

THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN CHARLESTON SOUTH CAROLINA



Annual Report to the Congregation
2007-2008

May 21, 2006

A MEMBER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST ASSOCIATION

Interim Minister's Report to the Congregation, May 2006

What an amazing year we have had together! You have all worked so hard to transition into the future ministry of UUC:

a shared ministry in a Program Size Church. Congratulations!!

When I arrived here last Fall, these were the identified Interim goals we committed to work on during the year:

1. *claiming and honoring your past, and healing the griefs and conflicts in your system:*

Leadership on this issue was taken by the Committee on Ministry (now called the Committee on Shared Ministry) with a Forum to educate the congregation about the Emerita status they were recommending for the retired minister, along with after-church conversations for anyone else wanting input. Then a congregational meeting was called to vote on this. The delay between the actual retirement and the vote worked in favor of the healing that needed to begin happening before people could open their hearts and minds to confer this honor.

The Transition Steering Team held a Forum naming and celebrating ALL 49 ministers since 1684 as a prelude to the vote, thus putting the present into a historical perspective.

2. *illuminating unique identity, strengths, needs, challenges:* The Transition Steering Team held a Forum updating the congregation's progress of moving into Program Size Church and reviewed and celebrated the process of getting there. Leadership attended yet another district workshop on program church transition.

3. *clarifying dimensions of leadership:*

The Personnel Committee began implementing the newly institutionalized Personnel Policy Manual, thus putting an infrastructure into place that will empower a Program Church.

4. *reconnecting with available resources:* By engaging in both the Interim Ministry and Settled Ministry Search processes, you reconnected with the resources offered by the UUA **that you support with your Fair Share dues.**

5. *renewing vision, strengthening stewardship, preparing for new professional leadership, engaging the future with anticipation and zest:*

Your Ministerial Search Committee held cottage meetings and surveyed the congregation both verbally and in writing about what is desired in the next settled minister.

Your Worship Committee surveyed about worship, the Buildings and Grounds committee surveyed about the sanctuary priorities, thus you have all been invited to participate in what wants to happen next around here.

The Canvass was ultimately successful, after creative and conscientious re-grouping...an awesome process!

A leadership training workshop was held, an ad-hoc membership committee looked at the wider picture of what becoming a member means and requires, a Long Range Planning group is looking at space issues.

Because the Interim Ministry process requires an evaluation at mid-year and at year-end, there is now a model 'in place' for the Committee on Shared Ministry to monitor the future of ministry at UUC.

The new energy around here is palpable. Sunday attendance is up. You've ceremoniously welcomed some 28 new members SO FAR.

Commitment to your vision and mission abounds, especially through the community wide in-

volvement of the Social Justice Committee.

I salute you all!!

6. *carrying out the normal tasks of ministry*: My modeling another way to be/do ministry has included the component of 'self care'; I have insisted upon taking a day off a week, and have physically left town in order to baby sit my granddaughter on HHI each Monday. It has been a gift to be able to do this, and I deeply appreciate the committees who changed their meeting nights so I could attend.

It is important that ministers have time to rejuvenate, so that we can come back and be more fully present with you.

I have thoroughly enjoyed being your Interim Minister this year, and I wish you all the best as you move into your future.

Blessings,

Rev. Gail Collins-Ranadive
Accredited Interim Minister

Administrator's Annual Report 2005-2006

Last fall, I began the Masters in Business Administration program at the Citadel. I'm excited to report that many of my classes are applicable to my work at the church. I look forward to making improvements with the skills I am learning.

Weekly office tasks include answering phone calls and emails, updating the database, preparing the Order of Service, mailing reminder letters to members of their responsibilities on Sunday mornings, generating deposits and posting checks to their appropriate accounts. Each month, *The Gateway* is prepared and copied in house. Sermon and forum listings are sent to the *Post & Courier* for Saturday advertisements.

Attendance averages 180 people per service, an increase from 150 in the previous year. We had an incredible 298 in attendance on Easter Sunday, April 16. We have accommodated the increase by making upwards of 220 copies of the Order of Service each week.

Kay Haun and I have worked closely together, sending monthly contributions statements. By emailing most of the statements, we have been able to save both paper and postage.

Collectively, committees have held 170 events, including meetings and activities. Charleston Day School has used the Larisey Room about 75 times, including play rehearsals, performances, luncheons, and twice weekly karate classes. Thirteen weddings have been held thus far, with four more scheduled. The Larisey Room has been used for 26 rentals, with one more anticipated.

Both Janet Watts and I have enjoyed working with our office assistance, Melissa Rhoderick. She helps with administrative tasks such as collating the Order of Service, creating nametags, and mailing letters to visitors. She's also created delightful posters for the Religious Education classrooms.

This summer, I hope to focus on ways to improve our weddings and rentals. Also, working with the Social Justice Committee, I will investigate the Green Sanctuary program and ways to make our church more environmentally friendly. This UUA initiative is also known as the Seventh Principal Project.

I am grateful to work with such an outstanding staff and look forward to working with our new Minister and Music Director. A special thank-you to Richard Hayes, Susan Robinson, Kay Haun and all members of the Vestry for their support throughout the year.

Submitted by Carla Stipe, Administrator

Music Director's Annual Report, May 1, 2006

Mission: The mission of the music program is to enhance worship through music.

To that end, our efforts this year fall into three general categories:

1. The service music for each of 40 Sundays in the church year
 - We increased the choral library.
 - We created our own book of choral responses and calls to worship.
 - The Chancel Choir, Men's Ensemble, Women's Ensemble, Canaries (youth singers), and Chamber Singers all provided service music.
 - Our instrumentalists from the congregation also provided service music on violin, trumpet, clarinet, percussion, and piano.
 - We had a Sunday afternoon singalong to allow the congregation to get acquainted with our new hymnal supplement.
 - We recruited new singers; the average Sunday attendance is now between 18 and 23 singers.
 - We provided two Christmas Eve services for the first time this year.

2. Physical changes for the service music program
 - The Johannes electronic organ was moved downstairs.
 - We still do not have risers and singers' chairs for the choir.

3. Community outreach
 - October --Martha Welch, organist, gave a recital on the pipe organ at St. Luke's Chapel at MUSC.
 - December --Chancel Choir sang in the Marion Square Memorial Service for homeless people.
 - February --Chancel Choir sang in the Martin Luther King Day ecumenical choir.
 - March --Martha Welch served as one of three judges for college scholarship competitions offered by the Charleston Symphony League.
 - April -- Chancel Choir provided the sound track of a congregation singing a hymn for PURE Theater's production of "Man from Nebraska" (a play about a man who begins to question his faith).
 - April -- Chancel Choir gave a 40-minute concert in the Emily Remington Series at Franke at Seaside.

Respectfully submitted,

Martha Welch, Music Director

Director of Religious Education's Annual Report 2005-2006

No longer the "acting" DRE, I was hired to serve as the Director of Religious Education at the church. A newly established Personal Committee, Interim Minister, large pool of committed volunteer teachers, and energized congregation made the year a successful and important time of transition. The numbers of children and families in regular attendance remains at a constant figure now for several years. Space is at a premium with more Gage Hall rooms being used for Sunday classes, committee meetings and general church storage than in previous years. An improved new members workshop has made families transition into the church more agreeable and smooth. RE continues to work hard at including the children and families into every aspect of church community.

Our nursery has enjoyed the stability of Sarah Ball and Delores Crawford. **Deborah Boyle, Yvette Elsey, Susan Garrison, Susan Hill, Simon Lewis, Lisa Thomson-Ross and Tom Ross** have covered all of our preschool classes. Grades 1 & 2 were combined and taught by **Jessie Brzezinski, Emilie Costikyan, Elizabeth Krietemeyer, Oreana Wallace, and Terry Walsh**. Grades 3-5 were taught by Sam Cogdell, Betsy Grund, Lisa Hajjar, Richard Moss, Lucy Spears, and Lynn Wener. Amy Ball, Sally Smith, Gary Smith and Will Moredock instructed the Jr High schoolers. The newly created paid position of Youth Coordinator went to **Anna Hatchett**. Under her leadership the YRUU Youth group hosted guest speakers, participated in fundraisers, and bonded as a small but cohesive group. RE sponsored adult continuing education this year included an RE Committee workshop to clarify roles and job descriptions (lead by District rep K. Carpenter) OWL travel and training for Lynn Wener, YRUU leadership training for Anna Hatchett in N.C. and the DRE attending RE week at the Mountain in N.C.

Please see REC annual report for names of members and their actions for the year.

Special events outside of our traditional Sunday classes included:

- *RE sponsored welcoming picnic for the congregation
- *Memminger/Gulf Coast school supplies collections
- *Guest at Your Table collection for the UUSC
- *RE students and families serving dinner at Crises Ministries Shelter
- *RE outings to walk the new bridge and a group canoeing trip
- *Our YRUU attending 3 district cons
- *Our very first ever YRUU Charleston Con (attended by teens from 6 UU Congregations)
- *Halloween family party and sleepover
- *Everyone's birthday party
- *Secret Valentine's project
- *Quilters project to raise funds for church auction
- *Children's choir (The Canaries)
- *Ceremony welcoming 3 year olds into the R.E. program
- *Graduating seniors recognition
- *Teacher appreciation
- *Coming of Age class for Jr High students (their recognition and celebration)
- *R.E. Sunday
- *Holiday service
- *Mitten tree collection
- *Easter/Spring celebrations
- *Earth Day festivities
- *Beltane actives (May pole included)
- *Scouting retreat/campout that earned girl and boy scouts their Love and Help Badge

Respectfully submitted,

Janet S. Watts

Director of Religious Education

Vestry Annual Report 2005-2006

For the year May 2005 to May 2006, the Vestry was:

- | | | | |
|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|------------|
| • Richard Hayes | Chair | • Susan Garrison | |
| • Susan Robinson | 1 st Vice Chair | • Cathy Jaggars | |
| • Stan Goldberg | 2 nd Vice Chair | • Monica Molloy | |
| • Nancy Waters | Secretary | • Rev. Gail Collins Ranadive | ex officio |
| • Tony Brown | | • Janet Watts | ex officio |
| • Tom Davis | | • Martha Welch | ex-officio |

I must mention the outstanding support the Vestry receives from Carla Stipe, our able Administrator, and Kay Haun, our equally able and volunteer Treasurer.

This year was a critical year for the Vestry – in this time of ministerial transition lay leadership is the continuity that is charged with ensuring the Church meets the needs of the Congregation. This church year included:

1. Completion of the outside restoration of the Sanctuary and its Dedication
 - a. June 12, 2005 the city proclaimed it “Unitarian Church of Charleston day”
 - b. The Church was awarded the prestigious Caropolis Award
2. Retirement of its minister of 16 years, Jacqueline Collins
3. Search and hiring of an accredited Interim Minister, Rev Gail Collins-Ranadive
4. Hiring of a Director of Religious Education, Janet Watts
5. Initiation of the Ministerial Search Committee for a Settled Minister
6. Selection of a Candidate for a Settled Minister, Peter Lanzillotta
7. Announced retirement of the Director of Music, Martha Welch
8. Formation of a Search Committee for a new Director of Music
9. Reformation of the Personnel Committee, led by Stan Goldberg
10. Initiation of Study on the necessary improvements of the inside of the Sanctuary by the Landmark and Docent Committees.
11. Strengthening of the Program Council through the leadership of the Susan Robinson, to include the initiative of “Co-Chairs”
12. Leadership Training Seminar lead by Cathy Jaggars
13. Initiative to start up the Long Range Planning Board – emphasizing plans to handle growth in the future
14. Recognition of Jacqueline Collins as Minister Emeritus
15. Support to the Thomas Jefferson District and the UUA through strong participation in the District meetings and General Assembly

The Vestry continued the evolution of our Congregation from a Pastoral Church governance model to a Program Church governance model -- As church membership exceeds 200 people -- and the Unitarian Church of Charleston is now over 260 members -- the church structure must change to accommodate the needs of the Congregation. Lay leadership is critical in this transition. The Vestry has continued emphasis on broadening the lay leadership of our church through leadership training, and emphasis on Committee Co-Chairs, and the strengthening of the Program Council and its committees. The Committees continue to take on more of the day-to-day activities of the Church along with the professional Staff, while the Vestry tries to concentrate on strategic matters. The emphasis of the Vestry in this critical year has been:

1. Support to the Interim Minister
2. Settled Minister Search
3. Support to our Professional Staff

4. Buildings
5. Program Council and Lay Leadership
6. Growth

In each of these areas the Vestry has taken actions to ensure a strong and seamless transition through a period that has seen three ministers.

Support to Interim Minister: After hiring an accredited Interim Minister, the Vestry took action to introduce the Congregation to Rev Gail Collins-Ranadive, and support the goals of the Interim Minister. The Vestry stood up the ad hoc “Interim Minister Transition Committee” made of Congregational members selected by Rev Collins-Ranadive. The Vestry supported the honor of “Minister Emeritus” for Jacqueline Collins. Rev Collins-Ranadive met with the Vestry monthly, to include the Vestry Retreat in August. The Vestry Chair met at least monthly with Rev Collins-Ranadive to review progress in this “interim” period.

Settled Minister Search: The Vestry stood up the ad hoc Ministerial Search Committee (MSC), and ensured it had the means to carry out the most important actions of this year – search and select a Settled minister candidate for the Congregation. The Congregation voted on the members of this committee, and the Vestry voted a budget of \$8500, later raised to \$10,000 for their efforts in this most important duty.

Support to the Professional Staff: The most important action of the Vestry was to reformulate the Personnel Committee and pass the first “Personnel Handbook” for the staff. In addition, annual reviews for all staff members was initiated, with encouragement that the Minister, as Director of Staff, meet at least on a semi-annual basis to review progress of each staff member. The Vestry also recommended to the Congregation to have a goal that all Staff members will have “fair compensation” in 3 to 5 years (e.g. salaries, health care, retirement). The Vestry supported the additional staff of a part-time Youth Coordinator for the YRUU program.

Buildings: The Vestry recommended and the Congregation concurred on a year study by the Landmark and Docent Committee to review improvements to the inside of the Sanctuary now that the outside of the Church has been renovated and sealed. The initial report of these committees will be heard at the annual Corporate meeting on 21 May.

Program Council/Lay Leadership: The Vestry’s 1st Vice Chair, Susan Robinson, has served as the Chair of the newly formed Program Council since its inception last year. The Program Council has concentrated on increased coordination between the committees, strengthening leadership, and development of the yearly budget that is submitted to the Finance Committee. The Program Council is charged with the day-to-day activities with the Staff, represented at the Program Council by the Church Administrator, Carla Stipe. Finally, the Vestry continued its leadership training with a 3 hours Saturday program in March led by Cathy Jaggars.

Growth: The Vestry Chair reformulated the Long Range Planning Board, made up of the minister, former Vestry Chairs, and other members as requested. The goal of the Long Range Planning Board is to develop strategic plans for the Vestry. Because we are in an interim minister period, was agreed to “go slow” until next year when the new settled minister arrives. The LRPB concentrated this year on the issue of growth – looking at the implications and process of two future possibilities – satellite churches in the Low Country area, and a second Sunday service. The Vestry did support the development and creation of the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Parish – now holding monthly meetings in Summerville.

The Vestry would like to thank all members of the Congregation, as together we traversed the waters of ministerial transition and governance transition, ending up with a financially stable, growing and thriving liberal religious sanctuary in the greater Charleston area known as the Unitarian Church in Charleston.

Submitted by Richard Hayes, Vestry Chair

Alliance Annual Report 2005-2006

This year the Alliance had 40 members (and 3 honorary members, folks who can no longer participate actively but are honored nevertheless).

Fund-raising activities: This year the Alliance held 2 Rummage Sales (a third is planned for June 10) and a November Holiday Bazaar and Luncheon. The balance on hand as of April, 2005 was \$8470.20. Income from dues, sales, donations, and interest was \$5207.43. Total disbursements including dues to UUWF, hymnals, Landmark, Gage Hall repairs, churchyard, plaque for Ben Horvay, Garden of Remembrance honor for Dee Noe and others total \$5367.73, leaving a balance of \$8309.90 as of April 6, 2006.

The disbursements to be given on Alliance Sunday, May 14 are as follows: \$100 each to My Sister's House, People Against Rape, SPCA, \$3200 for the church operating funds.

The following funds will be set aside: \$2400 for a new kitchen floor for Gage Hall, \$500 for painting of the kitchen, and \$250 for a digital camera for RE. Thus the Alliance will have a balance of \$2290.90 (plus proceeds from the June Rummage Sale) at the end of this church year.

Social Activities: The Alliance sponsored (or co-sponsored) a pot-luck dinner in August, a welcome reception for Rev. Gail in September, 2 new member receptions, Thanksgiving dinner, a December reception for the choir, a Stewardship reception in January, and a reception for Rabbi Holz and Beth Elohim in April. Plans include providing desserts and fruits from the luncheon on May 7, a reception for Alliance Sunday, May 14, and a wine and dessert farewell reception on June 11 for Rev. Gail.

Officers for 2006-2007 are: President: Susan Hartry
Vice-President: Toni Johnson
Secretary: Susan Prazak
Treasurer: Barbara Goldberg

Submitted by Sue Prazak

Archives Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

The mission of the Archives Committee includes collecting and cataloging committee materials, maintaining the files and objects entrusted to its care, making such materials available to the congregation, and assisting members of the congregation in using the files. The result of these activities is the fostering of the institutional memory of the Unitarian Church in Charleston.

Our goals this year were to complete the transfer of materials to the South Carolina Historical Society, to move our storage and work areas to a space that is temperature and moisture controlled, to file all written materials in our possession, and to begin the process of archiving photographs.

We completed the Deed of Gift donating archived materials to the South Carolina Historical Society. This step allows the SCHS to integrate the materials into its collection and make them available to the public. Our work and storage space has been relocated from the Landmark to the front room upstairs in Gage Hall. Our major accomplishment this year has been creating a filing system that is compatible with that of the SCHS but also useful for the congregation, and then beginning to file materials from the ministry of Jacqueline Collins. In addition, we have been preparing the library room in the Landmark as a display area for objects of interest to the congregation.

Next year we expect to begin preserving audio and visual records for future generations. We have several audio and visual tapes that are vulnerable to decomposition and we plan to begin preserving

them in digital form and transcribing the audio tapes. In addition, we would like to preserve photographs in an appropriate manner.

Members:
Gail Schiffer (chair)
Billie Hall
Rosemary Hutto
Anne Lindsey
John Meffert
Marjorie Olds
Avis Smart
Nancy Waters

Submitted by Gail Schiffer

Auction Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

Laissez Les Bon Temps Roulez! And the good times did roll on February 25, 2006, at the Annual Service Auction. The Mardi Gras theme featured authentic Cajun food: red beans, andouille sausage, and rice, and a parade led by Vanna Blanche (aka Nancy Simpson) on the trumpet and Krista Wunsche, Vanna's daughter, on the accordion. The "Krewe of UU" tossed beads, trinkets, and gold coins to the assembled revelers, 115 in all.

Rainy weather probably kept the crowd slightly below last year's record gathering, but it didn't dampen the bidders' spirits. The Silent Auction featured a wide selection of interesting and varied items grouped by theme such as: Endymion (art), Jambalya (household), "Throw Me Something, Mister" (jewelry). Famed local auctioneer Fred "Skip" Skipper, served as King of Rex, and kept a lively pace at the Live Auction. Winning bidders bought vacations in New Hampshire, the New York Finger lakes, and North Carolina; magnificent dinners of all sorts (Formal, old-style Southern, German, Harvest buffet, High English Tea); special quilts made by the RE classes; jeep tours, aquarium tours, walking tours, harbor cruises and art from our talented membership.

At the same time the adults were busy in the Larisey room, the RE team continued what we hope will be a regular addition to the Auction in the Annex. There was a "Kiddie Auction" in full swing. RE also conducted a raffle of one of the three quilts made by the RE classes. The three quilts and the Kiddie Auction made a total of \$350! Way to go, RE!

After the wine was gone, the food eaten, and the bids taken, the Auction netted over \$16,500, slightly higher than last year's record!

Merci beaucoup to ALL donors and buyers, and a special thanks to "the Krewe of UU", the Auction committee: Ellie Setser, Kay and Joe Haun, Lisa Hajjar, Nancy Simpson, Blair & Stephanie Barna, Gail & Dan Schiffer, Susan Garrison, and Cris Sumpter. If you want to have a grand time, join the Committee for next year's Service Auction! And if you missed the Auction, be sure and come next year.

Submitted by Michael and Donna Griffith

Caring Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

This year, the Caring Committee has refined itself as a group with just 2 meetings, - one in the spring and one in the fall. We've held these lunch meetings in the Annex after church.

Our mission is to attend to those who need help, for whatever reasons, within the congregation. To that end, we depend heavily on our monthly coordinator to field phone calls and distribute the work load among the congregation at large, using a booklet showing the different neighborhoods where our members live. It has been found that people who live nearby those who need help, can respond the most easily.

Thus, the Caring Committee is composed of the entire congregation.

Our goals have been achieved through the use of the monthly Newsletter, in which Judy Bruce has written up the news of church members, she has provided a crucial service!), the Membership table at coffee hour, where people can sign up to bring meals to those needing them, The Joys and Concerns section of our church service, notes to shut-ins, and Carla Stipe's' faithful reporting of news of needy church members.

Our concerns are that we are missing people who could use help, so we hope that people will contact the monthly coordinator.

Submitted by Sue Nelson and Sally Flynn, Co-Chairs

Committee on Shared Ministry Annual Report 2005-2006

MISSION: The Committee on Shared Ministry (COSM) is a continuing body of the Unitarian Church in Charleston responsible to the Vestry. The primary responsibility of the COSM is to support and strengthen the shared ministry of the church and to monitor the health of that ministry. The COSM functions as an advisory body and as a communication channel for the minister and the congregation. In this capacity, the COSM helps to establish and clarify goals and expectations for the shared ministry of the church. The COSM seeks to understand, assess, support and advocate for shared ministry throughout the context of congregational life.

MEMBERS: The COSM is a deliberately diverse group based on age, church experience and interests. Members for this church year include: Amy Ball, Emilie Carey, Reverend Gail Collins-Ranadive (interim minister), Kaye Finch, David Garr, Jeff Nichols, Sue Prazak, and Jeanne Welsh. Susan Robinson served as Vestry Liaison

2005-6 GOALS FOR THE COSM

--Continue the process of establishing a Minister Emerita designation for retired minister Jacqueline Collins

--Develop a grievance procedure for COSM

--Work with the Vestry to establish a viable personnel committee

--Strive to educate ourselves about the nature of the ministry in our church

--Help research the best process for evaluating the ministry of the church

--Assist with the transition from Interim Minister to Settled Minister

GOAL ACHIEVEMENTS

--voted to change the name of the committee to better reflect our mission

--held a forum on October 30th to discuss issues regarding minister emerita status

--held informal after-church gatherings each Sunday after the forum until the congregational vote for minister emerita status

--will host luncheon with members of COSM, past and present, to present framed plaque to Rev. Collins

--developed and sent to Vestry a grievance procedure

--submitted names for Vestry to consider for Personnel Committee

--requested Vestry Liaison attend all meetings and put Vestry Feedback as a standing agenda item each meeting which has helped with communication

--put COSM on the Church website

--requested Rev Gail, interim minister, be member of COSM which was invaluable in helping resolve issues regarding the minister emerita designation and in helping with process for evaluating ministry of the church

--requested two members of Ministerial Search Committee become member of COSM next year to help with transition to Settled minister

--prepared article for each Gateway featuring different staff person to help educate congregation about staff aspects of ministry

--voted to rotate COSM chair every 6 months

Summary prepared by Kaye Finch, COSM Chair

April 2006

Connecting Circles Annual Report 2005-2006

Connecting Circles has completed its fifth year as a small group ministry . The original four groups have grown to seven groups. Each group is geographically located to serve their members Each group has a special meeting time once a month and meets in a members home to discuss a new topic each evening . This year more of the members have taken turns being the facilitators or leaders for the month, both sharing and listening to each others thoughts on some of the deeper issues of life. Topics range from articles found in the UU World, the UU principles, sharing childhood memories of religion to present day concepts of a divinity. Each group has 8 to 10 members which helps the inclusiveness and warmth of the Circle. Approximately 70 church members participate in Connecting Circles.

The key Leaders/Facilitators or Hosts are: Beverly Birkhimer, Nancy Waters Cowie, Beverly and Lee Fisher, Barbara and Stan Goldberg, Betsy Grund, Jack Henty, Richard Hayes, Cameron Evers Mitchum, Nancy Norris, Myrtle Staples, Mary Ann Terry, George and Nelly Struzyna.

Submitted by Mary Ann Terry, Coordinator of Connecting Circles

Denominational Affairs Annual Report 2005-2006

We had two people attend the Thomas Jefferson District Annual Meeting in Greensboro, NC on April 21 & 22, 2006; a good chance to meet fellow Unitarians from all over. Hope to have more folks next year. Please put October 13 & 14, 2006 on your calendars for the Fall Leadership Conference in Spartanburg, SC. Lots of great workshops offered. More on that later. I am happy to report several people from our church are going to General Assembly this June in St. Louis.

Submitted by Ed Stephens

UU Docents Annual Report 2005-2006

June, 2006 will mark the sixth successful year for the Docent program. The sanctuary was open each Friday and Saturday for the new hours 10:00 - 1:00, with the exception of a few Fridays as construction continued on the interior of the Sanctuary. In addition, special tours were given for the Preservation Society on September 23, a Montessori group on February 9, a College of Charleston architectural history group on April 7, and a tour will be given on April 20 for a senior group. Docents will be on duty every day except Sunday during the Spoleto Festival from May 26 through June 10.

During the calendar year of 2005, not counting special tours, the sanctuary had 845 visitors compared to 998 in 2004, a decline of 153. This reflects the experience of other Charleston attractions during 2005, such as art galleries.

Dave Elder submitted a wonderful series of carefully researched articles on the architectural history of the church for inclusion in The Gateway.

The docent committee had 28 docents, including subs, for 2005-2006. They are:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1. Amy Letson | 15. Joanne Innes |
| 2. Anna Stephens | 16. Joanne Milkereit* |
| 3. Beverly Birkhimer | 17. Joanne Simpson |
| 4. Carol Conklin* | 18. Kim Snipes |
| 5. Catherine Townsend | 19. Lilles Shilling |
| 6. Charlotte Schuteker | 20. Maureen Kelly |
| 7. Cisco Lindsey* | 21. Monica Molloy |
| 8. Dave Elder* | 22. Ridgely Britton* |
| 9. Fran Ennis | 23. Rosemary Hutto |
| 10. Gail Schiffer | 24. Sheridan Hough |
| 11. Jay Rockefeller | 25. Susan Robinson* |
| 12. Jerry Cassidy* | 26. Suzanna Vanderwoude |
| 13. Jim Innes | 27. Terry Walsh |
| 14. JoAnn Stokes-Smith | 28. Will Moredock |

Cisco Lindsey and Ridge Britton chaired the committee. Members of the steering committee are Carol Conklin, Dave Elder, Jerry Cassidy, Joanne Milkereit and Susan Robinson.

The rack card touting the docent program underwent redesign and reprinting, and was distributed by Dave Elder and Carol Conklin to 27 Hotels and Motels throughout the Charleston Peninsula.

A few members of the steering committee and a few docents will be dropping out for 2006-2007, and a drive for new recruits will begin right away. Serving as a docent remains the most effective means to learn a great deal about the history of our church in a short time.

Submitted by Cisco Lindsey, Docent co-chair

Endowment Annual Report 2005-2006

The Endowment ended the year on December 31, 2005 with a total value of \$430,395.00. This was \$991.00 in excess of the Target Value (principle adjusted up for inflation annually). The value of the funds increased 5.6% during 2005 but the withdrawals exceeded the income and capital appreciation. The net result was a decline in value of \$1,623.00. The returns on the mutual funds ranged from 3.4% to 11.3%.

The funds remain invested in 4 conservative mutual funds and no changes were made in the investment during 2005.

Withdrawals for the Endowment in 2005 included the following:

Mortgage Payments	\$11,624.00
Loan Interest payments	\$1,350.00
Loan Interest Contributions	\$4,560.00
Total	\$17,624.00

The Endowment has outstanding loans in the amount \$103,00.00.

These loans are due on the 12/31/08 but it is hoped that some members will roll their loans over for a third 5 year period.

The loans and the Mortgage together covered the cost of the RE Building constructed in 1998.

*Submitted by William A. Finn
May 1, 2006*

Forum Annual Report 2005-2006

While no formal evaluation has ever been made, I feel safe in saying that the UU Forum has taken its place as a major activity of the Unitarian Church in Charleston. Judging by the turn out, the Forum has exceeded expectations by a significant margin. Someone counted 90 attendees at one of our sessions. As always, topics range from global warming to evolution to Universalism, ad infinitum. Of particular note: the most popular topic involved Christian heresies. Probably because most of us have only the vaguest idea how Christianity evolved from 12 illiterate disciples in a backwater place called Palestine in the 1st Century CE to at least a million converts located everywhere through out the vast Roman Empire by the 4th Century, We are fascinated to learn that the Arian Heresy which began in Egypt became the precursor of today's Unitarianism.

Plans for the future see no dramatic change in content. Topics such as child welfare and abortion will continue to be discussed. There are no sacred cows. The Forum is an oasis of rationality in a desert of militancy. Unitarians as always will continue to stand on the crossroad of religion and politics, guiding the world to a more ethical understanding of the human condition.

We look forward to an ever growing number of participants as well as presenters many of which will have come from "away." Hopefully, we shall secure the funds to provide overnight accommodations, i.e. bed and breakfast, for those presenters who have traveled long distances. Please note the summer program (June - August) will begin at 10:00 as does the Forum now instead of 11:00 as has been the custom in previous years. As the church expands, the Forum will keep pace.

Submitted by Jay Rockefeller

Finance Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

It appears as of the end of the third quarter that income is about what is budgeted so if everyone continues to pay their pledges and put something in the plate on Sundays we should meet our budget for this year. For the coming year with the additional pledges made after the initial campaign for the operating budget we were able to restore most of the money cut from the budget. We will be depending on everyone to complete their pledges to implement fully the plans we have for the year and meet the increased costs of utilities and provide a modest raise for our dedicated employees. We hope to be a "fair share" employer within the next few years. We are still taking money from the income of the endowment for the operating budget and that money definitely should be used only for capital investment projects. We should be able to run our operation on funds pledged each year so we continue with our goal to reduce this rather unfortunate reliance.

DEBT: The Landmark Committee has taken a loan from the Fullarton bequest of \$275,000 to pay off the loan on the recent repairs. All but \$100,000 of that money will be paid by outstanding pledges to the Capital Campaign. We still owe around \$66,000 on the annex building and \$30,000 on the Landmark loan. We owe about \$100,000 in bonds to members who purchased them to help fund repairs to Gage Hall, building of the annex, etc. Our debt exceeds the value of our endowment for the first time in any ones memory, but we are confident that these obligations will be met.

INVESTMENT COMMITTEE: An investment committee has been formed to handle investment of funds received by the church in the form of bequests so that safety of principle and rate of return are considered.

GILMAN SOCIETY: Bill Walsh is working to form a committee to increase the endowment of our church by encouraging members and friends to consider the church in their estate plans. He has researched the mechanics of forming such a society using material from the UUA and several other organizations.

Submitted by Ellie Setser, Temporary Chair, Finance Committee

Dan Ford, Bill Walsh, Bill Smart, Mike Griffith, Bob Scoggins, Kay Haun, Ron Bruce

Landmark/Buildings & Grounds Annual Report 2005-2006

1. Mission – To maintain the Sanctuary, Gage Hall, Annex and grounds of THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN CHARLESTON in a good state of repair; To supervise any renovations, repairs and restorations; To care for furnishings and equipment. The Chairman of this Committee supervises, along with the minister, the Sexton.

2. Goals – Goals for the past year were to complete the exterior restoration of the Sanctuary, increase membership in the committee, work closer with the churchyard committee by participating in the Saturday morning work parties with a “fixit” team to make minor repairs to the buildings and grounds, and to make a strong start to planning for future restorations to the Sanctuary Interior.

3. Goal Achievements - All the goals were achieved. An excellent response was received to the sanctuary interior survey, with many comments and questions. Over 140 responses were received. The exterior restoration was completed with the exception of the punch list which is expected to be completed by June of this year. The church was awarded the coveted Carolopolis Award by the City of Charleston for the exterior restoration, and appeared on the cover of the Preservation Society’s magazine. The “fixit” team has started working, and is making many repairs.

4. Concerns - The largest concern for next year is making repairs to Gage Hall, specifically exterior woodwork, which is in bad shape, and repainting the brickwork on Gage Hall to prevent water leakage and damage.

5. Recommendations – It will take around 50,000 to repair Gage Hall. We should find a way to obtain these funds. One option is to borrow from the gracious gift Betty Fullarton left to the Landmark and repay ourselves before these funds are committed to that building.

6. Other items – We have selected new tile for the Gage Hall kitchen, and thanks to help from the Alliance we have the funds to install a new floor. We are trying to schedule the installation right now. During the year Avis Smart donated sufficient funds to install new doors on the main entrance to Gage Hall, they were sorely needed and look wonderful. A new contract was drafted and signed for the Sexton, Frank Palmer. We have asked Frank to concentrate more on cleaning as our growth as a program church has made cleaning a more primary concern. Frank has almost totally recovered from his operation and we are glad to see him smiling again. The furnishings subcommittee, headed by Paul Garbarini, made many needed repairs to pews and the wonderful old chairs in the Sanctuary. Repairs were also made to furnishings in Gage Hall.

Submitted by Ray Setser, Chair

Memminger Partnership Annual Report 2005-2006

The Memminger Partnership continues to provide tutors and supplies to the Memminger School near our church. Tutors spend time each week helping students designated by teachers who need special help from kindergarten to sixth grade. The School honored these ten people from our church this past April: Sue and Paul Nelson, Suzanna Van der Woude, Maureen Kelly, Pru Collier, Stan Goldberg, Mary Anne Hughston, JoAnn Stokes-Smith, and Mary Ann Terry.

Submitted by Mary Ann Terry

Membership Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

MISSION STATEMENT

We are UU's because of choices we have made
Many people share the same views of the world
They just don't know the name UU's
Our goal is to find a way to welcome them home.

Accomplishments:

Thirty-four new members have signed the book this year.

We have initiated a new membership policy. The minister meets with candidates prior to their signing the Membership Book and reviews the privileges and responsibilities of membership.

We assumed the responsibility of organizing and conducting New UU Classes for people interested in learning more about our religion and The Unitarian Church in Charleston. We held three sets of classes with approximately forty attendees, some of whom were already members. The classes were taught by Gail Schiffer, Maureen Kelly and Cris Sumpter. Rev. Gail taught the sessions on The History of Religion and Unitarian Universalism. Dave Elder taught a session on The History of Our Church. Because the classes met after church, we provided a light lunch arranged by Maureen Kelly and Beverly Birkhimer.

A much more meaningful Ceremony for New Members was compiled by Gail Schiffer.

A planning meeting was held in October where the planning for the year was discussed. We met with Rev. Gail and she explained the importance of new members bonding with members of the church rather than the Interim Minister since she would be gone next year.

We worked with the Stewardship Committee identifying people who have been receiving The Gateway but are not involved in the church for the purpose of assuring that the mailing list was accurate. 106 names were culled from the list.

"Valued Member" and "Valued Friend" letters were sent to inactive people asking them if they wish to continue their affiliation with our church. These letters were signed by Richard Hayes, Vestry Chair and Barbara Goldberg, Membership Co-Chair,

A church family album will be produced and issued next summer with pictures of members and friends as well as our church family roster.

The Welcoming Table, where we provide information and answer questions regarding our church is staffed every Sunday by a member of our committee.

The Membership Committee writes BIOS for all new members who want to be introduced in *The Gateway*. BIO writers have volunteered to help with this responsibility.

Concerns:

We need a Volunteer Coordinator to track visitors/newcomers and help integrate new members into the life of our church.

We need to set up a system for conducting exit interviews with people when they leave our church. This will help us to "fix" problems if they exist.

Submitted by Barbara Goldberg, Chair

Music Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

The Music Committee was cruising under Martha's guiding hand, until she announced her June retirement. We recruited members for the Search Sub-committee and started advertising for her replacement. At an early meeting, we determined the qualities of Martha's we'd like to see in her successor - humor, ministry, musicianship, organization and communication. As this writing, we're still auditioning candidates. Of the six applicants, we're seeing four - all of whom have good experience as directors.

The other major project we've undertaken is the campaign to install risers and chairs for the choir in the Sanctuary. The Corporate meeting in May will decide to do or not do.

Submitted by Paul Garbarini

Nominating Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

The Nominating Committee is pleased to nominate three members of the congregation to replace the three Vestry members who will be completing their terms in May of this year (2006).

The nominees are:

Betsy Grund
Alex Hild
Lee Westbrook

Each Vestry term is for three years.

*Respectfully submitted,
The Nominating Committee
Tommy Hughston
Myrtle Staples
Jane Upshur*

Personnel Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

Mission statement: "The Mission of the Personnel Committee is to assure that our church has sound human resource policies and procedures that comply with the law, are competitive in the marketplace, and adhere to the principles of our UU faith. The Personnel Committee, working with the Minister and the Vestry, has an active role to see that the policies and procedures as described in the Personnel Manual are followed."

The Committee met more than 10 times for meetings or work sessions.

Accomplishments:

Put together the Personnel Manual. Presented this to the Vestry for approval.

Met with staff at a staff meeting to present each staff member with a copy of the Manual.

Met with staff members individually to discuss the Manual, and answer questions.

Established a strong structure for relationship with staff and minister, in support of good work conditions.

Employment documents were updated for each staff member.

A new "Letter of Understanding" was written for the Administrator, for the Director of Religion, for the Director of Music and for the sexton; then signed by the employee, the minister, the Chair of the appropriate Committee, the Chair of the Vestry, and the Chair of the Personnel Committee.

A new Job Description was created for each employee.

For each employee, these two documents are filed in a locked box in the office.

In February/March the Rev Gail held a "performance review discussion" with each employee.

A written report of each discussion was put in the employee's file.

Goals:

The Personnel Committee plans to meet early in the new year with the new minister to review the Personnel Manual.

We will also study the "Conflict Resolution Policy" as put forward by the Committee on Shared Ministry, together with the "Employee Complaint Procedure" and the "Anti-Harassment Policy" sections in the Manual.

The new UUA Health Insurance initiative, which has an enrolment period that ends October 15, '06, offers new possibilities for good, affordable Health Benefits for our staff.

At our first meeting with the new minister we will carefully study this plan. To be able to offer some form of health insurance benefit to our staff is a very high priority.

Submitted by the Chair, Suzanna van der Woude

Public Relations Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

Purpose: To publicize the church to the Greater Charleston Community

Members

- Dan Schiffer
- Tony Brown
- Nancy Groh

Major accomplishment. Adds in the City Paper for the two weeks before the Candlelight Christmas Eve Service.

Low level project for signage to indicate when the church is open with Docents. Target: Signs in September.

Submitted by Dan Schiffer

Religious Education Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

Religious Education Committee Members

Susan Anderson-Rivaleau, Co-Chair

Lynn Wener, Co-Chair

Janet Watts, DRE

Amy Ball

Susan Garrison

Monica Molloy

Richard Moss

The Religious Education Committee's mission is to provide a supportive environment in which individuals can explore their spirituality through the use of age-appropriate curricula, group activity, and participation in ritual and church services. Our goal is to expand the program to include adults as well as children. We also strive to provide young adults and adolescents with ample opportunity to attend conventions and to create and implement activities to enhance the church's social justice work in the community.

Our Committee benefited in 2005 from a workshop facilitated by Kathleen Carpenter, TJ District Committee Member/Consultant. This workshop enabled the RE Committee to clarify its goals and to develop a Covenant between the children and the Congregation. The Committee made changes to its

teacher rotation to involve more of the congregation in religious education and to allow RE-involved personnel to attend services more frequently, rather than being obligated to participate in classroom activities each week. The Committee also gratefully accepted the application of Janet Watts for the part-time DRE position, which she had been filling as Acting DRE since November 2004. Our Committee has kept to an approximate one meeting per month schedule and has sponsored several successful church-wide events, including the Children's Auction (Mardi Gras theme), the annual Halloween sleep-over, quilt making sessions, a Youth CON held at our church September 29-October 1, 2005, a Scouting weekend on the church grounds, and the sponsoring of a Chalice Art jewelry sale. An activity scheduled for Fall 2006 is to assist with the organization of a community oyster roast to benefit RE.

As a result of a Leadership seminar facilitated by Cathy Jaggars, it has become apparent that the RE Committee will continue to thrive only if we consistently recruit and train volunteers to lead or assist with the various activities we have planned. The Committee will continue to train new teachers prior to the start of the formal church year, and we hope to show appreciation to our RE community with an annual church year-end reception.

Submitted by Lynn Wener

Social Justice Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

MISSION:

The Mission of the Social Justice Committee is

- To coordinate the activities of the church in promoting social justice
- To engage on the church's behalf in active efforts toward the pursuit of justice, love and truth
- To actively encourage those in our church who wish to be active in furthering social justice to bring their skills and abilities to bear on social justice issues
- To provide information, education, and inspiration about social justice needs and opportunities, and to keep the church membership informed at all times about ongoing initiatives.

HOW DID THE SOCIAL JUSTICE COMMITTEE WORK TOGETHER?

- During most of 2005-06, the Committee met every other month in the choir room in Gage Hall. Janet Stevens and Laura Morris served as Co-Chairs. (Janet resigned as co-chair in March due to other community social justice commitments.) Bill Morris heads the coffeehouses and serves as Committee treasurer.
- Meetings begin and end with inspirational readings; no formal "check-in" is used
- Facilitation of meetings and recordings of minutes are rotated among the leadership; minutes are distributed to Committee members via email following the meetings and are available in hard copy at Committee meetings.
- Subcommittees are Memminger School, Crisis Ministries, After-School Programs, Advocacy, and Diversity. Subcommittee members communicate and meet on an as-needed basis with no formal meeting schedule.
- Much of the communication is through email and discussion at other Church events and around monthly coffeehouses. Communication among members and the congregation has been very good, probably due to the very active schedule the Committee has generated.

MEMBERS: Membership is open to all who share our vision of social justice. Current active members of the Committee are Laura Morris, Richard Hayes, Janet Stevens, Nancy Waters, Steve Compton, Cathy Jaggars, Bill Morris, Jackie McGee, Will Moredock, Don Manning, Kathryn Manning, Catherine Townsend, Elizabeth Krietemeyer, Joan Deicke, Carol Oates, Paul Cantrell, Meg Christensen, Sarah

VanWye, Venus Stafford, Frank & Regina Ruopoli, and Catherine Key.
Vestry Liaison is Cathy Jaggars.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE AND ACTIVITIES: Full Committee meetings were held every other month. Subcommittees during the 2005-06 year were After-School, Diversity, Advocacy, Memminger School, and Crisis Ministries; subcommittee meetings were held as needed to carry out programs during the year. The After School Team is chaired by Bill Morris; Memminger by Mary Ann Terry and Maureen Kelley; Diversity by Don Manning; Advocacy by Jackie McGee and Laura Morris; and Crisis Ministries by Catherine Townsend.

ACTIVITIES:

1) After-School Programs

Over the past four years the Unitarian Church in Charleston has raised approximately \$20,000 to support the District 20 after-school program. Funds are generated through monthly Gage Hall Coffee Houses and annual Christmas Eve offerings. (During the 2005-06 Church year, the Committee conducted 8 coffeehouses and has one more scheduled; profits of approximately \$3800 were made on the 8. The 2005 Christmas offering was \$2,050.28.) For the past two school years the focus has been on support of academic enrichment activities including cultural heritage programs, environmental science, museum science and physical science with a total of approximately \$18,000 being expended on these programs. A breakdown of programs and costs for the 2005-2006 school year follows.

Super Science Program: This program was conducted by the Charleston County Recreation and Parks Commission (CCRPC) during the Fall and consisted of a series of 10 one hour sessions involving environmental and biological science. The children experienced hands-on individual involvement in a variety of activities to make them more aware of how our environment can be understood based on science and analysis. (\$1875)

Charleston Museum Program: This program was conducted during the Winter and included a series of 5 classes introducing the children to archaeology, ornithology, geology, zoology and paleontology using the resources of the Charleston Museum. (\$4080)

Mad Science: Mad Science is a nation-wide program offered at many well-to-do schools where students typically pay their own tuition. It focuses on the physical sciences such as electricity, magnetism, optics, heat, sound, aerodynamics, mechanics and fluids but emphasizes making the lessons interesting and fun. Eight such sessions are being provided at each of the four schools. This program is currently underway. It is being augmented by having high school students from Charleston Counties Academic Magnet School volunteer as assistant teachers. (\$9000)

2) Memminger School (Chairs, Mary Ann Terry/Maureen Kelly) Tutors (10) were provided at Memminger School throughout the school year (Sue and Paul Nelson, Pru Collier, Joann Stokes-Smith, Maureen Kelley, Suzanna van der Woude, Mary Anne Hughston, Barbara Davis, Stan Goldberg and Mary Ann Terry). Most of these folks have done it for three to five years, with the Nelson's doing it for over 10 years ! A tutor is assigned to one teacher for one hour and if they have any more time they continue to help that teacher or can be assigned to a different class or grade level, depending on what they would like to do.

3) Crisis Ministries (Chair, Catherine Townsend)

Every other month we serve dinner on the first Wednesday of the month and breakfast the following morning to 50-100 men. We typically have around 4-5 volunteers to prepare dinner and about 7 to serve, and 2-3 volunteers for breakfast the next morning. The menus were developed by Joanne Milkereit: dinner consists of Spanish rice w/beef, green beans, peaches, bread & butter and lemonade; and breakfast consists of grits, boiled eggs, fruit, peanut butter & jelly sandwiches and coffee. The men really like it!

Lee Westbrook and his wife Jo are very faithful buying and delivering groceries. Bill Upshur always boils and delivers the breakfast eggs, Paul and Sue Nelson almost always prepare dinner, Jean and Michael McGregor come every time to serve, and Richard Hayes pinch-hits cooking, serving and doing breakfast (at 5 a.m.!) In addition, we have many others who help frequently, including Janet Watts and her children or Girl Scouts, Wendy Bryar, and Doireann Hamlin.

4) Diversity (Chairs, Don and Kathryn Manning)

The Diversity Film Series has been an exciting addition to the Social Justice program in 2005-06. It has been well attended by various organizations and individuals from throughout the community. Coordinators interested in the particular “Justice Issue” joined in planning and preparation. The following Diversity Programs were conducted in Gage Hall, beginning at 6:00 PM. Food was served, generally between the film and the discussion circles, and we tried to complete the program by 9:00. Agreed upon ground rules for discussion circles were:

1. Agreement is not the central objective of the dialogue
2. Discussions have no specific predetermined outcomes
3. Participants are free to engage in open conversation without fear of exclusion or criticism.
4. Participants will
 - speak one’s own truth from one’s own experience
 - listen respectfully without intention to respond and with a willingness to be influenced
 - suspend judgment long enough to allow truth to emerge through questions and reflection
 - respect and embrace differences as a gift to be valued

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Curriculum</u>	<u>Justice Issue/Theme</u>
Sep 18	<i>Tying the Knot</i> Documentary	Equal Rights
Oct 16	<i>Stolen Ground</i> Documentary	“White Skin” Privilege
Nov 20	<i>We're Your Neighbors/Gay Youth</i> Documentary	Welcoming and Acceptance
Jan 29	<i>Color of Fear</i> Documentary	Pain and Anguish of Racism
Feb 26	<i>Crash</i> Feature Film	Achieving Racial Progress
Mar 26	<i>Contact</i> Feature Film, Part 1 (Based on <i>Cosmos</i> by Carl Sagan and Ann Drugan)	Religious Liberty/Convergence of Science and Religion
Apr 30	<i>Contact</i> Feature Film, Part 2	Religious Liberty

5) Advocacy (Chairs, Jackie McGee and Laura Morris)

Much of the Advocacy program in 2005-06 has centered around the Diversity Film Series. Each discussion circle developed a set of action steps which have been or will be acted upon in conjunction with the Diversity group. In addition, individuals who have indicated an interest in advocacy (UUC congregation as well as other community organizations and individuals) are “alerted” to the need for action as issues arise throughout the year.

OBJECTIVES FOR NEXT YEAR:

Objectives for 2006-07 will be more fully developed at the Committee meeting on May 9 and added to the Annual Report as an addendum. At a minimum, we will

- Continue after school programs and engage other elements of the community in the effort.
- Engage more members of the congregation in putting UU principles into action through the Diversity programs.
- Continue coffeehouses
- Increase advocacy—develop plan for feasibility of more action as a congregation.
- Begin Green Congregation program
- Begin sponsoring additional programs yet to be determined.

Unitarian Church Social Justice Committee Budget Request 2006/2007

The Social Justice Committee initiates and coordinates social justice activities which operate as subcommittees under the Social Justice Committee umbrella. Currently, the following active subcommittees are: After-school programs for Children Living in Poverty (Gage Hall Coffeehouse), Memminger, Crisis Ministries, and Diversity Group. For 2006-2007, we are proposing to establish an environmental subcommittee whose focus this year will be to implement the UU Green Church program. Separate budgets for each subcommittee are submitted below. The following summarizes the request:

Social Justice Committee	\$ 750
Crisis Ministries	\$1,100
Afterschool program*	0
Memminger**	\$ 150
Diversity Group	\$ 840
Total	\$3,680

Submitted by Laura Morris, Chair

S.O.L.S.T.I.C.E. Annual Report 2005-2006

We have had a busy year. Solstice has produced two open rituals for the congregation, one at Yule and one for Ostara. We also produced five additional Rituals for our membership that were open to the larger Pagan community.

Solstice sponsored its' annual Yule Basket drive, netting 10 bags of goodies that were donated to the Crisis Ministries Women's and Children's shelter.

Solstice members and friends have worked with the RE committee on two occasions. Monica Molloy worked on the Summer CON, enlisting the aid of several members of the local Tarot society, as well as members of The Foundry and The Spring. Ms. Molloy also arranged for speakers for the young adults at Samhain, allowing us to do a little debunking and share information about Witches in general.

Donna Gonzales worked with RE for Beltane and Solstice provided the May Pole.

We have had more members than ever attending church services and volunteering as well. Solstice has maintained a constant presence at the Crisis Ministries food program.

We have continued to actively support the Council of Alternative Spiritual Traditions. (Learn about it at www.lowcountrycast.org) Through Cast we have continued to network with other Pagan and Heathern groups in the Lowcountry.

I am proud to say we have built bridges with the congregation like never before.

In the coming year we intend to continue with our outreach both to the community at large and the UU congregation. We would like to present more rituals for the larger group. We will continue to work with the various comities to bring greater understanding and unity to our relations.

And we're going to have fun doing it.

Blessed Be.

Jean McGreggor

Stewardship Committee Annual Report 2006

The mission of the Stewardship Committee is to encourage participation of all members and friends in the life of the Church, by giving of their financial resources and by giving of their time and talents. The Stewardship Committee plans and carries out the Church's Stewardship Campaign, both the on-going canvass of new members throughout the year and the annual campaign held in the spring of the year. The committee works closely with the Membership Committee to encourage members to participate in the life of the Church.

Planning for the 2006-2007 campaign began in September 2005 with a meeting with the Vestry and coordination with the minister. The kick-off date was set for January 22. The format was a mailing with follow-up calls to non-responders. A small committee (6 or 7) of bright and experienced campaigners helped with the plans. Record keeping and secretarial work was done by the Bruces. Coordination with the administrator, the Director of RE, the Vestry (mostly through the chair), and the minister was on-going.

The campaign was introduced and advertised using the monthly Gateway, a large brightly colored post card mailed in early January, a sermon by the minister on Stewardship Sunday, and testimonials and reminders from the pulpit throughout the campaign.

On January 22, Stewardship Sunday was celebrated during the service and was followed by a lovely reception in Gage Hall organized by the Alliance. Of the 280 pledge units contacted, 70% pledged in the first 4 weeks. The 80 remaining pledge units were contacted personally by a small cadre of seasoned canvassers. Eventually everyone on the church list was contacted. A "re-pledge" effort was carried out in March.

Results:

Ultimately \$234,500 was pledged by 213 pledge units up 15.5% over last year. This sum included a Re-Canvass campaign in March which yielded 50 to 60 more pledges and re-pledges equaling more than \$12,000 and the sale of a car donated by a member family which sold for \$7,000.

The Alliance gave an additional \$3,200.

Thirteen members and 16 friends who did not pledge and who had not donated to the Church in over a year were removed from Church lists. Several other folks asked to be removed during the campaign.

Because the campaign party was given by the Alliance and Stewardship materials were copied rather than printed, campaign costs were under \$1,000, saving \$1,500.

Results were reported in meetings with the Executive Committee, the Program Council, and in a Sunday Forum.

Recommendations:

Review the procedure for the on-going canvass of new members; consider personal contacts.

Consider canvassing non-pledging RE families in the fall of each year after RE registration (as if they were newcomers).

If using mailed campaign approach in the future, offer folks the option of being contacted personally.

Keep in touch with Members-at-a-Distance; ask for a newsletter donation.

Review the make-up of contributions statements distributed monthly to members.

Send pledge reminders to all pledging families at the beginning of the fiscal year.

*Judy and Ron Bruce
Canvass Co-Chairs*

5/8/06

Place stewardship graph here

Worship Committee Annual Report 2005-2006

This year the worship committee produced eight services. It also, under the leadership of Stuart Terry, produced a survey detailing the congregation's thoughts on various aspects of the church's worship services.

On the urging of the vestry, the committee will expand its duties next year. The Worship committee will work with the new minister and music director on all aspects of Worship in our Church Community.

Members of the committee were:

- Cecil Bennett
- Julia Dennis
- Mark Farnham
- Alex Hild
- Jerry Prazak
- Stuart Terry (co chair)
- Henry Thomas
- Lisa Thomson-Ross
- Bill Upshur
- Jo Westbrook
- Faye Steuer
- Suzanna van der Woude
- Richard Hayes (Vestry Liaison)
- Lee Westbrook (co chair)

The following is a list of services conducted:

DATE	SUBJECT	SPEAKER	COORDINATOR
10/2/2005	Seven Songs: Seven Principles	Various members of Congreg.	Lee Westbrook
10/30/2005	The Gift and the Responsibility	Richard Beban	Jo Westbrook
11/6/2005	The Color of UUism	Alex Hild	Alex Hild Jo Westbrook
11/27/2005	Peace Service	Lippman	Jerry Prazak
1/1/2005	Fireside Service		Mark Farnham
1/29/2006	Beyond Categorical Thinking*	UUA representatives	Mark Farnham
3/5/2006	Non Violence	Greg Liotta	Faye Steuer
3/26/2006	Pagan Service	CUPPS	Cecil Bennett
4/23/2006	Visit by Rabbi Holz*	Rabbi Holz	Alex Hild Jo Westbrook
4/30/2006	Rev. Byron Spice	Rev. Byron Spice	Cecil Bennett
5/7/2006	Ministerial Candidate*		Richard Hayes
5/14/2006	Ministerial Candidate*		Richard Hayes

* not a worship committee service, but we took on some responsibilities for coordination

Submitted by Lee Westbrook

Treasurer's Annual Report 2005-2006

On the following page is a Balance Sheet which gives current assets and liabilities for all of our seven funds as of the end of April of this year. Notice that six funds are kept with First Federal Savings and Loan, who offer competitive interest rates and good service with very low or no fees. Our long-term capital investment in four mutual funds is kept with Smith Barney and is managed by your investment committee.

A Balance Sheet indicates how much is owned by a business entity, or in this case by our church, in cash and other kinds of assets including property. Note that our wonderful sanctuary building and property do not appear here in our books as assets. They have never been valued and entered. One of these days, I and other members of your finance leadership will put a number on these valuable holdings and enter them so that they too appear and give us a much more accurate picture of our total worth.

The Balance Sheet also indicates what debts are outstanding to us, like the promissory notes from our members to help with the mortgage on the annex building, and what monies we determined should be set aside for special purposes like the Social Justice after-school programs and a payment for possible defaults in parking rents. Those are our liabilities.

The final figure, Fund Balance, simply indicates the difference between what we have and what we must not spend because it is a liability. That is our equity. In accounting, the assets always must equal liabilities and equity. These figures therefore "balance," and thus the report is called a Balance Sheet. This report gives a very clear picture of where we stand financially at this moment.

Submitted by Kay Haun, Treasurer

Unitarian Church in Charleston

Balance Sheet April 24, 2006

	Fund 1	Fund 2	Fund 3	Fund 4	Fund 5	Fund 6	Fund 7	Totals
	FF Checking	FF Cap Camp	FF Reserves	FF Churchyard	FF Landmark	FF Gage Hall	Smith-Barney Endowment	
ASSETS								
CURRENT ASSETS								
FF General Checking	\$ 38,052.80							\$ 38,052.80
FF General MM			\$ 23,979.73			\$ 8,202.02		\$ 32,181.75
SSB Endowment MM							\$ (1,234.62)	\$ (1,234.62)
FF Money Market		\$ 47,938.05			\$ 120,518.11			\$ 168,456.16
FF Churchyard MM				\$ 225,365.35				\$ 225,365.35
Petty Cash	\$ 150.00							\$ 150.00
R E Petty Cash	\$ 150.00							\$ 150.00
Subtotal Current Assets	\$ 38,352.80	\$ 47,938.05	\$ 23,979.73	\$ 225,365.35	\$ 120,518.11	\$ 8,202.02	\$ (1,234.62)	\$ 463,121.44
OTHER CURRENT ASSETS								
Mortgage Escrow						\$ 3,987.89		\$ 3,987.89
Annex Mfg from Endowment						\$ (4.25)		\$ (4.25)
Bulk Mail Account	\$ 150.00							\$ 150.00
Postage Due Account	\$ 121.67							\$ 121.67
Crisis Ministries Advance	\$ 200.00							\$ 200.00
Subtotal Other Current Assets	\$ 471.67					\$ 3,983.64		\$ 4,455.31
INVESTMENTS								
Am Mutual Fund Class A							\$ 117,362.13	\$ 117,362.13
Invest Co of Am FD CL A							\$ 105,031.44	\$ 105,031.44
New Prospective Fd CL A							\$ 23,917.78	\$ 23,917.78
Wash. Mut. Investors Cl A							\$ 101,661.96	\$ 101,661.96
Subtotal Investments							\$ 347,973.31	\$ 347,973.31
FIXED ASSETS								
Annex						\$ 250,000.00		\$ 250,000.00
Reserve Promissory Notes						\$ 103,000.00		\$ 103,000.00
Subtotal Fixed Assets						\$ 353,000.00		\$ 353,000.00
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 38,824.47	\$ 47,938.05	\$ 23,979.73	\$ 225,365.35	\$ 120,518.11	\$ 365,185.66	\$ 346,738.69	\$ 1,168,550.06
LIABILITIES								
CURRENT LIABILITIES								
SUSPENSE ACCOUNTS								
Fed/Fica W/H	\$ 2,054.79							\$ 2,054.79
State W/H	\$ 453.74							\$ 453.74
Sexton Fees	\$ 1,995.47							\$ 1,995.47
Pennsylvania Suspense	\$ 339.25							\$ 339.25
Social Justice - Suspense	\$ 7,284.66							\$ 7,284.66
Suspense-Capital Campaign	\$ 4,601.48							\$ 4,601.48
Hymnal Donation Suspense	\$ (68.52)							\$ (68.52)

PROPOSED BUDGET 2006-2007

REVENUES

	ACTUAL 2005-2006	PROPOSED 06-07	CHANGE
Pledges to 2005-2006	\$ 203,284.00	\$ 226,500.00	\$ 23,216.00
Carryover from Prior Year	\$ 6,800.00		\$ (6,800.00)
Plate - Operating	\$ 16,000.00	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 3,000.00
Memorial Donations - Oper	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00	\$ -
Service Auction	\$ 16,500.00	\$ 16,500.00	\$ -
Greenbax - J. Ayers Donat	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ -
Endowment for Oper Exp.	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ (1,000.00)
E. Lyle Parking	\$ 720.00	\$ 720.00	\$ -
Southeastern Mgt Parking	\$ 21,120.00	\$ 19,200.00	\$ (1,900.00)
Church Rental	\$ 7,500.00	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 1,500.00
Gage Hall Rental	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Misc Income	\$ 500.00	\$ 787.00	\$ 287.00
Social Justice Fundraising		\$ 11,690.00	\$ 11,690.00
Churchyard Income from Investments		\$ 5,790.00	\$ 5,790.00
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 287,924.00	\$ 324,687.00	

EXPENSES

Minister Salary, Benefits, Insurance, Relocation	\$ 64,000.00	\$ 98,227.00	\$ 14,227.00
Staff Salaries & Benefits	\$ 107,977.00	\$ 113,957.00	\$ 5,980.00
Buildings and Grounds	\$ 16,650.00	\$ 13,250.00	\$ (3,400.00)
Utilities, Insurance, Taxes	\$ 27,507.00	\$ 34,081.00	\$ 6,574.00
Office Expenses	\$ 12,075.00	\$ 13,850.00	\$ 1,775.00
RE Expenses and YRUU	\$ 4,050.00	\$ 4,350.00	\$ 300.00
Music Expenses	\$ 3,000.00	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Misc Expenses and Equipment Reserves	\$ 550.00	\$ 1,733.00	\$ 1,183.00
Denomination Dues	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 15,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Committee Expenses*	\$ 17,000.00	\$ 25,239.00	\$ 8,239.00
Total Expenses	\$ 286,809.00	\$ 324,687.00	

*Committee Expenses for 05-06 included \$8K for Ministerial Search Committee, no longer needed. They DID NOT include expenses for Churchyard projects and for Social Justice projects.