



FROM YOUR MINISTER



We are now well into 2015 and began the year in style with our annual meeting, a series of excellent religious education programs, and worship dedicated to issues as timely (and timeless) as the marches in Selma, the power of music within our services, and the widespread implications of Universalism in an increasingly global culture. We will start February with our annual Spirituality and Sports Service for

<p>Rev. Erik David Carlson</p> <p>Rev. Carlson is available for pastoral services. If you or someone you know is in need, please contact Rev. Carlson at uureverend@gmail.com or by leaving a message at the church: 815.947.3812.</p> <p>All requests for pastoral care will be kept confidential.</p> <p>Please write Rev. Erik to receive electronic newsletters.</p>

Super Bowl Sunday (wear your favorite team gear or UU Stockton t-shirt!), and explore the current initiatives of the Standing on the Side of Love campaign over the two weeks spanning Valentine’s Day. After service on February 1st we will be holding an open Worship Team for all who are interested in participating in worship in the next year- particularly those who attended the January 31st Worship Arts Conference. All are welcome to the discussion which will happen in the RE space during coffee hour.

Also, be sure to welcome our new Trustees and thank those who are now retiring from service (see article later in this newsletter). We owe all of them a great debt of gratitude for keeping our church on the path of economic security and vibrant ministry.

In personal news, I will be out of town visiting family the week of February 22nd but will be available to speak in the case of an emergency via my cell phone which is published in the directory.

Many thanks for great start to 2015 and hope to see you in church soon! - Rev. Erik

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION NEWS

January is over, but we had so much fun welcoming in this new year. We were able to make paper elephants while we talked about the many gods of India’s native Hinduism, do a yoga lesson, and make gelatin sun catchers when we discussed how and why people of the ancient world worshipped the sun. All of this we did with our Unitarian Universalism in mind, using it as the groundwork from which to view other traditions, practices, and faith groups.



This February will be an excellent time to get involved or re-involved with the Religious Education program here at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Stockton. We are proud to offer programming that we hope will expand minds, make busy hands, and create wonder and curiosity in our children. As always, we welcome you to join us for our crafts, our sharing of ideas, and all of our activities.

-Mandy Nachampassack-Maloney, Religious Education Coordinator mandy@uuchurchofstockton.org

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION SCHEDULE – FEBRUARY 2015

FEBRUARY 1ST – NOTHING LASTS FOREVER

Some of our favorite, best things are only here temporarily. Think of all the things you love and enjoy, most of them won’t be around forever so we have to learn to appreciate them while they last and are here.

FEBRUARY 8TH – MY CHURCH

Our students will learn about the importance of our congregation’s history and community.

FEBRUARY 15TH – WELCOME TO UU

Our students will be exploring the Unitarian Universalist commitment to welcoming and hospitality.

FEBRUARY 22ND – ISLAM PART I

Our students will begin a two-part session on the religion of Islam.

NEWS FROM YOUR BOARD

As we enter our 116th Church Year, I look forward to working with our new members as they bring fresh energy and new ideas to the Board. 2016 is sure to bring new challenges and opportunities. As we identify them, we look to your input so we can act in the best interests of our members and our church as a whole.

We are very pleased to welcome all our new Trustees and recognize the superb work of retiring Trustees Laurie Wurster (Treasurer, 2011-15), Doug Dufford (Co-Moderator, 2012-15), Rose Foreman (Financial Secretary, 2012-15), Kandee Haertel (Secretary, 2014-15), Taylor Rockwell (Steward, 2012-15).

We are: Mark Haman, Ted Davenport, Leslie Hawley, John Fischer, Sheila Haman, Joan Rawce Metzger, Bill Schuldt, and Laura Dufford. Talk to us!

Mark Haman, Co-Moderator

2015 Board Roster

Moderators

Ted Davenport (2017)
Mark Haman (2016)

Secretary

Sheila Haman (2017)

Financial Secretary

John Fischer (2017)

Treasurer

Leslie Hawley (2017)

Stewards

Laura Dufford (2018)
Bill Schuldt (2016)
Joan Rawce Metzger (2017)

Email:

board@UUChurchOfStockton.org

CONGREGATIONAL ANNUAL MEETING REPORT

Many thanks to everyone who helped prepare, host and clean up after our potluck luncheon for our annual congregational meeting January 18th. In addition to approving our 2015 budget and amending our bylaws we also elected new members to our Board of Trustees.

We are very happy to introduce our new Co-Moderator Ted Davenport, Secretary Sheila Haman, Treasurer Leslie Hawley and Steward Laura Dufford. They will be joining returning Co-Moderator Mark Haman and Stewards Bill Schuldt and Joan Rawce Metzger. Many thanks also to the hard work of retiring Trustees Laurie Wurster, Doug Dufford, Taylor Rockwell and Rose Magee for their many years' of dedicated service to our church and its ministry.

ANNUAL MEETING FINANCIAL REPORT HIGHLIGHTS: SURPLUS FOR 2015 FOLLOWS DEFICIT IN 2014

Treasurer Laurie Wurster and Financial Secretary Rose Foreman reported to the congregational annual meeting on the financial situation of the church. The good news is that we have come very close to hitting our 2015 pledge drive goal of \$70,000, which will put us in excellent shape to hit a balanced (or even surplus) budget this year, depending in part on the amount received from the MidAmerica UUA Chalice Lighter grant.

The bad news is that we ran over an \$11,000 deficit in 2014 which was the result of a \$5,105 shortfall in 2014 budget plus \$9,300 in unpaid 2014 pledges. If you made a pledge in 2014 and have not been able to pay, you still can by designating "2014 pledge" in the memo line of your check or the "notes" section of your online payment. Note that you can pay with a credit card via our website: <http://UUChurchOfStockton.org> under the "Giving" tab.

ANNUAL MEETING ENDOWMENT COMMITTEE REPORT AND BYLAW CHANGE

Endowment Committee member Randy Downing reported that we had reached nearly \$50,000 in our endowment after only about 20 months in operation, thanks in part to the cashing in of CDs and other church holdings to add to the Endowment during 2014 as well as the generosity of several members and friends.

The assembly unanimously approved the Endowment Committee motion to amend Article III, Section 9 of our congregational bylaws to specify "In any given budget year, the maximum amount that can be taken from the endowment fund shall be the lesser of: 5% of the fund balance at the start of the previous calendar year, or the net earnings of the fund accrued during the previous calendar year."

Many thanks to the Endowment and Finance Committees for their wonderful work this year.

MEMBERS IN NEED OF RIDES AND CARPOOLS



There are currently several members and friends of the church in need of rides to church and during the week (to doctors' appointments, run errands, etc.). If you might be available to help provide a ride for someone in need, or if you could use a ride to church yourself, please contact Rev. Erik at 815.947.3812 or uureverend@gmail.com.

MONTHLY REPORT

A publication of the Freeport Area Church Cooperative



JANUARY, 2015



THE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
By Dean Wright

As I enter my tenth year as a staff member of the Freeport Area Church Cooperative I am continually amazed at the extent to which the organization, its staff, its volunteers, and its supporters go to help those in need in our community.

Last November found our food pantry in a bit of trouble. Persistent needs by those in need of food in our community, coupled with a declining base of food donations left us pretty empty handed. So much so, that for a week we were forced to close the food pantry for a week to regroup and restock.

With some prayer, some emails, and a few postings on social media, the word got out in the community of our needs and the community responded in a big way. I can honestly say that in my 10 years at FACC I hadn't seen a response as the one we received last November and December. The food and financial support of FACC was simply overwhelming. Between the efforts of businesses, churches, organizations, and everyday individuals over 7 tons of food has been donated to FACC over the past two months. Nothing short of amazing!

In the midst of an avalanche of food donations, FACC hosted its annual Christmas Basket Blessing on Saturday, December 20th. Over three dozen volunteers helped FACC deliver 176 baskets in record time. As always, thank you to all who participated, especially St. Mary Catholic Church for the use of their parish center.

The day before our Christmas Basket Blessing, FACC sadly said goodbye to Frances & Russell Taylor who, after 10 years with FACC, retired...again. Frances was our dedicated volunteer coordinator and Russell our pantry supervisor. Both are cherished and will be missed by all. Britney Schulz has been hired to replace Frances.

Over the holiday break, staff was busy cleaning, painting, and repairing things around the FACC building. A fresh (and bright) makeover has been given to the lobby. Repairs and renovations have begun on the second floor as well.

FACC BY THE NUMBERS

THE HUNGRY

81 Families served through FACC's Food Pantry in December, 2014.

103 Adults served through FACC's Food Pantry last month

79 Children served through FACC's Food Pantry last month

176 Christmas baskets delivered

\$18,236.54
In community food donations last month.

\$2,531.35
In personal items donated last month.

THE HOMELESS

20 Homeless men and women served at the Chicago Avenue Mission.

18 Homeless adults and children served at the Cherry Avenue Mission.

5 Chronically homeless and disabled men served through Hope House.

5 Chronically homeless veterans served through Hope House.

CALENDAR – FEBRUARY 2015

Sunday, Feb 1st 10:30am Service: Spirituality & Sport

Religious Ed: Nothing Lasts Forever

Sunday, Feb 1st 11:45am UU Stockton Open Worship Team Meeting

Sunday, Feb 8th 10:30am Service: Week of Love

Religious Ed: My Church

Monday, Feb 9th 6:00pm UU Stockton Board Meeting

Sunday, Feb 15th 10:30am Service: Love Songs & Valentines

Religious Ed: Welcome to UU

Feb 17th – Feb 23rd Rev. Erik out of the office

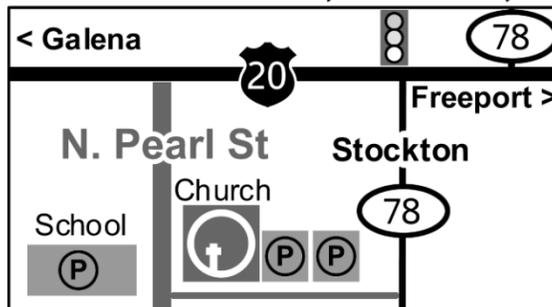
Sunday, Feb 22nd 10:30am Service

Religious Ed: Islam Part I

Wednesday, Feb 25th 5:00pm March Newsletter Deadline

CHURCH INFORMATION

219 N Pearl Street, Stockton, IL



Wheel chair parking and elevator access is available from the rear parking lot.

SUNDAY SERVICES & RELIGIOUS ED AT 10:30 AM

CHILD CARE EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:30 AM

REV. ERIK DAVID CARLSON, MINISTER

OFFICE HOURS: 11AM – 3PM MON, WED, FRI 815.947.3812

UUCHURCHOFFSTOCKTON.ORG

FACEBOOK.COM/UUCHURCHOFFSTOCKTON

UUREVEREND@GMAIL.COM



UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH

219 N PEARL ST, STOCKTON, IL 61085