

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

508-945-2075

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Editor: Susan Bauer

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY FEBRUARY 21**. Send items to Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



YOUTH PROGRAM COMMITTEE

We are now three months into our new UU Youth and Beacon Youth Outreach Programs. We would like to thank the Congregation for their overwhelming support and tolerance as we evolve into a viable and meaningful program. We now have four children attending the Sunday morning program and will be rehearsing our third Beacon Youth Outreach production to be performed in April. Cheri and I are very pleased with the progress of these programs and look forward to expanding.

We are blessed with many members of our Congregation wishing to be involved and invite anyone to join our committee or assist Cheri on Sunday mornings. We do have to be mindful of a few things:

1. We need people to work with Cheri on Sunday mornings to provide additional adults to maintain a Safe Church environment. To work directly with the children all adults need to be CORI Certified. Let Edmund or Melissa know you are interested, they will give you a form to fill out, your data will be processed through a data base, and voila! you will be certified!
2. Cheri has worked hard to develop a curriculum that meets the needs of our existing students while exploring the values and principles of the UUMH. We are happy to listen to anyone's ideas regarding possible projects for the children. Cheri has the extraordinary ability to adjust her curriculum to include many of these ideas. We do ask that all of these ideas be submitted to the Youth Program Committee. The committee will work with Cheri to accommodate as many of these ideas as possible while focusing on the basic values and principles of UU.
3. We are also in need of people to serve on this committee. As the program expands there is a need for more oversight of the program, budget, and scheduling of assistants and projects. Paula and John Raye have been instrumental in establishing the program, but as we all know they are unavailable at this time to participate fully. If you have an interest in being involved with this committee, please contact Gail Eldredge, Chairman of the Youth Program Committee at 945-2209.

Again, we thank the congregation for their continued support.

Gail Eldredge, Chair, Youth Program Committee

STAFF MEMBERS**MINISTER:**

Rev. Edmund Robinson
edmund@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Frank Toppa
ftoppa440@hotmail.com

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:

Melissa Clayton
melissaclayton@uumh.net

SEXTON:

Ralph Bauer
ralphb1234@cs.com

Board of Trustees

Dick Eccles, President
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VISION STATEMENT

We, the members and friends of the UUMH, strive:

To apply UU principles in our daily living, social actions, and community service;

To nurture a safe community that encourages intellectual, spiritual, and religious freedom and celebrates all the passages of life;

To welcome diversity and pluralism as essential for our connection with all humanity;

To provide fellowship, friendship, and fun, and to support a creative artistic and musical environment;

To sustain and promote a vital religious and spiritual lifespan education program.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

February 3 A Real Priest Rev. Dr. Barbara Whittaker-Johns

This title refers to a true story from my experience in ministry. The story is about the frailty of personal identity, and I will use it to spin more true tales from my life about the frailty of identity in terms of gender, intellect, family role, loss of relationship, age, illness, and, most recently, the experience of unexpected loss in my identity as a Minister. I will invite you to reflect on your own experiences of the frailty of personal identity. As we reflect together, we can open to the various paths of faith which lead to the personal identity which is beyond all frailty, including the path which affirms that we each are called to minister to one another and to the world.

February 10 Is religion (or politics) a crutch? Rev. Dick Fewkes

February 17 Are People Naturally Evil? Rev. Edmund Robinson

Both of our constituent religions started as reactions to Calvinism, which holds that humankind is inherently depraved. Darwin's birthday is Feb 12, and I will start a Lenten sermon series on evil by asking what science has to say about evil.

February 24 Is Evil Incarnate? Rev. Edmund Robinson

One of the ways humans have understood evil is to personify it in a devil who then becomes incarnate in individuals. We explain our bad acts, thoughts or words by saying "the devil made me do it." We'll review a brief history of the devil and then consider how an explanation based on his supposed power helps or hinders our understanding of harmful actions.

Barbara Whittaker-Johns graduated from Harvard Divinity School in 1984. She was Minister of the UU Society of Amherst, MA, for six years, and then Senior Minister of First Parish, Arlington, MA, for 16 years. She has been active in the Institute on Religion in an Age of Science (IRAS) and earned a DMin in theology under Matthew Fox at Wisdom University. She and Frank Toppa were married in 1985 and adopted their son Isaac Toppa at birth 23 years ago.

Richard M. Fewkes has been a member of UUMH in Chatham since 2003. He is Minister Emeritus of the First Parish in Norwell, Mass. where he served from 1969 to 2000. He was Interim Minister at the First Parish UU Church, Bridgewater, for a two year period, 2000 – 2002. He resides at his home on Cape Cod in West Dennis and is a grandfather to 8 grandchildren.

Sightings the Rev. Edmund Robinson

We heard a lot in the recent Presidential campaign about how the energy policy of the country should be “all of the above” – not just oil, not just gas, not just cleaner coal, not just nuclear, not just renewable energy sources, but a strategy that takes all sources and their costs into account. It strikes me that the best growth strategy for the Meeting House is “all of the above” – we have been focused on attracting some kids and younger families, but we can’t afford to put all our eggs in that basket.

What prompted this idea is a presentation on Cape Cod demographics I just attended made by Warren Marsh, a Vice President of Cape Cod 5 Savings Bank to the Chatham Harwich Newcomers. Many of the things he said were no surprise, but several of them did surprise me. For example, I was not surprised to learn that in the years between the 2000 and 2010 censuses, the Cape lost 15% of its population in the age bracket from 25 to 34. But I was surprised to learn that in the same time frame, the size of the population between the ages of 55 and 64 grew by almost the same percent.

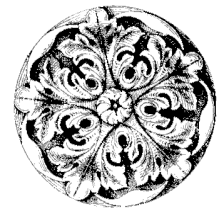
In the bigger picture, the Cape population overall was flat for the first half of the twentieth century, but experienced robust growth at a rate far in excess of the growth rate of the state or nation in the years following World War II up until 2000, when it started a decline. The typical pattern is for people to have a vacation home on the Cape and upon retirement to convert it to year-round.

The big story of the present years is that the Baby Boomers are retiring, and that forecasts more growth in the Cape population, and more affluence, for retirees in general bring with them higher incomes than the Cape average. However, the recession has had an impact in the recent past. In order for a person to convert a vacation home to year-round, they typically want to sell their home elsewhere. The recession influences people to put off retirement and to put off selling their principal residence. I would say that I am an example of both of these trends.

The implications to me are that as the recession eases, more Boomers will find it possible to realize their dream of Cape retirement and the pool of sixty-somethings should increase, and that will be good for the Meeting House. Now this is the opportunity. How are we going to meet it?

Blessings,

Edmund



MORE FROM EDMUND

Wednesday February 13 Ash Wednesday Observance. I will offer once again a meditation on T.S. Eliot’s poem “Ash-Wednesday” with musical interludes, in the sanctuary at 6 PM. The service will take about a half hour, and those who attend are welcome to join me for dinner afterwards at a local restaurant. No advance preparation is required, and if you wish to read a portion of the poem or have a musical interlude to offer, please let me know.

Friday February 22 Peter Morales visit to Falmouth. UUA president Peter Morales will be at the Falmouth UU church Friday evening, and I will be driving down. There will be a pot luck dinner at 6 followed by a Q and A with Peter. If you are interested in going, please let me know.

Monday February 25 I will be speaking on the history of Unitarianism and Universalism on Cape Cod at Snow Library in Orleans at 1 PM.

Remember that I will be out of town from Friday January 25 through Friday February 8. Rev. Denis Meacham (508) 896-8238 has graciously agreed to handle any pastoral matter which may arise while I am away. On Sunday February 3, I will bring your greetings to the UU Fellowship of St. Croix, where I will be leading a service.

SOCIAL JUSTICE NEWS

CONGREGATE HOUSE

A meeting was held on January 23 to discuss the upcoming year of Sunday night dinners at the Chatham Congregate House. As previously explained, six Chatham churches take turns on Sunday evenings cooking and serving the meal (provided by the Congregate House) to 12 to 18 residents. Those of us who have done this in the past have great fun and satisfaction as the residents in turn enjoy and appreciate our contribution to their Sunday evening meal. UUMH has signed up for seven Sunday dinners: February 3, March 24, May 5, August 4, September 15, October 20, and November 24. Several people, including our minister have already signed up to be responsible for taking the lead on dinner or to assist. There are plenty of opportunities left for anyone who is interested.

For Example.....

Ice cream is always the dessert when we serve, BUT the residents are extremely pleased when we provide them with homemade cookies to accompany it. We are hoping there are bakers in our congregation who might furnish a couple dozen cookies or some type of bar on the evenings that we are serving. If there are any men or women out there who love to cook, but prefer not to participate in serving the meal, that would be extremely welcome also. You are also welcome to come down on a Sunday evening to see what it is we do. It is really a very casual fun evening. Call Connie Pina or Jackie Beale for more information.

SUNDAY FILM SERIES

The UUMH Sunday Film Series will begin on Sunday February 17 at 1:30 PM in the Fleck Room. The title is to be announced. Discussion will follow the film.

THE GATHERING

The Gathering will be meeting on Monday evening February 11 at 7pm in the Fleck Room. It's game night. So, please bring your games, and we will decide that night what we are going to play. Last year we played Taboo and we all had a great many laughs. Hope to see you many of you there.

PASTORAL CARE NEWS

Several years ago the Pastoral Care Team asked you to fill out a yellow card listing your emergency contact information. We need to update existing records and get new information from those who did not fill out a card earlier. These cards are kept in the church office and are accessible only in case of emergency by church staff.

If you filled out a card before, you will be contacted by a member of the Pastoral Care Team to make sure the information is up-to-date.

For those who need to fill out a card, members of Pastoral Care will have them available at coffee hour on Sundays in February. Questions? Call Mary Chesnut at 432-5610 or Sue Bauer at 945-3264.

The first duty of love is to listen. (Paul Tillich)

The Children's Circle



As we reflect on the successes and challenges of the past year, we can report that we have added one child a month to our Sunday program. Also, Beacon Youth Outreach continues to play a role in the community publicizing the Meeting House, its values, and its commitment to our youth and social justice. Not bad! I have just completed a news article about our Sunday program that I hope will appear in the *Cape Codder* and the *Harwich Oracle*, attracting more families on Sunday mornings. Beacon Youth Outreach begins its production of *Assignment Earth*, an energetic musical to be presented during "Earth Week". This activity will also include our Beacon Youth participating in beach clean-ups on several Sunday afternoons in April. We hope you will join them!

ELECTRIC KITCHEN

Electric Kitchen is February 17. We will be celebrating Valentines Day with Chocolate Goodies and more for sale. If you would like to make something, please email Charlotte at edgecombe@comcast.net.



LEARNING FOR LIFE PROGRAM IN FEBRUARY

Prof. Abdul Raof, a native Iraqi, Harwich resident, and retired political science professor from Buffalo, NY will speak at UUMH on Sunday February 24 at 2 PM in the Fleck Room. His topic will be "Changes and Challenges in the Middle East." Prof. Raof is well known for his clear thinking and in-depth knowledge of the ever-changing situation in the Middle East.

Abdul H. Raof was born in Iraq, a graduate of the University of Baghdad School of Law and practiced there until he came to the United States where he received degrees at New York University: an MPA in Public Administration and a PhD in Government. He taught at State University of New York (SUNY) at the College of Buffalo in the Political Science Department where he was also the Chair and the Coordinator of the Energy Science Program. He was on the Board of Trustees of the Buffalo and Erie Public Library for five years and was Board Member for Middle Eastern Studies in Buffalo for ten years. He has published many books and papers on Middle Eastern Policies and has spoken to professional organizations as well on the radio and TV.

The program is free and open to the public—invite your friends!



SUMMARY OF UNRESTRICTED UUMH INCOME Vs. EXPENSE (FY 2012/13)

1/14/2013

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL FY13	FORECAST
	FY 2012	FY 2013	CLOSING 12/31/12	FY 2013
INCOME				
PLEDGES (CURRENT/PRIOR YR)	135,617	149,000	97,344	149,000
PLATE COLLECTION	8,610	8,000	4,649	9,000
GIFTS AND DONATIONS	7,025	8,500	8,455	10,000
FACILITY RENT/OTHER	463	1,000	788	1,500
FUND RAISING (Net)	9,408	10,000	4,169	5,226
THRIFT SHOP (Net)	28,815	26,500	16,902	28,500
INTEREST/DIVIDENDS			12	90
OTHER INCOME			0	
TOTAL INCOME	189,938	203,000	132,319	203,316
EXPENDITURES				
MINISTER	85,427	87,000	43,522	87,000
MORTGAGE PAYMENTS	19,100	19,000	9,550	19,000
OFFICE EXPENSES	33,831	36,000	17,789	36,000
BUILDING & GROUNDS (Net)	20,895	28,000	10,867	28,000
INSURANCE	3,265	3,500	1,672	3,516
YOUTH PROGRAMS (Net)	0	10,000	3,122	10,000
ANNEX	6,000	6,000	3,000	6,000
MUSIC	13,924	14,000	7,482	14,564
DENOMINATIONAL	1,500	1,500	750	1,500
COMMITTEES (Net)	2,061	4,000	503	4,630
TOTAL EXPENDITURES	186,003	209,000	98,256	210,210
OVERALL INCOME/(EXPENSE)	3,935	-6,000	34,063	-6,894

	ACTUAL	BUDGET	ACTUAL FY13	FORECAST
	FY 2012	FY 2013	CLOSING 12/31/12	FY 2013
FUND BALANCES AT CLOSE OF PERIOD				
OPERATING FUND	2,674	5,174	36,374	5,174
RESERVE FUND	22,217	13,717	22,223	12,823
LIFT FUND	4,221	0	21,168	

From the Board of Trustees

NEW FORMAT FOR FORECASTING UUMH FINANCIAL RESULTS

Over the past several months, the Finance Committee led by Dwight Wilson, Chair and Treasurer, and assisted by Administrator Melissa Clayton, have developed a new system for the oversight of the several UUMH Funds, and the ongoing forecasting of results for the current fiscal year.

A number of Excel spreadsheets have been devised, and these are linked electronically to the regular Quickbooks output. A Comprehensive Income/Expenses Report shows each element of income and expense as a line item. This Report shows previous year actual data, current year budget, and actual results for the fiscal-year-to-date, all of which are used to forecast results for the current year.

From this Comprehensive Report is drawn a Summary Report, which is reviewed monthly by the Finance Committee and Board of Trustees, and which is presented in this newsletter for the congregation to review results for the first six months of the fiscal year. This includes a forecast for the entire year.

The forecasting system will help us plan and manage our financial future. In particular, we will need the ability to forecast the effect of various events, plans, and projects on the balance in our available Reserve Fund. You will note at the bottom of the Summary Report the forecast of the Reserve Account balance.

Please review our six-month report and refer any comments or questions to Dwight Wilson or Dick Eccles.

A big thank you from Stewardship!

The Committee would like to express its deep appreciation to the Art committee and the contributing artists for their effort towards the Lift project. We were overjoyed by the spontaneous nature of how the idea evolved and the result. So far over \$1000 has been raised and there are still some paintings available for those wishing to add to these results. Please contact Jane Eccles for details.

Stewardship Committee

FLECK ROOM ART EXHIBITS

The current exhibit, "In Your Dreams", will be in the Fleck Room from now until March 1st.

The show "Beasts, Birds, and Fish" will run March 1-April 5. Don't be surprised to find yourself looking directly into the eyes of wild critters having sharp teeth, beaks, paws, hooves, fins, fur or feathers. You might also enjoy a surreal or abstract "take" on animal forms, or be drawn irresistibly to the face of a "mutt" . . . perhaps a child's rendition of a favorite family pet?

If you have such a painting or drawing (framed and wired for hanging) please consider adding it to this show.

Contacts: Jane Eccles, 255-7937, Barbara Melcher, 255-5175, or Beth Avery, 255-2777.

*All work is for sale. Purchaser will send check directly to the artist. The artist will then donate 15% to the UUMH. A colored sticker indicates that the artist will donate a percentage to the Lift Fund (Yellow 50%, Green 100%).



UUMH CLASSIFIEDS (Please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at ralphb1234@cs.com)

WANTED REAL ESTATE:

Year-Round Rental, older house or small farm, lower Cape, sunny garden space, wooden floors, oil heat, 1200-1500 SF, 2-3 BR.

Reliable Tenant, Naturopathic Medical Doctor (Dr. Joyce R. Young, N.D.)

Present rental house is to be sold so if you know someone who would like to buy this house as an investment and rent it back to me, please call me! 508-348-1722.

WINTER STORM CLOSINGS

We are coming into winter and the possibility of snow or ice which might make getting to the Meeting House difficult. The Program Council and the minister have developed a procedure for such times. Whatever the Meeting House does, please decide on your own whether or not to venture out!

Sunday Services: If a Sunday service needs to be canceled, the following will occur as soon after 8AM as possible:

An all-wide church email will go out to the congregation

The church phone message will announce the change (945-2075)

WQRC (99.9 FM) will be notified – we will be part of their closings list

Other church events on Sundays or during the week:

The email and phone message information will remain the same as for Sunday closings.

However, WQRC probably will not be called.

PLEASE!!! Make your own decisions based on your situation. Sunday services will not be canceled unless absolutely necessary, but consider your street, your neighborhood, your love – or not! – of driving in the snow. The most important thing is not the sermon, but your safety!!!

Fall and Winter Parking

Once again this year, the Queen Anne Inn has generously offered their parking lot closest to the Meeting House for Sunday morning parking. Parking in the Village Market/CVS involves the goodwill of those businesses, so we are lucky to be able to have the Queen Anne lot, Oyster Pond Furlong, and the Post Office lot as parking possibilities.

Where there is great love, there are always miracles. (Willa Cather)

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Great picture in a recent Cape Cod Chronicle of Linda Redding and Mary Parsons presenting a check for more than \$18,000 to Larry Marsland of the Lower Cape Outreach Council on behalf of the Turkey Trot.

Highlighted in the Chronicle's big wrap-up of Chatham's Tercentennial and the Legacy Gifts were Both Ron Nickerson, co-chair of the History and Legacy Committees and Danielle Jeanloz, Public Relations Chair.

DIRECTORY CHANGES

Do you know about Small Group Ministry ?

It is a way of connecting, of getting to know and be known by a group of 6-10 people. The groups meet once or twice a month, usually in people's homes, for about 1 ½-2 hours.

Each group has a facilitator, and chooses a topic to discuss. The topics are often connected to who we are and how we live our lives as religious people. They may be inspired by the sermons, but other times are selected from the interests of the group.

Most participants have found it to be an enriching and rewarding experience, well worth the time expended.

If you are not currently in a small group but want to be in one, please see Edmund or Sue Bauer and let us know whether your preferred meeting time is daylight or evening. Seasonal folks are welcome!

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB



The next meeting of the Third Monday Book Club will be February 18 at 10:30AM in the Fleck Room. We will be discussing Hotel du Lac by Anita Brookner. All are welcome to join us. Call Sue Bauer with questions at 945-3264

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE

February Birthdays



HUMANISTS OF CAPE COD

WHAT? talk by Janet Spence: *“Unlawful Gun Violence in the US: Are We Any Different from Other Countries?”* The talk will be followed by discussion.

WHEN? 2:00 on Sunday, February 24, 2013.

WHERE? The Meeting House of First Parish Brewster church on route 6A in Brewster. Parking is across the street in the church parking lot.

ABOUT: The speaker will discuss the role of guns in the U.S. culture: gun technology, ownership, laws. She will then make some cross-cultural comparisons to answer the question raised by the title of her talk.

Janet Spence is a member of First Parish Brewster. She was in Department of Psychology at the University of Texas at Austin and specialized in Clinical Psychology and later in Personality and Social Psychology.

This is the first talk in a two-part forum series titled *“Gun Violence in the U.S.A. - Why?”* The second talk will be in March and will be an analysis of the factors contributing to country-based differences in gun violence.