

Unitarian Church of Baton Rouge

Many Beliefs . . . One Community . . . A Better World

9:30 and 11:15 AM Sunday Worship

Classes & nursery for our children provided at the 9:30 & 11:15am Services

Classes for Middle and Senior Youth provided at the 11:15am Service

Our newsletter can now be found online at www.unitarianchurchbr.com. Printed copies are available for pickup at the Welcome Table.

MAY 2018

May 6, Sunday Morning Worship Services

I Can See You

This Sunday we explore what it means to be seen. Is this something we should still strive for in an ever-shrinking world? After each service, join Board Members in the office for a discussion about interim ministry and the search process.

May 13, Sunday Morning Worship Services

A Mother Must Become a Poet or Go Crazy

We anoint the day with song and poetry, for how else could we greet this day? We honor mothers, living and dead. The children sing a beautiful song. Plus, this is the day for a *Child Dedication* during the worship services for your infant or young child. Call **Kathy Smith** to schedule your family.

May 20, Sunday Morning Worship Services

Can You Hear #MeToo?

This Sunday we will examine what the #MeToo movement means for Unitarian Universalism, our world, and every person.

May 27, Sunday Morning Worship Services

Religion, Not for Sundays Only

Cradle to grave is really what our religion ought to be about. Theory, principles, and arguments have their place, of course, but there is no religion that reveals itself more authentically than the way we actually live and treat one another.

Office Hours are Monday - Friday 8 AM – 4:30 PM
8470 Goodwood Boulevard, Baton Rouge, LA 70806
www.unitarianchurchbr.com
225-926-2291

Welcome to our smoke and firearm free campus.

CHURCH STAFF including Volunteers –

Office Administrator: Allison Hall
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Business Administrator: Heath Hebert
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Director of Family Ministry: Kathy E. Smith
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Music Program Director: Leah Hartman
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Choral Conductor: Trey Davis choral@unitarianchurchbr.com.

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Outreach Director: Becky Cureau rcureau@cox.net

Social Justice Director: Bobby Thompson numbernine@cox.net

MINISTERS:

The Reverend Nathan A. Ryan
(Off Fridays) nryan@uuma.org

The Reverend Dr. Steve J. Crump
(Off Mondays) minister@unitarianchurchbr.com

OUR CHURCH BOARD -

President: David Hawley dhawley81@gmail.com

Vice President: Holley Haymaker hgalland@aol.com

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BOARD MEMBERS AT LARGE –

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TEAM LEADERS -

Leslie Grover - Worship Guild

Art Scarbrough - Adult Growth & Learning

Becky Cureau - Outreach

Jane Webb and Bobby Thompson - Social Justice

Donna Yelverton & Liz Hamlin - Congregational Care

Sandy Hubbard - Fun & Fellowship

**Find Us
On**



- 1: Congregational Care Team & Special Funds Team 6:30pm
- 2: Roots, Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm
- 4: UCBR Day for Girls 6pm
- 5: Middle Youth Pot Luck 6pm
- 6: Children's Choir 10:45am, Open Circle Book Club 7pm
- 7: Tai Chi 6pm
- 8: Red Stick Drumming Circle 6:30pm
- 9: Roots, Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm
- 11: Emma Schroth Whitney Memorial Service 4pm, UCBR Day for Girls 6pm
- 14: Tai Chi 6pm, Woman's Book Club 7pm
- 15: Church Board Meeting 6:30pm
- 16: Finance Committee 5:45pm, Roots, Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm
- 17: PFLAG 7pm
- 18: UCBR Day for Girls 6pm
- 19: Caregivers of Alzheimer's & Dementia Support Group 12:30pm
- 20: Children's Choir 10:45am
- 21: Tai Chi 6pm
- 23: Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm
- 24: Governance Committee 7pm
- 25: UCBR Day for Girls 6pm
- 28: **Church Office closed for Memorial Day Holiday,**
Tai Chi 6pm
- 30: Adult Choir & Recorders 6:30pm

CRUMP EXPRESSWAY

-a column from **The Reverend Steve J. Crump**

Opportunity #1 ~ Our church is now ready to enroll a church member in Red Cross CPR training. Send a note to the church or to me if you feel you could make such a meaningful contribution in being trained in the training of others. Our goal is to have several in our congregation, especially on Sunday mornings, equipped to conduct CPR and AED procedures. Our church is the recipient of a gift of two (2) Automated External Defibrillators that will be installed in the Sanctuary and Fellowship Hall of our church. An **AED** is a portable, battery-powered, electronic device that automatically diagnoses life-threatening cardiac arrhythmias and can treat defibrillation on the spot, saving precious minutes and lives in cardiac emergencies.

Opportunity #2 ~ From an anonymous donor comes word of a blessing for our church – an offer of a matching gift of **\$30,000** for the completion of the Sanctuary Renovation project this summer. Let's raise an additional **\$30,000** and give *Great Expectations* the **\$60,000 FINALE** it deserves. With that cash, we'll complete the lighting, and add cameras, carpeting, paint, raised chancel, and two high-powered projectors—all the stuff we've been dreaming about for years. We need the cash this summer. That's our goal, and it is a personal one for me, as well. We first launched *Great Expectations* in the fall of 2012, long before several new members had an opportunity to give to the campaign. Others, like me, have given once, twice, or more times to *Green-for-Green* and related capital improvements. Make your checks out to: Unitarian Church and in the memo field write: GE-FINALE.

Blast from the Past ~ Here is an excerpt from a newsletter column published more than once during my ministry here. I want these words to be a reminder of what a good church is, one that is always trying to be better:

"Theologians call the study of the nature of the church *ecclesiology*. Here is my short-hand version of our ecclesiology, a work in progress:

Through we serve coffee here, our church is not a coffeehouse where we mostly speak to those with whom we entered and perhaps say "hi" to those at the next table. In a good church, we are interested in more than ourselves. We gather for many terrific meals, but our church is not the *Piccadilly Café* where we might select what we want and not pay for the rest. In a good church, we are the cooks, the servers, and the ones being served, plus we are responsible for the whole tab. The church is not an outpatient clinic where we come when we've got a personal problem and "once it's handled" we leave an empty chair behind. The church is always full of troubles and woundedness where healing may happen or it may not. But we gather in a good church not because we want to be *repaired* but because we have all been broken.

Furthermore, a church is not a political party where "those who don't see things my way are obviously unenlightened and ill-informed." Good churches resist becoming single-issue, one-note churches, because they know there are 12 notes in the musical scale with an infinite number of combinations. A good church will not dismiss or condemn those who thoughtfully disagree. Manners, discretion, and courtesy are qualities still honored in good churches.

(Continued on page 6.)

Associate Minister

by **The Reverend Nathan A. Ryan**

On Easter Sunday I preached a short reflection on resurrection. A few people asked for a printed copy of it. Here it is: (although talking about resurrection in May is completely out of the normal liturgical calendar, so please forgive):

Rarely does resurrection look like the re-creation of something.

I've known a few church members who, after each of their spouses died, started reading all of their books. They looked at which passages were highlighted. In this way they are getting to know a slightly new person all over again. For those brief moments their loved one is resurrected.

I'm also thinking of those people who just knew that their depression would go away when winter was over, but are distraught to find out that even though the days are getting longer, they are still struggling. I'm thinking of those who are still struggling with addiction, who thought that this time they wouldn't relapse, or those who feel picked on, bullied at school or work. Maybe resurrection doesn't come in the form of a savior. Maybe resurrection is a community like this church where you are reminded week after week that you are loved and you are worthy.

I'm thinking of those people who have read the news and felt that justice is slipping away, or that we are getting further and further from the promised land.

And when I think of all those who are suffering I remember the end of that story in the Gospel of Mark. The people who went looking for Jesus weren't men. They were women - the people traditionally written out of the story. They looked in the tomb. They didn't find Jesus. They were told by a man sitting in the tomb "You are looking for Jesus the Nazarene, who was crucified. He has risen! He is not here. See the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter, 'He is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him, just as he told you.'"

(Continued on page 7.)

President's Column

Holley Haymaker, Board President

This will be my last column. After getting over the shock of having to write something other than a prescription, I confess I have enjoyed it. I have attempted clear communication about issues important to the board and, I hope, to you. Our last board meeting Tuesday, April 17th, was our evaluation meeting. As usual, it was very collaborative. **Jan Dardenne** suggested we review the covenant we made last May about how we act together and with you. All board members spoke their minds, expressed concerns, suggested ideas and solutions. We worried and laughed and ate pannettone and pizza. I will post our covenant on the bulletin board next to our pictures.

Remember the AVOM = Annual Vision of Ministry? Item #1 of 3 is COMMUNICATION. One item of the board covenant was "to serve the congregation and its mission by openly and intentionally communicating with the congregation". Since communication is not just what we think we say, but what the other person(s) hear, only you, the congregation, can tell us how we have done.

(Continued on page 7.)

Family Ministry

by Kathy E. Smith, Director of Family Ministries

Mothering, or Who Gets to Celebrate Mother's Day?

For my first Mother's Day Sunday as a Director of Religious Educator, I was asked to choose and tell the Story for All Ages. As I sorted through the many books written for children around Mother's Day, I realized that these books – lovely though they were – did not represent all of the families sitting in our church sanctuary. The typical stories for Mother's Day left out families with two moms or two dads, parents who were grieving the child they'd lost, people who had wanted to conceive but hadn't yet been able to, youth and adults who had a difficult relationship with their parents. The pictures in most of those books left out people based on sexual orientation, non-binary gender, race, income, and more. Mother's Day, displayed in microcosm in that shelf full of children's picture books, looked more like a holiday that left people out than a holiday that brought people together.

Over the years I've come to view Mother's Day as a day to celebrate the **act of mothering**, rather than any one physical description of **who a mother is**. I'm grateful to the unknown Unitarian Universalist minister whose sermon helped to change my thinking, though their sermon (titled Mothering is a Verb) has been lost in the mists of Google. She spoke of her struggle to understand gender as a spectrum, but more important, of her belief that Mother's Day should be about the people who are nurturing, guiding, mentoring, and loving children, rather than focusing on cisgender women who are "picture-perfect" mothers. A few years later, I learned of the campaign for "Mamas Day Our Way", a call to honor all mothers, especially those who are weighed down by racial bias, stigmatized, or ignored, and to work to create a society where all mamas and their families can thrive.

As we approach this Hallmark holiday, too, I remember that the original creator of Mother's Day was Julia Ward Howe. We often remember her as the writer of "The Battle Hymn of the Republic", and forget (or never learn) that in her later years she became a staunch advocate for peace. She wrote, "Arise, then, women of this day! Arise, all women who have hearts, whether our baptism be of water or of tears! ... our [children] shall not be taken from us to unlearn all that we have been able to teach them of charity, mercy, and patience. We, the women of one country, will be too tender of those of another country to allow our [children] to be trained to injure theirs."

Mothering. Our popular culture has so limited our view of what it is, or can be. This Mother's Day, I hope you are able to reach out to those who've mothered you, or those you have mothered yourself, in any one of the myriad ways mothering happens. May you, and they, feel the blessings of Love.

*You might want to check out the website mamasday.org, with its blogs and social action, artwork and cards that celebrate "Mamas Day Our Way" – beautiful portrayals of all, not just some, of the people who mother the children of our collective communities. More resources are available at the UUA website – search for Mamas Day, Black Mamas Matter, or Julia Ward Howe.

OUTREACH

Becky Cureau, Director of Outreach

Volunteers for our service project at St. Vincent de Paul dining room on Saturday, May 12 will be 10 children from the RE program and their parents. Our team of 17 volunteers will join a community team to prepare "Bags of Hope," an evening meal distributed to homeless and low-income families who eat the lunch-time meal in the St. Vincent de Paul dining room. This service project was especially arranged to provide younger children in the RE program the experience of doing volunteer service.

Sign up will begin on Sunday, May 6 for our second service of the year at the Holy Grill from May 29 to June 1. The Holy Grill is a daily lunch served to low income residents in Zion City in North Baton Rouge and is a program of the Interfaith Federation of Greater Baton Rouge. Look for the sign-up sheet on the table next to the window in the coffee room.

April 30th is the last day for regular registration for those planning to attend this year's Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (GA), which will convene in Kansas City, Missouri, June 20-24, 2018. GA is the annual meeting of our Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) when attendees worship, witness, learn, connect, and make policy for the Association through democratic process. Information about registration and schedules can be found at www.uua.org/ga.



Music Updates

Leah Hartman, Music Program Director

Trey Davis, Choral Director

In May, the choir will join us on May 6 with an anthem by choral composer Andrea Ramsey based on Psalm 23.

On May 13, the children's choir will have a special performance, and the adult choir will sing The Ground, a favorite of the choir.

If you're interested in short-term opportunities to sing, the gospel choir will begin practicing in July. We're also looking for a small ensemble of singers for the Pride service on June 17. Email music.office@unitarianchurchbr.com for more information.

The New Orleans Gay Men's Chorus will have their spring concert at the church on June 2 at 7:30pm. For tickets or information, visit their website at nogmc.com.

If you're interested in honoring a loved one or a special occasion, consider providing flowers for the church services. Quite a few spots are open during the summer months, including May 27. Sign up at the table in the Fellowship Hall on Sunday mornings.

Social Justice

Bobby Thompson, Director of Social Justice
Jane Webb, co Chair

Our **shared offering for May** is the **Odell S. Williams Now and Then Museum of African American History**, located at 538 South Blvd. It has five permanent exhibits. The art work of local black artists is featured across the way from an exhibit of African artworks including carvings, paintings and textiles. There is a collection of rural artifacts from the early 20th century domestic life and a smaller collection of inventions to complement the historic poster collection donated by former Baton Rouge school teacher, Odell S. Williams. Take time as the school year winds down to visit this museum and appreciate the heritage of our city preserved in this museum.

The "**Next Step Chronology Committee**" completed its work on the **UCBR Timeline of Social Justice initiatives**. Final presentations are presently being considered, both in a digital format on the church website and as a series of visual documents posted on our walls for the general public and our own congregation to see and appreciate. This effort by **Janet Moulder, Dave Comeaux, MaryEllyn Hale, MiJa and Bobby Thompson and Jane Webb** has been a rewarding undertaking. Each of the group has experienced the generous assistance and guidance of members of the congregation in our research for dates, details and full information. We are deeply grateful to all of those who helped.

The April 29 meeting featured presentations on a **Puerto Rico project** and a **mentoring project** for young people in **Youth Oasis**. Also, plans are underway for the **June 16 Baton Rouge Pride Fest 2018, 11am-7pm**. We will have a table and will be putting together a team to develop our table handouts and signs, as well as a team to man the table. Consider joining the Pride Fest Team. We are the church that shows up, remember?

The **Executive Committee of Together Baton Rouge** met at UCBR in the Fellowship Hall Tuesday, May 1. Many thanks to all who helped set up and clean up for the event.

Since there will be no further meetings of SJT until the end of the summer, committees able to work on these projects and other things will be working over the summer. Please let us know if you want to join any of these three summer projects.

4/15/2018 UCBR House Meeting Report: Group 1

Participants: Diana Dorroh, Kathy Gess, Holley Haymaker, Nicole Johnson, Nancy Kunen, Janet Moulder, Mija Thompson, Emily Toth, Rick Webb

Violence related issues:

- 1) Call for renewed, organized and thoughtful push back against increasing racist actions during live encounters and racist postings across social media sites.
- 2) Recognize and oppose the pervasive presence of gun violence throughout our culture.
- 3) Support legislation for sensible gun use and control (i.e. outlaw bump stocks).
- 4) Promote, join and support groups seeking changes in our gun culture like Moms Demand Action.
- 5) Educate parents on the simple child protecting protocol of the Ask-Tell program.

(Continued next column.)

- 6) Encourage NRA members to realign their leadership with members' polled and published gun use and control positions or else just quit
- 7) Recognize domestic violence, macro and micro aggressions, aimed at women to keep women in "their place". Improve women's shelter awareness and publicize volunteer opportunities.
- 8) Strongly support reproductive rights pushing back against the avalanche of restrictive legislation. Keep Planned Parenthood as an effective provider of women's health services.

Health and community related issues:

- 1) Try to integrate new online grocery shopping and delivery services with the food dessert reduction initiative.
- 2) Address the nursing home monopoly of funds needed to support in-home care giving.
- 3) Can we continue to live with the two-city divide in Baton Rouge?
- 4) Find ways to encourage adoption of a living wage in our area.
- 5) Support pay equity!
- 6) Improve support for the BREC Zoo at the current location.
- 7) Encourage more visible actions. People joined together advocating publicly get the attention.

Legislative issue:

- 1) Establish a standing "Issues Education Task Force" as a resource to combat the limited institutional and historical background awareness that legislators display due to term limits.

UCBR issue:

- 1) Perform a new and extensive "Accessibility" survey of our UCBR facilities and parking lot.

4/15/2018 UCBR House Meeting report: Group 2

Participants: Helen Antrobus, Suzanne Besse, Herb Dyer, Liz Hamlin, Mike Hebert, David Lindenfeld, Betty Powers, Melonie Pryor, Bobby Thompson, Jane Webb

Police reform issues:

- 1) Correct a culture of bias within the police force by instituting a protocol for how to respond from arrival at a scene to departure. Then train officers carefully in the protocol and hold them accountable for following it.
- 2) Correct systemic racism in the police department for all persons of color by instituting a protocol for reasonable stop and search procedures. Then require a record of every such stop with clear evidence of use of the protocol.

Health and community related issues:

- 1) How can we continue to ignore the plight of half this city north of Florida Blvd?
- 2) A healthy environment from air quality to blighted properties to redevelopment and infrastructure is essential to a healthy and vibrant city. We need to be creative and assertive in tackling these problems and finding solutions.
- 3) Combat the polarization and inertia caused by partisan politics by developing a pilot series of dialogues where all sides work from points of agreement to listen and learn the true areas of disagreement. (This could be developed within our congregation and then moved out to a larger audience, possibly through TBR.)
- 4) There is a hunger for more open dialogue about problems that concern us all. Make these opportunities open and not directed, but rather focused on listening to the stories of others as a path toward understanding and resolution.
- 5) Why is pay equity and the concept of a living wage so impossible to achieve?
- 6) Medicare expansion toward in-home care as a viable option to nursing homes is needed.

(Continued on page 6.)

LIGHTS CAMERA ACTION

We have received a matching grant offer of \$30,000 to raise \$60,000 for the **Great Expectations FINALE**, the Sanctuary Renovation project—the raised chancel, the carpeting, the lighting, the new audio system, and two-high powered projectors. Make your pledge or check to: **UCBR** and in the memo field write: **GE-FINALE**.

Continuing Activities

Everyone is welcome to attend & newcomers are encouraged.

- **Caregivers of Alzheimer's and Dementia Patients Support Group:** Third Saturday of each month, 12:30pm, R1.
- **Open Circle Book Club:** Sunday, May 6, 7pm, church office. The book is Leonardo da Vinci by Walter Isaacson
- **Children's Choir:** 1st and 3rd Sundays, 10:45am, R3.
- **Tai Chi:** Mondays, 6pm, Fellowship Hall
- **Nar-Anon Open Group:** Monday's, 7pm, R7. This group is for people who have a loved one with a drug addiction.
- **Women's Book Club:** Monday, May 14, 7pm, R6. The book is The Signature of All Things by Elizabeth Gilbert.
- **Church Board:** Tuesday, May 15, 6:30pm, church office.
- **Congregational Care Team:** Tuesday, May 1, 6:30pm, church office
- **Adult Choir:** Wednesdays, 6:30pm, choir room.
- **Recorders:** Wednesdays, 6:30pm, R3 (Advanced Group, First Wed.)
- **Narcotics Anonymous Open Minded Group:** Wednesdays, 8pm, R7. This group is open to all who are struggling with addiction.
- **Non-Fiction Book Club:** Thursday, April 26, 7pm, R1. The book is The Professor and the Madman: A Tale of Murder, Insanity, and the Making of the Oxford English Dictionary by Simon Winchester.
- **Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG):** Third Thursday, 7pm
- **UCBR Day for Girls:** Fridays, 6-9pm, Fellowship Hall. Cleanup will be from 8:30-9pm for those who can stay & help.

LUNCH BUNCH

Everyone is welcome to join us at 1PM each Sunday. It's a great way for new members and guests to get to know some of us UU's and/or for older members to reconnect with our church community.

May 6, **Serop's**, 7474 Corporate Boulevard
seropscave.com

May 13, **Don Jose**, 3132 College Dr.
no website

May 20, **Boil and Roux**, 11777 Coursey Boulevard
boilandroux.com

May 27, **Brew-Bacher's**, 8415 Bluebonnet Boulevard
brewbachersgrill.com

Social Justice column continued from page 5.

UCBR issue:

- 1) There is a need for integration and coordination of the Board's Annual Vision of Ministry (AVOM) to every area of UCBR's undertakings.
- 2) We need to integrate racial justice concerns throughout our church community, both adults and children.
- 3) A realistic approach/reorganization of the responsibilities of the Social Justice Team is needed.



Roots is an introduction to Unitarian Universalism, and our church, led by one of our ministers. Sign up at the Welcome Table for the Wednesday class, May 2, 9 & 16, 6:30-8:30pm. Childcare is available with advance notice.

Crump Expressway continued from page 3.

A good church is not an amusement park where one emotional high after another is sought. Nor does a good church dispense *spiritual catnip*. On the contrary, while it may celebrate a moment of joy, revelation, or ecstasy, a good church learns to teach one another how to deal with the mundane in our lives, the *been-there-done-that* of life. The church is never a funeral home, but a good church has to deal with death. It has to speak about disappointments just as it celebrates triumphs. A good church doesn't run on the semester system. No grades are ever given out. Just *incompletes* – which keep us coming back to live the good life with others one more time."

Associate Minister's column continued from page 3.

Maybe they found his resurrection not in Jesus. Maybe they found it in the person they knew and were following. Maybe they found resurrection the next, albeit imperfect, generation.

Maybe they found his resurrection in Peter. After Peter's murder, maybe they found the resurrection in gathering to remember him and restore their hope as a people of faith. This exact spot, his grave where they gathered every year, is where the Vatican was built.

Maybe the resurrection of justice isn't in the tomb, or a failed conviction or voted down piece of legislation. Maybe the tomb is always empty because love and justice cannot be buried. Maybe resurrection does not look like a life preserved. Maybe resurrection looks like the rebirth of love despite years of heartbreak, or the rebirth of hope despite years of setbacks. Maybe resurrection looks like ambiguity and imperfection and disappointment. Maybe resurrection lives whenever you think about that person or idea you thought you lost, but found that, while they are still gone, they aren't gone at all.



Branches: If you are a church member or Roots graduate, join a small group, register at the Welcome Table on Sundays or contact **Suzanne Besse** at suzanne.besse@aol.com or **Mark Gilbert** at mgilbert35@gmail.com.



Gen UU: Open to all young adults (aged 18-35ish). Contact christyrhoward@gmail.com.

Potluck and Peek! Don't miss this opportunity to get to know some of our fabulous youth and their advisors! The Middle Youth are having a lock-in the first Saturday of May. As part of this event, they are inviting the congregation to join them for a potluck dinner and a brand-new-to-you game led by our Director of Family Ministries. Bring a dish to share, plus one small white elephant to use as a prize in our game. (The white elephant should be something from your home that you don't want but is still in good condition; it should be small enough to fit in a brown paper lunchbag; and it should be appealing to anyone between the ages of 10 and 100.) Saturday, May 6, 6-8pm. For more information, contact **Audrey Alem** or **Julie Richard**.

President's Column continued from page 3.

We have tried through newsletters, Town Halls, after church meetings on budget and bylaws, and a brief "what is on your mind" table, but I know we have failed some of you. Please help us with this. Some folks don't get this newsletter and don't know it's online. Since you do and are reading this, please ask others if they do. If they don't, tell them to let Allison know. Just go to the church web site, click on staff and then on office manager and send her an email. Also, the Communications Task Force now includes members focused on implementation. They are working on ways to keep you in the loop.

AVOM, covenant...this church work is full of words we don't use every day. Here's one – "called" rather than "hired". I looked it up on the UUA web site. "The ministerial call signifies creation of a distinctive partnership in which minister and congregation alike affirm their intention to share in a religious pilgrimage of mutual care, joy, forbearance, self-discipline, and a desire to serve the common good." (<http://www.uuma.org/?page=guidelines#SoPPI.C>)

Calling a new Senior Minister is a major endeavor. We do not want you to feel left out. There will be many ways to be involved. We are following the UUA process for interim which puts the responsibility on the board to find an interim. So the board moved quickly, created a task force, and put our official offer on the web site last Tuesday (same deadline as tax day). If you would like to come discuss this and/or the whole search process, please join me and other board members after each service the first Sunday in May, the 6th. We are there for you. We want to hear what you have to say.

Serving as your church board president this year has been an ongoing learning project for me and most of all, a joy and a privilege. Thank you.

Blood Drive - We have amazing blood donors. Thanks to the 28 who donated at the OLOL bus on Sunday, April 22 and the 6 others who tried but were deferred that day. We also realize that others wanted to participate but could not on this particular day. The children, men and women who will receive our UU red cells, platelets and plasma will feel very grateful. We are also thankful to several others who have gone to OLOL and donated there in our Unitarian Church name. Anyone can donate at the hospital and then on Sunday, August 26th, the OLOL Blood Mobile bus will return. Hope to see y'all there, **JoAnn Fryling & Beverly Wilson**