Administrator Days;
- Worked with Rev. Misty-Dawn to select and approve the appointment of three members to the Committee on Ministry (Terry Mihlbauer, Norm Newman, and Steve Zimmerman);
- Held Annual Meeting in March where:
  - Passed the 2013 budget;
  - Many members were recognized for their contributions;
  - Toni Kring was awarded the Unsung UU Award.
- Voted to make the Director of Music, Suellen Kipp, a W2 employee as a quarter-time employee for the purpose of payroll;
- Chose BOT members to act as “liaisons” in the areas with an absence of Department Heads;
- Approved sending Vice President Colleen Carpenter as our representative to the District Assembly;
- Joined with the congregation in celebrating the official installation of our newly settled minister Rev. Misty-Dawn Shelly. The day was beautifully coordinated and extremely well attended.
- Achieved fair compensation wages for the Director of Music and the Congregational Administrator and moved toward fair compensation for the Janitor by giving all three a raise;
- Completed the first of three ministerial evaluations/renewals for Rev Misty-Dawn Shelly’s Preliminary Fellowship process with the UUA;
- Vice President Colleen Carpenter held bi-monthly meetings with Department and Committee Chairs to discuss activities, coordinate efforts, and answer questions;
- Vice President Colleen Carpenter and Rev. Misty-Dawn Shelly organized a “Committee Sunday” where committees had tables showcasing their efforts and educating others about the important work that they do;
- Reviewed and approved the Scrip guidelines brought via the sub-committee (John Sheehan);
- Approved the purchase and installation of a keyless entry – as part of new security and building safety;
- Affirmed and approved Terry Mihlbauer and Dee Koehl as delegates for UUCFW at the General Assembly in Louisville in June. Rev. Misty-Dawn served as our official representative – in addition President Ruth deWit and Kees deWit, Past President, John Sheehan, and Canvass Chair, Hope Sheehan also attended.
- President Ruth deWit stepped down in October and Vice President Colleen Carpenter stepped into Acting President role;



- Held November Congregational meeting where:
  - We had a moment of silence for those who had passed were honored: Charles Redd, Midge Walter, Griff Hunter, Bea Green, Judy Zala
  - The 2014 budget was passed
  - Voted to change the bylaws to recognize that UUCFW is no longer part of the Heartland District of the UUA; we are now part of the UUA MidAmerica Region
  - While the Board had voted to decrease the number of Trustees to seven from nine, four of whom shall be Officers of the Congregation, the congregation did not approve this change due to issues with language and recruitment.
- Began reading a book “Congregational Leadership in Anxious Times” by Peter Steinke;
- Happily celebrated the end of the roof litigation and the receipt of \$10,000 toward the balance;
- Held a tree trimming party to decorate the Meeting House’s Christmas tree.

Officers & Trustees:

Ruth deWit, President

Colleen Carpenter, Vice President/Acting President

Bev Brown, Treasurer

Robin Newman, Secretary

Jim Reeder, Trustee at Large

Greg Kroemer, Trustee at Large

Kathi Weiss, Trustee at Large

Gabe Dawkins, Trustee at Large

Kira Downey, Alternate

Respectfully submitted by 2014 President, Colleen Carpenter. Excerpted from an August report created by 2013 President, Ruth deWit.

## Finance Committee Report to the Congregation 2013

We ended 2013 on solid financial footing. Total revenue was budgeted at \$189,216, but came in at \$205,046 which resulted in a positive variance of \$15,830. Some of the factors that impacted this include:

Uncollectable pledges, which were budgeted at \$8000, actually ended up at \$4085

Sunday Plate was budgeted at \$3500, with actual being \$4168

Fundraising was budgeted at \$10,000 but actually came in at \$12,288 due, in large part, to the success of both the auction and the garage sale

Rental Income was originally set at \$5,500 and ended up at \$6,716

On the expense side, total expenses came in at \$209,653 which was \$21,145 over the budgeted amount of \$188,508. There were 3 main contributors to this overage:

Administration Expenses were budgeted at \$17,525 and came in at \$25,504.

Payment of both UUA and Midwest Regional Dues, which were \$11,993. These were not included in the original 2013 budget. We are now current through June of 2014.

Costs for Rev. Misty-Dawn's installation came in at \$2,215 and, again, were not budgeted.

When it comes to the bottom line, 2013 ended with a net loss of \$4,607. Keep in mind that if we had not made the decision to pay the dues in full, we would have ended with a positive bottom line of \$7,386. However, even with that expense, we still have a solid amount of money in the bank and pledges coming in. 2014 should continue the trend of the last couple of years and be on good financial footing.

### Roof

The biggest event surrounding the roof during 2013 was, finally, the mediation session regarding the lawsuit against the insurance companies that represented Pettigrew & Sons. Pettigrew went bankrupt, which meant we had to go after the insurance companies in hopes of getting some sort of compensation for the substandard product used and work that was done.

Rebecca Reeder, Danny Swim, and Greg Kroemer represented UUCFW at the mediation, which was held on November 18<sup>th</sup>. After several hours of negotiations, a final figure of \$15,000 was arrived at and agreed upon. After attorney costs, our final amount was \$10,000. This was received in January 2014 and paid on the principal of the loan. As of December 31, 2013, the balance on the roof loan was \$105,626. Given that the original loan amount was just over \$200,000, we have made significant progress in repaying this loan. We just need to maintain focus on this loan so it doesn't get lost in the shuffle of other projects.

2014 will be a critical year in the "life" of the roof loan. When people were initially asked to pledge for the roof, it was for 3 years. 2014 is the final year for those pledges. At this point, it is anticipated that, if all those pledges come in, that total will be \$16,941. That said, based on the remaining balance, making payments totaling the amount of the pledges, and making the payment of the funds from the roof litigation, there will still be a gap of approximately \$78,685 that we need to figure out how to pay.

## **General**

Overall, the UUCFW is in fairly good shape financially. We made an additional payment on the roof principal, fully paid both our national and regional dues, and still have a solid balance in the bank. Hopefully, 2014 will enable us to accomplish other great things.

Respectfully submitted,

Greg Kroemer, Chair  
UUCFW Finance Committee

Beverly Brown  
UUCFW Treasurer

**Unitarian Universalist Congregation  
of Fort Wayne**

**BALANCE SHEET**

**December 31, 2013**

**ASSETS**

OPERATING FUND	\$ 29,160
DESIGNATED FUNDS	\$ 74,804
SCRIP	\$ 1,157
ENDOWMENT FUNDS	\$ 374,425
BUILDING AND LAND**	<u>\$ 669,260</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,148,806

**LIABILITIES & EQUITY**

MORTGAGE	\$188,755 (Jan. 1, 2014)
BANK OF AMERICA LOAN	\$105,626 (Dec. 2013)
GRABILL BANK LOAN	<u>\$ 951</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	\$295,332
EQUITY	\$853,474
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$558,142 (took equity less liabilities)

\*\*2010 appraisal from Allen County Treasurer

# **Youth Religious Education**

Report by Natalie Spriggs-Trobridge, past Consulting Director of Religious Education

## **Short version of our time together:**

It has been wonderful working with you at UUCFW as your Consulting Director of Religious Education. We have done a lot together, accomplished a lot together...here are a few highlights of my year with you:

- We changed from having children's and youth RE from an hour before service, to an hour during service. This change has created a higher attendance of children and youth during RE classes.
- RE programming now includes our 10<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth!
- RE programming is set up so volunteers only give their time one Sunday a month.
- RE programming has now adopted Children's Chapel one Sunday a month. This will continue even after my time with UUCFW is done.
- UUCFW is now in search of a quarter time DRE that will be with you most Sunday mornings and will continue to grow your RE program.
- We have a shared responsibilities RE Committee of six volunteers who will help during the time of transition from your consulting DRE to your new DRE.
- Youth led and will lead again youth led services for all of UUCFW.
- Children's and youth RE program now includes our faith base traditional elements in each class: chalice lighting, check-in/ joys & sorrows, and extinguishing of our flame.
- Weekly RE updates, RE program pamphlets, updated RE information on website as well as online RE children/youth registration are now in place....all to help communicate the latest information in your RE programming

# REPORTS FROM THE COMMITTEES

## **Adult Programming**

Responsible for planning, budget development, and operations related to:

- Adult Religious Education
- Adult-focused social activities
- Covenant groups (approved 02/10/08)
- Library & Historical Records

## **Adult Programming Department February 24, 2014**

### **Currently:**

*Committee Members: Edith Helbert, Terry Mihlbauer, Shirley Glade, Rebecca Reeder*

### **ADULT RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

**Program Goal:** --to provide participants with the tools needed to live and practice our faith

The fall semester was dedicated to the topic of compassionate consumption and presented in conjunction with the Social Action Committee. We offered book discussions on *Where Am I Eating?*, and *Where Am I Wearing?* as well as sessions taken from the UUA's *Tapestry* curriculum. The month of December was dedicated to working through the *This I Believe* curriculum. All sessions took place during the Sunday morning 10:00 hour.

There were some significant program changes made in January of 2014 that increased our ability to meet the goal of our program. The committee determined that the short 40-45 minutes on Sunday morning was not always the best place to realize our goals. We observed that many congregations, even those much larger than ours, do not try to do their Adult RE on Sunday mornings for a variety of reasons. Therefore we have developed a program schedule that offers different days and times for participants.

### **Programming for 2014 includes:**

**Popcorn Theology:** Facilitator- *Edith Helbert*

Saturdays, 6:30 P.M.- Jan. 18, Feb. 8, Mar 15

**Articulating Our UU Faith:** Facilitator- *Rev. Misty-Dawn Shelly*

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30 P.M.- Feb. 13, 20, 27, Mar. 13, 20, 27

**Anti-Racist Cookbook:** Facilitator- *Terry Mihlbauer*

Sundays, 1:00-2:30 P.M.- March 23, April 13, April 27, and May 4

**Making the Good Life Last: Four Keys to Sustainable Living:** Facilitator- *Laurie Proctor*

Thursdays, 6:30-8:30; April 10, 17, 24, May 1, 8, 15.

### **ALL CONGREGATION RETREAT**

Our first congregational retreat was held at Camp Potawotami in South Milford, Indiana on September 20-22. It was titled, *Relax, Release, & Recreate...As we build community and begin a new chapter together*

Our weekend together included group time, personal time, and time with to help build relationships and look down the road to our future together in our beloved community.

## **FAITH AND POLITICS**

The final session titled “Whose Business Is Education?” was held at the Temple on October 27. Nearly 100 people were in attendance and it was very well received. The event was even mentioned the next week on the national blog of Diane Ravitch, education historian and anti-reform advocate. This was the end of the planned four session series.

### **Department Goals for 2014-15:**

1. Provide a variety of program offerings at a variety of times including weekdays and Sundays.
2. Provide small group opportunities so participants can develop relationships with others
3. Target different demographics for topics, grouping, and activities
4. Add to the committee others who are willing to assist with planning and executing ARE offerings and making long range plans
5. Revisit the possibility of another all congregation retreat or a single-day similar event.
6. Work with the Temple on at least one project or program

*Respectfully submitted,  
Rebecca Reeder, Department Chair*

## **Building & Grounds Report For 2014 Annual Meeting**

The past year finally saw the end of the long drawn out roof project with the settlement of the lawsuit. We were also able to complete a new project with the installation of the fountain. This has given everyone the opportunity to enjoy an inspirational view from the sanctuary. With this new found inspiration we have entered into the new year ready to tackle a list of challenges.

The first of these challenges was to identify the items in and around our Church that need to be repaired, replaced or improved. Once these things were identified then we set out to prioritize them. This has proven to be a difficult step. We have to balance the urgency of addressing repairs or replacement with the availability of funds. Also taken into account is the visibility of a project and its impact on the aesthetics of the building and the surrounding grounds.

Because of the difficulty of this process, prioritizing of projects will be ongoing and will involve the Building and Grounds Committee working with the Board of Trustees and the Finance Committee to find the best path forward. Even though that path forward has not been completely laid out, we are still going to tackle and complete projects where there is a need and the willingness to put in the effort.

The first of these projects is to oil the Sanctuary walls like was done to Gallery. Depending on how smooth the work goes and the number of volunteers, the Social Hall will also be done. The Sanctuary work was scheduled for February 24<sup>th</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>.

Coming up in the spring will be organized clean-up days. There will be several clean-up events scheduled for both inside and outside the Church. These clean-up events serve as our annual “spring cleaning” time and are important for the overall health of our landscaping and the clean and orderly functioning of our facilities. A few of these days will be used to rejuvenate the landscape bed at the end of the Sanctuary-wing of the building. Therefore, it is important that we have strong attendance for these events to accomplish all of the work that needs to be done.

Our committee has added a new and very important member this past year, Edie Stoneking. She is taking the role of communications for our Committee. We are challenged to find more people to join her and take a more active role in the physical life of our Church. Whether your interests are organization, landscaping, gardening, mowing, painting, shoveling snow, or something else, our committee can find a place for you to apply those interests. We badly need some strong, younger backs to help around the grounds from time to time. This is not a large time commitment, but a very important one.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Danny Swim & Jim Reeder, Co-chairs*

## **Endowment Committee 2013 Annual Report**

Throughout 2013, Endowment Committee members monitored the endowment balance and investments to ensure that the funds remain invested wisely. The endowment fund continued to generate enough income to contribute \$12,000 annually (\$1,000 per month) to the congregation’s operating fund. Endowment Committee members met quarterly with our Merrill Lynch representative to review the investments, making changes when prudent.

The value of the endowment at the end of 2013 was just over \$374,000, which was about \$34,000 higher than at the end of the previous year because of gifts and capital gains. In 2013 our endowment fund received a gift of \$25,000 from the estate of Midge Walter. The asset allocation of our fund as of 12/31/2013 is 75% fixed income, 20% equities and 5% in cash.

Emily Schwartz Keirns served as the chair of the committee for 2013. Committee member Norm Newman was nominated to the Committee on Ministry and was replaced by Kees deWit. At the November election meeting, Raj Chowdhury was elected as a member of this committee.

The endowment fund is currently pledged as collateral for the roof loan.

The goal of the committee is to continue to ensure steady returns on investments of the endowment funds and to encourage giving to the endowment so that it grows over time.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kees deWit, committee member*



## Langhinrichs Gallery Year End Report 2013

The **ArtVenture** trips continue to be successful. In 2013 we had two: one to Chicago and the other to Art Prize and the Frederik Meijer Sculpture Gardens. As this is being written, we have ArtVenture Chicago planned for Saturday, April 5, 2014. As we have found, these trips serve people from the community as well as members of our church.

We had many wonderful artists who share their work and have yet to share this season.

**December 9, 2012 – February 3, 2013 - *ReArt II*** – fundraiser for roof – congregation based show

**February 10 – March 31, 2013 *Penny French-Deal*** – painting and *Linn Bartling* pottery

**April 7 – May 25, 2013 - *Karen Moriarity*** – painting

**May 28, 2013** – maintenance: fill holes and apply Liquid Gold

**June 2 – July 21, 2013 - *Bill Frederick*** - photography

**July 28 – September 1, 2013 - *Linda Binek*** – watercolor and/or mixed media

**September 8 – November 3, 2013 - *Eunice Scully*** - fiber/quilting

**November through January** – *Uzma Mirza and her Islamic Lettering art*

These are a few of the artists we are looking forward to have their art in our Gallery in 2014:

Plein Air Artist's Group

Fort Wayne Area Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America

Ellie Bogue and

Appleseed Art Quilt Bee

**Galley committee:** Maggie Curtis, Judy Wertenberger, Marsi Lawson, Mary Knopp, Jackie Moore, Maggie Thorn, Kathi Weiss, Susan Wenger, and Cathie Rowand

We are always looking for members to join our committee. Being an artist isn't necessary. We need people with all types of skills to help us be a success.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Cathie Rowand*

## Membership Committee 2013 Annual Report

1. We defined our mission and goals: Our mission is to welcome visitors and help members, friends and visitors make connections with others in our congregation. Our major goal is to be the welcoming arm of the church through the completion of these tasks:
  - a.) Greet visitors each Sunday
  - b.) Hold Pathways to Membership Class 2-3 times a year followed by a New Member Sunday
  - c.) Maintain contact with members and friends who come irregularly
  - d.) Provide appropriate publications on membership
  - e.) Provide written communications in newsletter, Order of Worship, website
  - f.) Provide reports to the board

2. Membership Committee agreed to assume responsibility for scheduling all greeters on Sunday morning. We created a new banner to welcome visitors, members, and friends as they enter the foyer.
3. Rev. Shelly began offering a *Chat with the Minister* once a month following services to allow folks to ask questions and to talk about Unitarian Universalism.
4. We welcomed the following new members: Beth Jamieson, Michael Barone, Mike Tulley, Andy Diekroger, Sharon Gustin, Dorothy Kittaka, Steve Witt, and Dodi Gunawardhana. Celebrations followed the new member ceremonies with cake during the Social Hour.
5. The Guide morphed into a Member Handbook which is being distributed today. The intent was to provide basic information about the congregation for members and friends. The bylaws and policy manual will be added to the website.
6. A new Name Tag Board was made by Danny Swim and name tags with magnetic backs have been ordered. We look forward to the initiation of the board. It will be rolled into the foyer each Sunday to make it easier for people to find their tag and will serve as a reminder to leave the tag as they exit the building.
7. The Valentine Hop was held on Saturday, February 15 as a way of helping old and new people of all ages make connections with others and have a lot of fun. This might become an annual event ...
8. The Membership Committee has been evolving and now Gail Milne will chair the group with Rachel McNett assisting. Additional members include Shirley Glade, Jean Phillips, and Jim Reeder. We thank Toni Kring, Ann McKenna, and Christel Gehlert for their service.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Toni Kring, Past Chair*

## **Memorial Garden Committee**

Our long neglected memorial garden underwent a notable transformation in 2013 with the installation of a water feature and a wooden bench built by Ed Powers, inscribed with our congregational covenant, in time for Rev. Shelly's installation ceremony last spring.

Jim Reeder and Danny Swim from the Building and Grounds Committee did much of the heavy work, with assistance from Susan Wenger in the Aesthetics Committee. Ed Powers and Arjun Chowdhury also lent a hand. The garden has become a quiet refuge, an inviting place for meditation and contemplation.

Plans for the coming year include some new landscaping and installation of a second beautiful bench contributed by the Zala family after Judy Zala's ashes were interred there.

Funds for all of this work are provided by dedicated memorial funds contributed over the years by families who have interred ashes of loved ones there.

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Moore & Ed Powers, Co-chairs*

## UUCFW 2013 Director of Music Report

The UUCFW Choir began the 2013 year with the traditional Martin Luther King service in January. The Choir added percussion to the February performance celebrating the “Standing On the Side of Love” campaign with Abraham Kipp on drums, and continued to sing once a month through the end of May. The choir continued to meet regularly once a week from January through May to prepare for performances. Following the summer break weekly rehearsals resumed on July 31<sup>st</sup> to prepare for the Ingathering service in August. The choir rehearsed weekly through the fall performing for our own UUCFW Thanksgiving service and combining with the interfaith choir for the Community Thanksgiving service at the Temple. The Choir also performed for the Sunday morning Solstice service and a small group of UUCFW Choir members performed on Christmas Eve for the Candlelight service. Overall, the UUCFW has a very faithful core of choir members who are committed to meeting on a weekly basis to rehearse, prepare, and to grow the music program for the UUCFW congregation.

As the Director of Music I performed 32 piano performances, including the holiday performances for Easter Sunday, the Winter Vesper service, and the Christmas Eve service. I directed the UUCFW Choir for 12 choral performances. I met for weekly supervision meetings with Rev. Misty-Dawn and for staff meetings as they were scheduled. Overall, the 2013 year performances more accurately reflected a quarter time director of music position and the UUCFW congregation generously moved towards fair compensation for the Director of Music position.

I am grateful to serve as the Director of Music for the UUCFW Congregation and look forward to moving the music program forward with energy, excitement, and a commitment to the values and beliefs we hold dear within the Unitarian Universalist tradition. My goal for the 2014 year is to take the music of the UUCFW Choir outside the walls of our building out into the local community and beyond so that we may live our beliefs for “Standing on the Side of Love” and share our commitment to equality and justice for all persons.

### 2013 UUCFW Choir Members

#### Soprano

Rachel Blakeman  
Ludy Goodson  
Dorothy Kittaka  
Dee Koehl  
Sandra Maze  
Ann McKenna  
Jean Phillips

#### Alto

Janette Chowdhury  
Nan Getzin  
Cynthia Powers  
Marsha Wallace

#### Baritone

Noel Maze  
Jim Reeder  
Dennis Shipley  
Ed Powers  
Steve Witt

In order to assist Suellen Kipp in maintaining her quarter time position, the Music committee has taken on some additional duties and will be responsible for scheduling the musicians who will accompany us through our summer worship services. We are also assisting in the organization and maintenance of the music library and with Kirsten’s help, making sure the pianos are maintained and tuned regularly. We are in discussion with the board concerning additional fees during facility rentals when a piano is used, to help fund the ongoing maintenance of our instruments.

Much appreciation is given to the UUCFW board and congregation for supporting fair compensation for our Music Director. I would also like to especially thank outgoing chair, Dennis Shipley, who worked diligently to help us all understand what a quarter time position for a music director entailed and to the

members of the Music committee (Dennis Shipley, Cynthia Powers, Emily Schwartz Keirns, Rev Shelly, Suellen Kipp) who continue to support and define the music program, knowing it as an integral part of our worship at UUCFW.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Suellen Kipp, Director of Music and Dee Koehl, Music Committee Chair*

## **NIPR-UU Underwriting**

Over the past two years, we asked those in the congregation to join in a project: NIPR Underwriting. We asked you to send your donation of what you would normally give to the local public radio station during their fund drive to us so that we could pool our resources and do some underwriting of programs and special events. Your help with this has been a wonderful success! (See the Social Action & Service Department Report)

We ran eleven (up from five the year before) underwriting spots on WBOI/WBNI in 2013. We underwrote spots promoting: our Blue Christmas service, the ArtVenture: Chicago and ArtVenture: Grand Rapids trip from the Gallery Committee; the ReArt II fundraiser for our roof; the two Spoken Word events; two Music on Old Mill Concerts (Hamilton Tescarollo and Dave Latchaw), as well as the Faith and Politics event, *Whose Business is Education?* It's so exciting to be listening to the radio and here that words, *Support for this program provided by Unitarian Universalist Congregation* and then the program we're highlighting. The Gallery Committee and the Music on Old Mill Committee split the cost of underwriting programs with the larger collection - that helped stretch our underwriting dollars.

As long as you, the membership, supports this underwriting program, we're going to continue this way to get our name out in the community. If you've not yet given funds to this project, we take them at any time. Thank you for your help in this project!

*Respectfully submitted,  
Kirsten Eckert-Smith, Congregational Administrator*

## **UUCFW Social Action & Service Department**

By any measure, 2013 was one of our most active and productive years for the Social Action Committee in memory. Your monthly Third Sunday offerings netted over \$4611 for local, regional and national UU programs, while your Fifth Sunday offerings provided \$709 for the Minister's Discretionary Fund. Combined special offerings for Habitat for Humanity, and relief for victims of the tornado in Moore, Oklahoma and Hurricane Hainan in the Philippines, totaled over \$3333.

Individual subtotals of these contributions are also revealing, since some monthly offerings went to the same recipient for different purposes. Contributions for the Habitat building project provided just under \$2623; for Study Elementary families nearly \$1600; and for Wellspring \$1392. In total then, UUCFW contributed nearly \$8675 to the community, an average of just over \$70 per member. Moreover, you also donated a considerable amount of canned and packaged food to the Wellspring Food Pantry. Details of the monthly cash and food donations follow in this annual report.

Finally, 19 members pooled \$1660 in donations to Northern Indiana Public Radio through UUCFW last year, helping us sponsor programs or make announcements on WBOI and WBNI for events taking place at the Meetinghouse.

It's worth noting, then, that while most of this monthly activity takes place with little or no fanfare, in total you've managed to make a substantial contribution to the life and welfare of the larger community. Take a bow. You've earned it.

### **Social Action & Service Department 2013 Third Sunday Collections**

January	NE Indiana Diversity Library	\$186.13
February	Standing on the Side of Love	\$249.85
March	Black Pine Animal Sanctuary	\$243.71
April	Save the Maumee	\$247.85
May	Wellspring Summer Day Camp program	\$152.00
	Special collection for Day Camp	\$875.00
June	Habitat for Humanity	\$144.50
July	Churches for Middle East Peace	\$219.28
	Special collection for Wellspring Cookout	\$365.00
August	Study Elementary	\$474.14
September	UUSC	\$139.43
October	Nothing	
November/December	Study Christmas Families	\$1,125
December	Syrian Relief (Pi blankets)	<u>\$210.00</u>
Subtotal		<b>\$4,611.89</b>

### **Fifth Sunday collections**

September 29	Minister's Discretionary Fund	\$296.00
December 29	Minister's Discretionary Fund	<u>\$413.00</u>
Subtotal		<b>\$709.00</b>

### **Special collections**

June 9	Moore, Oklahoma Tornado	\$ 434.33
December 24	Philippines Typhoon	\$ 413.90
	Habitat for Humanity Fundraiser	<u>\$2485.00</u>
Subtotal		<b>\$3333.23</b>

**GRAND TOTAL** **\$8,674.65**

## UUCFW 2013 Wellspring Pantry Donations

36 boxes powdered milk  
44 bottles oil  
87 cans vegetables  
46 cans fruit  
25 boxes cereal  
13 cans hash  
23 cans soup  
20 cake mixes  
8 cans cake frosting  
4 cans tuna  
1 box "Tuna Helper"  
2 pkgs. pasta  
1 can pork and beans  
1 box stuffing mix  
1 can french fried onions  
1 can beef chunks  
2 boxes powdered infant formula

32 items of personal care items (including sample sizes) hand soap, toothpaste, shampoo, moisturizing lotion, hand cream, feminine hygiene products

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Moore*

## Romeos

The **Romeos** (aka Retired Old Men Eating Out) is a fellowship group of men who meet weekly for lunch. Not all of us are retired or UUs, and some are younger than others, but we all enjoy eating out at a different local restaurant every Wednesday. Tex Mex, Burmese, Cuban, Barbeque ... you name it ... it's all fair game for us. Contact John Moore to have your name added to the list of members.

*Respectfully submitted,  
John Moore*

## **Sisters in Good Company**

*Sisters in Good Company* started up in 2012 and usually 14 women participate in the monthly activities. Ages have varied from 23 to 90 years old. Activities and meeting time vary so if someone can't make a particular day, or doesn't like the activity, it will be different the next month. Activities that involve good food and a chance for everyone to socialize and share thoughts seems to be the most popular. We have had pizza night, potlucks, canoeing, bicycling, fly fishing, traveled to Grabill, a Burmese cooking class, and a couple of movie nights on a big screen. The name of our groups comes from the first movie we watched, *Strangers in Good Company*. If you haven't had a chance to join us, come on out next month. You never have to worry about whether you will fit in because we are *Sisters in Good Company*.

*Respectfully submitted,  
Cathie Rowand*

## **Sisters Over 70 (SOS)**

*Sisters Over 70* meets every month on the second Thursday at 10:30 in the choir room. This group, founded by Jeanne Nuechterlein and Ruth Langhinrichs, invites all who can pass the age requirement. This group of dynamic ladies "of a certain age" does not sit around discussing aches and pains, adult kids who never call, etc., etc. Far from it! Instead, they face issues of aging head on and think up good solutions. Meetings are led by a different member each month, and start by lighting a candle, a reading, the topic of the month, and a check-in. I've found the "church ladies" to be a truly inspiring group! Please join us, once you're old enough! Although we have had to cancel January's and February's meetings because of the weather, we are looking forward to the March meeting at a different location: Jean Phillips' home in New Haven. After that, topics are "to be announced."

*Respectfully submitted,  
Cynthia Powers, facilitator*

