

Minister

This is the fifth Annual Report I've submitted in your service. I'll spare readers all the "swift passage of time" clichés, but I cannot deny that I am thinking of them as I write, because a fifth report hardly seems possible. Yet here we are, at the close of another church year and again we have much behind us to celebrate and much ahead to anticipate.

The year was marked by significant changes in our church staff. Two positions were filled by individuals new to us, and two new positions were created and filled by familiar faces.

As Music Director, Johanna Evenson has brought a refreshing personality and expression to our music life. She continues the excellence initiated by her predecessors and brings out the very best in our talented choir members. She has introduced new instruments and music this past year, and eagerly helped craft two lovely Sunday evening services. I hope we will be able to continue, and perhaps expand—in frequency and attendance, vesper services. Johanna has taken on leadership of our Chalice Choir and engages the children with her creativity and warmth.

Joe McCormack came on board with almost the exact experience and skills we long sought in a Sexton. He is conscientious and friendly, accommodating and skilled. The role has changed over the past years, and in some ways we are still adjusting to this essential staff member living offsite and not on the property. However, Joe has helped us establish this new reality more deeply. Though we allocate thirty hours each week, it is still a formidable responsibility for one employee to oversee complementary aspects of facilities use and management. Our own high activity level and also multiple rentals and community events fill the Sexton's schedule with meeting set-up and break-down. Regular maintenance and oversight of our historic (sometimes this translates as "problematic") properties remains a challenge. Yet our staff, and numerous devoted church members, respond with able hands and responsible stewardship.

For some time we've been fortunate to attract a steady flow of visitors to our services and to have well-coordinated Membership Committees ready to provide guests with helpful guidance. This initial outreach, however successful, maxed out our lay leadership and left a void in continued contact, and membership follow-up. We took in good numbers of new members but seemed to lose track of them too easily. We saw the need for a part-time staff person to serve as direct liaison and support to those seeking and "shopping" a new spiritual connection. This prompted Carol Oates, our member previously known mostly for her musical ability, to take on the role of Membership Coordinator. In our first year with this position Carol has done a wonderful job of overseeing the process of a guest's first visit all the way to the possibility of membership. Besides reaching out more effectively to newcomers, Carol is also helping us better serve longer-term members explore new opportunities and roles within the church.

Our present Religious Education enrollment is approximately 135 students. Janet Watts, as Director of Religious Education, organizes most all of our educational and family programming. On most any Sunday, (save perhaps the mid-summer weeks), our children can be found in the

Annex, in upper Gage Hall, and often enjoying the fine campus of our across-the-street, neighbor, Charleston Day School. While Janet excels at managing simultaneous tasks, she cannot serve in more than one place at a time. Our new Religious Education Assistant, Sandra Selvitelli, helps manage RE programs, supervise students, and support Janet's work as needed. As a parent with children active in our Sunday School, Sandra already knew the strengths of our efforts and also recognized the places where her additional involvement could make an essential difference.

In addition to our compensated staff, we also benefit from the teaching and preaching of Rev. Nancy Pellegrini, Affiliated Community Minister, who joined us this year. As Chaplain, Rev. Nancy's primary ministry is to the patients and staff of the Hollings Cancer Center of the Medical University of South Carolina. On site with us, Nancy participates in Sunday services and has led Adult Religious Education courses. She is helping us learn more about her role, how she embodies our free faith in the community, and how we can best support her dual ministry.

We say goodbye to Hannah Piazza this year. Hannah started working part-time with the church as Office Assistant in 2010. She excelled in this role and when the Office Administrator position opened in 2012, her ease and experience with our procedures made her an ideal candidate. For much of her time as Administrator, Hannah also balanced the remaining classes of her Bachelor of Arts program at the College of Charleston. Now with her degree fulfilled, and other opportunities before her, she takes leave of us this summer. Hannah managed the office when we most needed someone to step in with care and confidence. She has successfully corralled a staff of highly independent characters in weekly meetings and has supported a minister known for his disregard of deadlines. She protected the church's interests with apartment tenants, countless vendors, wedding couples, and even Hollywood film producers. We wish her well on her journey and hope she carries something of our imprint with her.

I am personally gratified to work with such a committed core staff and I appreciate the energy and insight each member brings to their individual spheres and to the larger work we share. I am equally grateful for the volunteer leaders of the Personnel Committee, the Committee on Shared Ministry, the Vestry and others, who ensure that resources exist to appropriately provide for our staff and who support us personally through friendship and counsel.

The state of other important areas of our church are shared elsewhere in this annual document. The work of our Caring Committee, our financial health, our social justice and various outreach efforts, and many more noble endeavors are chronicled herein. This is but a snapshot (selfie?) of an active and vital urban church, with a largely suburban membership, attempting to promote and uphold a historic, liberal religious message during an unusual time of both great social progress and sadly divisive public policy. Our national leaders appear entrenched and unable to negotiate diverse views. Blessed with a spirit of cooperation and mutual regard, we seem to accomplish relative harmony every day on Archdale Street. And for this, I believe we should all be thankful.

A report such as this is always flawed and incomplete—just like most of us. Our beloved church exists to help us make of ourselves, not something perfected and whole, but individuals more aware and ever compassionate, more generous and ever growing, more open and ever willing. Please forgive whatever unintentional omissions there may be. Above all, know that it remains an honor to be your minister and to share this historic congregation.

Respectfully submitted,



Administrator

This year the office grew in staff along with the membership of the congregation. By offering a third Pathways to Membership class in 2013-14, the congregation welcomed over 50 new members. Most of this positive growth would not be possible without our wonderful Membership Committee and the assistance of our new Membership Coordinator, Carol Oates.

When Carol joined the staff under the pilot Membership Coordinator position, her presence in the office was an immediate help to everyone. Her work contributed to the membership roles becoming more complete and church communications reaching more interested visitors. I am grateful for all Carol has done in helping both the congregation and staff.

Joe McCormack and Johanna Evenson also joined the staff this year fulfilling the roles of Sexton and Music Director. Joe has been fundamental in organizing and overseeing all church related events, outside rentals, church maintenance projects and weddings. He's also provided faithful support to our revived Docent Committee during their regular tour hours. I enjoy working with Johanna as well, as she adds spirit to our staff meetings and worship services.

One accomplishment from the office this year was the increase and quality improvement of electronic communications. Paper versions of the monthly newsletter, *The Gateway*, are no longer sent through the mail, saving on paper and postage. Instead, the newsletter is emailed electronically to members and visitors and available online. The weekly email update was also improved upon by adopting the use of a professional email marketing software.

The transfer of some of the financial duties from the office to DAK Bookkeeping allowed more time for the aforementioned communication improvements. The financial transitions began around the close of last year and came to be the successful process it is now with the help of Treasurer, Terry Walsh and our reliable bookkeeper. I thoroughly enjoy working with both of them to maintain the church's financial practices and transparency.

At the close of last year's annual report I stated a few goals for the upcoming church year which I am proud to say we have accomplished. The office received a new copier and printer which prove much more efficient and allow for higher quality publications. The bathroom located

upstairs Gage Hall also received cosmetic upgrades and was fully renovated. These projects were funded with Endowment money graciously granted by the Finance Committee. Ron Updike was a great help as chair of Building and Grounds in overseeing the bathroom overhaul.

The summer will allow for more goals to be set for the next church year, which I am confident will come to fruition under the guidance of fantastic and dedicated staff, leaders and congregants.

Administrative Notes:

- The Enslaved Worker's Monument was officially dedicated in September this year.
- Our church submitted 356 certified members to the UUA in January 2014.
- The Sanctuary hosted 12 weddings this year.
- Gage Hall was rented 29 times, not including ongoing rentals with four community organizations.
- A local TV Production rented use of the Churchyard for filming which was a great, unexpected boost in income.

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Piazza, Office Administrator

Music Director

The mission of the church music program is to enhance the worship experience through music and to reach out to the church community and beyond through various music related events.

During the fall of 2013 and the spring of 2014 we have attempted to reach these goals in the following ways:

-Musicians both from our congregation as well as musicians from the community at large provided music during our regular Sunday services as well as during our Vesper Services.

-Amy Ball, once again, generously contributed to the music program by volunteering as the accompanist for the adult choir.

-New music was introduced and purchased during this past church year both for the Chancel as well as the Chalice choir.

-The adult choir and friends presented a Christmas Cantata in December and an enlarged choir performed the Hallelujah Chorus for this year's two Easter Services.

-The Children's Choir (ages 3 to 12) practiced every Sunday morning September through May and performed during the services approximately once a month.

-Auditions were held for the seventh annual Martha Welch Music Scholarship. This year's winner was violinist Jenna Farnham.

-In December several choir members participated, together with a community choir from Mt. Pleasant, in the Crisis Ministries National Memorial Service for the Homeless.

- The Music Committee, together with the Fine Arts Committee, collaborated on three Candlelight Concerts followed by receptions, one in the fall and two in the spring. The proceeds from the Candlelight Concerts benefitted James Simons Elementary School.

Respectfully submitted by Johanna Evenson, Music Director

Religious Education Director

During the 38 Sundays in the 2013-14 church year the RE program consistently offered morning meditation and Eastern philosophy, a staffed nursery, and Sunday school classes for children 3 years old to 12th grade. Creating and running a program that offers a safe, welcoming, nurturing and quality education for our children and youth is the primary function of the RE program. This includes the recruitment, training, support and supervision of volunteers and Sunday staff throughout the year. In addition to Sunday classes we also offered fellowship and exploration with traditional events and not-so-traditional projects. The wide range of events for both children and adults can be seen below.

Adult Religious Education offerings of note include weekly: Sunday morning Meditation, Sunday afternoon Yoga, Wednesday Tai Chi

Monthly: Danny's Movie Nights, Red Tent (Women's group), Fiction Writers Group, UU College Group

One-offs: Rev. Nancy Pellegrini's class based on *A House of Hope: Promise of Progressive Religion in the Twenty-First Century*; Tyler Ray's month long evening class on Eastern philosophy and meditation; two separate classes from the Green Sanctuary group (*Voluntary Simplicity* and *Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics and Sustainability*) which led to social gatherings after each class's conclusion and the April 17 Earth Day Service; The Green Film Series sponsored two films this year; The newly established Outdoor Group had mixed success with fishing, biking and paddle-sports outings; The Vegetarian Potluck evenings in Gage Hall are off to a great start; Rev. Reed offered an evening program of grief and loss during the winter holidays; the College group co-sponsored a showing of *Five Broken Cameras* and had a discussion on Israeli/Palestinian issues; a medical and social fair around sexual health resources was held in Gage Hall with our teens participating and acting as hosts.

Social Justice events included our annual Guest at Your Table campaign; a wonderfully successful Empty Bowls event to raise funds for the Crisis Ministries homeless shelter; the building and selling of gingerbread houses also for CM shelter; Mitten Tree collections for shelters; volunteers for Backpack Buddies program at the Lowcountry Food Bank; Thanksgiving canned food drive; RE Oyster Roast to aid church families with the cost of teen

events ; children's book collections and a special Gullah story teller to celebrate the dedication of the enslaved workers memorial.

6th-8th grade Neighboring Faith visited local houses of worship including KKBE Reform Synagogue, the Catholic Cathedral, Greek Orthodox, Russian Orthodox, St. John's Lutheran, Circular Congregational, Mt Zion AME, the Central Mosque of Charleston, Quaker Religious Society of Friends, The Hindu Sanatan Temple and the Dharma Charleston Tibetan Society. The High School group joined the Middle Schoolers for the Muslim, Buddhist and Hindu visits.

Special Social Events: We went to the Mountain Retreat and Learning Center three times with the teens; we hosted the Greenville UU Fellowship Youth Group here in Charleston for a weekend and we visited them for a weekend in Greenville; we held the Annual Halloween party and ghost tour, the Winter holiday party, children's pageant, decorating, and Christmas Eve services, two children's art workshops with the fine art committee, and the RE scholarship Oyster Roast fundraiser; we also ran the weekly Children's Chalice Choir, held the usual Easter activities and egg hunt (over two Sundays), our annual graduating seniors recognition, Father's day picnic, Pancake breakfast welcome back, Harvest Sunday and Flower Communion services, as well as a Stingrays Hockey game, a kayak trip around sea islands, and the beginning of the year RE parents special lunch get together. Additionally, families participated in the Gay Pride Parade over the summer and the Emancipation Proclamation Parade in January, the RE teens held an evening dance, and there were four RE Family picnics at local parks.

Trainings included three separate teacher-training sessions for Sunday school volunteers, and two adults trained in NC for Our Whole Lives accreditation classes. I attended the Lowcountry Autism Forum with special attention to sex education and religious instruction with ASD youth and took three on-line courses centered on special needs children and socialization.

I was honored to have Sandra Selvitelli as the RE assistant this year. Her organized, hard-working efficiency and consistently happy mood made the RE program run that much better this year. Tyler Ray will be stepping down from the role of YRUU coordinator and will be traveling to India, Australia and eventually China. He will be hard to replace.

Respectfully submitted Janet Watts, Director of Religious Education

Membership Coordinator

The Church Vestry decided to create a pilot program for the position of Membership Coordinator for the 2013 – 2014 church year, to evaluate the need and effectiveness for such a position on a permanent basis. The purpose and goals for the year were:

Purpose:

The Membership Coordinator will help to create a vibrant, dedicated membership in which everyone feels welcome and nurtured in our congregation.

Goals for the Pilot Year:

1. Investigate and improve the process from Visitor to Member and beyond.
2. Optimize the existing Power Church database and consider options.
3. Evaluate and assist with revision of church website to prioritize ease of use for site visitors.
4. Streamline our annual census.

Goal #1 was the clear priority in terms of time and effort. Projects which addressed this goal included:

- I established my presence on Sunday morning to assist and support the welcoming efforts of the Ushers / Greeters and the Membership Committee (Welcoming Table).
- I assisted with, and then took over the administration of the Pathways curriculum, with the Membership Committee contributing many hours of assistance with the implementation of the classes.
- A third class (Spring) was conducted.
- I expanded the role of the Mentor and provided an orientation session to prepare volunteers for this role.
- I held 3 Pathfinders Classes. This is a new class to address the early questions of newcomers.
- I assisted volunteers to establish new groups and activities or re-vitalize and support the leadership of older groups, including the Caring Committee, Connecting Circles, Get Outdoors! Group and the Vegetarian Potluck.

Goal #2

There seems to be wide consensus among staff and lay leadership that Power Church is not an optimal database system, though it has also not seemed appropriate to change this system during the church year. This will continue to be explored.

Goal #3

The church website is currently under revision and I will contribute to the revision of content as appropriate.

Goal #4

This goal was not addressed in any substantial way. After being in this position for a full church year and observing the actual function of the census, I would like to begin to address this goal. I have requested that I be involved with the Stewardship Committee's efforts earlier in the church year, in order to address issues with the census.

Looking Ahead

I was pleased to learn that the position of Membership Coordinator is included in the 2014 – 2015 Operating Budget, with an increase in hours. I look forward to working with Personnel, the Minister, Administrator, and lay leadership to continue to address the above goals and to revise as appropriate. The support of this congregation has been appreciated and I look forward to continuing to use this position to evaluate and address issues of congregational life.

Respectfully submitted by Carol Oates, Membership Coordinator

Vestry

The primary responsibilities of the Vestry are to develop and implement policy and to oversee the financial affairs of the church. The Vestry began this church year with a retreat at which we developed our major goals for the year. Following are those goals and an evaluation of their accomplishment:

1. *Complete the revision of our Constitution*
Despite input from all committees, Program Council, Forum and an opportunity for questions by the congregation, the revised document will not be on the agenda for consideration at our May 18th Corporate Meeting due to confusion over what constitutes “mail” in the electronic age. It is hoped that this can be resolved in Fall 2014 at a called Congregational meeting.

2. *With regard to our “Four Bold Steps”* **Item III: ENSURE THAT THE SANCTUARY AND OTHER BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS MEET CURRENT AND FUTURE NEEDS**, the Vestry began the process of looking into the possibility of Air Conditioning for the Sanctuary. A series of meetings involving Buildings and Grounds, Vestry, Program Council, and informational meetings, the proposal for complete HVAC replacement will be on the agenda for consideration at our May 18th Corporate Meeting.

3. *Complete the revisions of the Vestry Policies.*
The Constitution provides general principles and policies for the operation of our church. Other policies not set forth in the Constitution are developed by the Vestry in the form of Vestry Policies. Several new policies have been developed including Communications, Monuments, Garden of Remembrance, Stewardship and Membership. Five new categories have been approved by the Vestry: Mission Related Guidance, Use of Buildings and Grounds, Communications, Finance, and Membership. Once all policies have been finalized, and dependent on the congregation’s vote to adopt the revised constitution, the policies will be renumbered with reference to their earlier numbers and made available on the web in the appropriate category. All the Vestry Policies are available on the church website -- <http://www.charlestonuu.org/WhoWeAre/Vestry/VestryPolicies/tabid/137/Default.aspx>

4. *Worked with paid Membership Coordinator; increased hours for 2014-15*
The job was filled by Carol Oates, and is now roughly a 30% time. She worked closely with the membership committee and the minister, and the incoming members are taking membership seriously.
5. *Complete the plan and implement a mechanism for distance participation in corporate meetings.*
A cable from Gage Hall across the churchyard to the Sanctuary has been installed, in addition to the new lighting in the churchyard as planned. The Chancel is also now lit at night on occasion. It is hoped that this year members will be able to participate in the corporate meeting on May 18th using web-based conference call technology, provided congregants vote to allow this at the meeting.
6. *Continued to support Congregation-Based Community Organizing (now (Charleston Area Justice Ministry—CAJM)*
The Vestry supported the Social Justice Committee’s decision to have the spring “pink envelope” community outreach fundraising go to CAJM. They are also committed to continuing to include \$5000 in next year’s operating budget for CAJM dues. Individual Vestry members have also been active in CAJM.
7. *Compassion Resolution.* The death of Don Hearth meant that although the church adopted the Resolution on Compassion at the 2013 Annual Congregational meeting, little work has gone forward with the City of Charleston on this idea, although our minister and several other ministers did meet with Mayor Riley concerning the idea.
8. *Work with the Finance Committee to develop the “dream” or “growth” budget.*
The Vestry, as did church committees, brainstormed about items for our “dream” budget. These ideas were sent to the Finance Committee to be incorporated with the committees’ “dream” budget items. We should have \$23,000 from the Endowment to fund some of these one-time projects, and are currently determining which items should have priority.

Other important business:

8. The Caring Committee has been revitalized with geographic area captains recruited. We would like to find ways to become more active in caring for our elders that can no longer attend church in person.
9. The year round Stewardship Committee headed up by Steve Simon and Ren Manning conducted a successful campaign in early 2014. We hope that all the mechanisms for allowing people to make their pledges at any time during the year are now in place. This includes the new electronic link to “Simple Give” for those that wish to give via the web.
10. A plaque honoring the Rev. Jacqueline Collins was approved by the Vestry for placement in the vestibule.
11. The parking lot lease was renewed for the next 5-year term with Monts Investment Properties, to be reviewed in its entirety in four years time. The Vestry decided to give

up \$5,000 a year for the next term in order to have more control over how the parking lot is handled in the future. Some sort of sticker identification for people with the right to park in the back lot is being explored.

Respectfully submitted by Hillary Hutchinson, Vestry Chair 2013-14

Treasurer

The Church's fiscal year runs from July 1st through June 30th of the following year. We ended the last fiscal year on June 30, 2013 in a very strong financial position. The Operating Budget income was approximately \$39,000 over expenses. Approximately \$27,000 of this overage was used as income in the 2013/2014 fiscal year and the rest was used to increase our reserves.

At the start of the 2013/2014 fiscal year (July 1, 2013), the balances of the Endowment, Churchyard and Landmark Funds were approximately \$857,100, \$42,300 and \$35,900 respectively. Our reserves totaled about \$61,000.

As of March 31st, 2014:

- The Endowment has increased to \$960,500.
- The Churchyard Fund is currently approximately \$23,600. Churchyard projects this year included the new brick pathway work and lighting the sanctuary windows.
- The Landmark Fund is currently approximately \$35,100.
- There is approximately \$73,000 in our Reserve accounts. Our reserves are divided into four different categories. The Operating Reserve, the Maintenance Reserve, the Emergency Reserve, and the Auction Reserve. .
 - The Operating Reserve (\$18,500) is to insure the balance of the Operating Fund stays positive during the year;
 - the Maintenance Reserve (\$16,300) is used for major deferred maintenance projects;
 - the Emergency Reserve (\$26,500) is set aside for circumstances that could not have been foreseen that do not fall into the categories of major maintenance or regular operations.
 - The Auction Reserve (\$12,000) was created this year. Each year, we include income from the Annual Service Auction in the budget before the service auction has been held. This puts the budget at risk if the Annual Service Auction does not meet its goal. The Auction Reserve will be used to offset any difference between the Auction budgeted amount and the Auction actual amount.
- The very generous \$50,000 bequest from Bill and Avis Smart is being held in a short term CD until the church leadership and congregation decide how to best use this gift.

The current fiscal year has again been strong through the first 9 months. As long as we continue to have the timely payment of 2013/2014 church year annual pledges, I project that we will once again end the year with our income over our expenses.

Many thanks to Hannah Piazza, Charlie Everett (assistant treasurer), and Debbie Kirby (bookkeeper) for all their help throughout the year.

Submitted by Terry Walsh, Treasurer

Community Affiliated Minister

After relocating to Charleston with my husband from the Washington DC/Baltimore area, I was excited to find such a vibrant congregation and a welcoming colleague in Reverend Danny Reed at The Unitarian Church in Charleston (UCC). It has been a joy and an honor to serve as your Affiliated Community Minister.

My primary employment is currently outside the church as the chaplain at the Hollings Cancer Center at the Medical University of South Carolina. Since starting at Hollings last October, I have established a chaplaincy program in this outpatient setting to serve both patients and staff. I am privileged to provide pastoral support to patients during their chemotherapy treatments and to respond to patient needs in the clinics. I also conducted a service of remembrance for staff in memory of patients who died and a blessing of the hands ceremony honoring the work of the staff.

At church, as part of my covenant with UCC this year for voluntary work, I preached a sermon in November, assisted in worship services once a month, and taught an adult education class on the book *A House for Hope*. I was also invited by the Worship Committee to preach again in May and July. I am grateful to UUC for providing me a wonderful Committee on Community Ministry, which offers me support and guidance and processes the annual evaluations required by the Unitarian Universalist Association during my first three years of ministry.

As part of my denominational activities I attended a first year minister's conference in Boston where I connected with other new ministers. I also was invited by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the Unitarian Universalist Association to participate in conducting final interviews for ministerial candidates in Boston in March.

The best part of this year has been getting to know members of the congregation through my participation in the choir, the Charleston Area Justice Ministry, and all the other wonderful events going on at our church. I am looking forward to further deepening my relationships with all of you.

Respectfully submitted by Rev. Nancy Pellegrini, Community Affiliated Minister

Archives

The mission of the Archives Committee is to preserve the history of the church and educate the congregation and community about its heritage. To foster the institutional memory of the Unitarian Church in Charleston, the Archives Committee collects and catalogs materials pertaining to the church and maintains the files and objects entrusted to its care. The Archives Committee assists those who wish to access its files and materials for historical research.

The newly energized Archives Committee initiated a re-organization by rewriting its mission statement and by beginning work on a policy manual. We are defining which materials are and are not appropriate for our archives. We also inventorying our collections and are in the process of deciding which objects, framed pictures, and books should be kept. We visited our archives at the South Carolina Historical Society and consulted with the Director of Archives and Research on the transfer of the SCHS collection to the Addlestone Library at the College of Charleston. We have also consulted with experts on archives and books on how to handle our vintage texts. In addition, we are investigating what is involved in digitizing our archives for publication on-line.

In the coming year we expect to continue work on our current projects. For the policy manual, we are working particularly on a Retention Policy that will assure the addition of appropriate documents to our collection. In our library, we will be stabilizing and possibly restoring some of our old books. We plan to get involved with the digitization of the portion of our archives currently residing with the SCHS. We intend to begin producing displays of books and objects for the enjoyment and education of the congregation. Our biggest job, however, is filing a large back-log of documents.

Members: Gail Schiffer (Co-chair), Susan Robinson (Co-chair), Paul Garbarini, Mary Ann Hughston, and Rose-Marie Williams. Billie Hall and Rosemary Hutto are honorary members.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Schiffer

Churchyard

Mission: The mission of the Churchyard committee is to be good stewards of gravesites, plantings, pathways and grounds of the church. The committee pledges to maintain the beauty, character and safety of the churchyard while holding the utmost respect for those who rest therein.

During this past year the churchyard committee oversaw the completion of several major projects that were funded by money from Betty Fullarton's bequest for churchyard capital improvements. The following is a brief listing of these projects:

- 1) Laying new brick pathway from Gage Hall to the front area of church sanctuary.

- 2) Relaying and mortaring existing bricks leading from the handicapped entrance off Archdale Street.
- 3) Installing low voltage lights for brick pathway.
- 4) Trimming trees as well as removal of several large trees.
- 5) Adding lattice work for the south wall of Gateway Walk.

All these projects involved outside contractors with John Meffert and Bob Jontos assuming major roles in researching options, securing multiple bids, and overseeing project completion. In addition, Alan Moore, the church's "electrician in residence," was an invaluable resource throughout the year.

The Churchyard Committee regularly meets at 5:30 P.M. on the second Monday of each month. Several members deserve special recognition for their contribution to the ongoing work of the committee: Fran Ennis who serves as the committee's recording secretary, Laura Moses who facilitates committee e-mail correspondence and Cris Sumpter who maintains quotations on church's Wayside Pulpit (a UU bulletin board that is located near the entrance to Gateway Walk on King Street.)

Monthly work parties, whose members are called Eden Keepers, are held on the first Saturday of each month. The following is a list of Eden Keepers who worked in the churchyard during this past year from May 2013 through April 2014 (*with apologies to anyone whose name may have been omitted*): Stan Boyer*, Marc Brodeur, Alexandria Brodeur, Emilie Carey, Mary Cote', Ruby Cooper, Sarah Cothran*, Karen Del Porto*, Suzi DeMerell*, Krystina Deren*, Fran Ennis*, Marguerite Gregory, Johanthan Hand (a visitor from Chicago), Tom Hartry*, Stan Hunton*, Tommy Hughston*, Bob Jontos*, Pat Jontos, John Klintworth, John Meffert*, Richard Moss, Laura Moses*, Sally Preston, Sharon Stone, Ed Stephens, Cris Sumpter*, Karen Young, Charles Young and Shea Winterberger. Members of the Churchyard Committee are denoted by*

Respectfully submitted by Stan Boyer

Communications Committee

Communications Team Mission Statement: *The mission of the Communications Team is to support our UUA principles and the Unitarian Church in Charleston's Mission and Vision by fostering effective, proactive communications systems within the church.*

The Communications Committee guides in the selection and utilization of the church's communication tools. The primary responsibility of the Committee is to provide information of interest and value to our Congregational members and to provide vehicles of communication for the Congregation. The Communications Committee strives to strengthen awareness of the Church's programs and activities and supports The Church's goals and objectives. The Communications Committee works on the many facets of communications in the Church:

- Web Page
- Facebook
- Twitter
- Pod Casts
- Weekly Emails
- Church Bulletin
- Gateway

In 2013-2014 the Communications Team has brought wireless to the Sanctuary, increased emphasis on the Web Page as outsiders introduction to Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Church in Charleston, broadened its use of “Facebook”, revamp the weekly “Email Blast”, increased emphasis on the electronic Gateway. The Communications Team has started the upgrade of the Web Page as a primary tool for communication to both the Congregation and visitors and prospective members of our church. Special thanks goes out to our Church Administrator, Hannah Piazza, the Church Administrator, who has done an excellent job upgrading the Gateway and the weekly email blasts to the congregation, and Amanda Byfield, who is heading the upgraded web page project.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Hayes

Connecting Circles

Steering Committee: Linda Maxwell Allen and Maureen Porter

The mission of Connecting Circles is to provide small group ministry to our congregation. Connecting Circles meet monthly in the homes of members to discuss spiritual topics, share life experiences and get to know one another in a meaningful way. The steering committee is responsible for monitoring the overall functioning of the program by training group leaders and promoting the program to the congregation.

Twelve (12) Connecting Circles meet every month in our congregation; 10 of these are ongoing and 2 new groups were formed during the past year, one in Mt. Pleasant and another in West Ashley. This year, contact information for the membership of each group has been updated and a single document has been created so that this information can be easily accessed.

The Connecting Circles program has been promoted by the steering committee and the Membership Coordinator during each of the three Pathways class sessions held this church year. As a result, the West Ashley group was formed by and for new church members and there are 10 new members who have expressed interest in joining a Connecting Circle. We are working to place them in existing groups (3 existing groups are open to new members) or form new groups.

The steering committee has plans to promote awareness and expand the number of groups by holding a forum and an Open House after services next fall. The committee will continue to work closely with the Membership Coordinator to introduce the program to new members.

Respectfully submitted by Maureen Porter & Linda Maxwell Allen

Denominational Affairs

Unitarian Church in Charleston's Denominational Affairs Committee seeks to enrich congregational life at our church and promote the strength of Unitarian Universalism by:

- Promoting awareness of the larger UU faith community by communicating to the Congregation the programs sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), the Southern Region, Southeast District (SED) and the Southern Cluster of SED UU Churches.
- Encouraging and promoting our financial and member support to the UUA and District -- UCC continues to be a Fair Share Congregation, paying full dues to both the District and the UUA.
- Encouraging support of and participation in denominational activities
- Staying connected with the larger UU faith community.

Your Denominational Affairs Committee in 2013/2014 has concentrated on three goals:

- Support to the Southern Cluster of UU Churches within the Southeast District, Our Congregation strongly supported the Southern Cluster meeting g Southern Cluster Fall Stewardship Conference held on September 14, 2013 at the UU Fellowship of Beaufort It was an extremely successful conference on Church Finance and Stewardship.
- Keeping the congregation up to date on the activities of the UUA, Southern Region, Southeast District, and Southern Cluster.
- Emphasized attending General Assembly, especially Vestry, Committee Chairs, and Professional staff.

The Committee keeps the UCC informed and up to date on UUA, Southern Region, and Southeast District activities, programs, and support through a strong presence on the church website, and continuing articles in the Gateway.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Hayes

Denominational Affairs--Romanian Partner Church

We work through the Unitarian Universalist Partner Church Council (UUPCC) to provide scholarships to students from Küküllődombó that want to attend a Unitarian boarding high

school in Cluj. Our first four-year student, Balázs Bényi (pronounced Baa lazh Ben yee), graduated in 2013.

The program costs \$600, plus another \$200 in administrative costs, for a total of \$800 a year to our church for a student to attend the boarding school, and we commit in four-year increments in order to sponsor a student through high school. There were no applicants from Küküllődombó this year, but Vestry voted to allow the funds to go to a Unitarian student from another village in Romania.

Our new student, Anna Andrea Kiss, starts high school in September 2014. She was born in 1999 in Berkeley, CA, and now lives in Marosvásárhely (Transylvania) with her mother, Matild, and her brother, Laszlo Attila. They moved there in 2006 when her father died. She is 14-years old, currently attending an art school in Marosvásárhely. She loves to draw and to paint, and her hobbies are dancing and photography. She likes people who are unique and unusual, and has two best friends.

Three new people are now interested in this committee: Kevin Eakes, Joe Krause, and David Ruef. This year, our community minister, Nancy Bird Pelligrini exchanged Easter greetings from the pulpit with Rev. Peterfi Sandor in Küküllődombó. New ways to connect will be examined in 2014-15 church year.

Respectfully submitted by Hillary Hutchinson

Finance

Committee Members: Paige Wisotski, Stuart Terry, Richard Hayes (Chair), Terry Walsh (Treasurer), Charles Everett, John Newell (Vestry Liason)

The financial status of the congregation is outstanding. Details of the budget and cash flow are presented monthly to the Vestry. The proposed budget for 2014-2015 was submitted to the Vestry for consideration at the annual meeting. It included 3% raises for staff, paying for a 10 hour/week Membership Coordinator, and support for coordinators of the summer services. For the second year in a row the Operating Budget includes no funds from the Endowment. As is the policy, 2-5% of the Endowment is used for special projects each year to help achieve the Church's goals (Four Bold Steps). Steve Simon and Ren Manning ran a fantastic effort Pledge Drive. Thank you to both!

Stuart Terry continues to oversee the parking contract and Planned Giving. Planned Giving had a very successful year because of the outstanding job Stuart and his team has done on educating the Congregation of the benefits of "planned giving" to the Church in their wills. Stuart has done a great job renegotiating the parking contract this.

Terry Walsh gets our highest praise and thanks as our Church Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Hayes

Fine Arts

Committee: Joanna Innes and Amy Ball, co-chairs; Jack Hurley, Cisco Lindsey, Myrtle Staples, Tobias Van Buren.

Mission Statement: The Fine Arts Committee displays the art work of UU members and friends as well as others via invitation, knowing that fine art is an important cultural product of any community, which deserves to be viewed and to be purchased.

Accomplishments:

1. Conducted seven art shows
 - Fall Show I: Lillian Trettin Solo Show: Art Opening at the Coffee House
 - Candlelight Concert/Art Show: Franke at Seaside Retirement Center Artists
 - Children's Art Show: Art Workshop with Janet Watts and Cisco Lindsey
 - Candlelight Concert/Art Show: Photo-art by Trudy Muegel
 - Winter Show II: Works from Private Collections (members and friends)
 - Candlelight Concert/Art Show: Members' and Friends' Art Show
 - Children's Art Show: Art Workshop with Janet Watts and Cisco Lindsey
 - Summer Show (TBD)
2. The back entrance of Gage Hall Mini-Gallery features works by Cisco Lindsey and Friends.
3. Worked cooperatively with the Music Committee to present three benefit concerts/art shows that brought in \$1500 for the James Simons Elementary School's music program.
4. Cisco Lindsey prepared a group tour at the Gibbes' Museum of Art in March as part of the church's Annual Auction.
5. Joanna Innes will continue to chair, and Amy Ball will co-chair for the next year.

Review of the year's work:

All of the art shows were successful. The show featuring works from members and friends' private collections continues to be a favorite. It increases the opportunity for more participation.

Plans for the new year include continuing some of the same kinds of shows:

1. Continue to show the work of guest artists (mostly Cisco Lindsey's contacts).
2. One show for the work of our own members.
3. Private Collection Show
4. Invitational Shows that include C of C students. Cisco will contact Mark Sloan.
5. Solo Shows
6. Conduct a gallery tour or another Gibbes Tour as part of the Annual Auction.
7. Children's Shows based on Art Workshops conducted by Janet Watts and Cisco Lindsey

Respectfully submitted by Joanna Innes

Landmark/Buildings & Grounds

Mission – To maintain the Sanctuary, Gage Hall, Annex and grounds of THE UNITARIAN CHURCH IN CHARLESTON, and keep them 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.

Goals – Start the process for HVAC in Sanctuary, by hiring an Engineering company. Gage Hall has many issues needing repairs; bathroom update, hallway plaster work, Danny's office ceiling plaster work needed, painting back metal stairs, and replacing the upstairs railings on the porch. New sound system for Sanctuary.

Goal Achievements – Whole Building Systems (Dennis Knight) has been hired to start the process of estimating the cost of HVAC for the Sanctuary. Renovate Gage Hall upstairs bathroom. Paint exterior Gage Hall back metal stairs. Purchase and install new sound system in Sanctuary. New exterior lights are installed for night time services and events. New sound system is in place and the Sanctuary is wi fi ready.

Projects underway – Thanks to Paul Garbarini's hard work, the new parking signs for the church parking lot are in process. Painting the back doors of Sanctuary and non-skid varnish being added to handicap ramp will begin soon. Exterior lighting along the parking lot brick wall will be installed soon by Alan Moore.

Unexpected Repairs – Replaced the HVAC unit for the apartment.

Concerns/Goals for next year – Continuing upgrades for Gage Hall such as repair damaged plaster ceiling in Danny's office and along the hallway. Replacing the exterior railing on the porch of Gage Hall. Front doors on Gage Hall need refinishing again. Sexton will replace the locks along the church yard and church gates. Paint the nursery. A plan has been put together for a new door going from the church yard into Gage Hall by the bathrooms. This idea will be pass on to the Program Council once estimates are submitted. Need gravel added to parking lot in the low areas.

Co-Chair Update: Paul Gabarini has graciously offered to be our Co-Chair, and Alan Moore has offered to be our Secretary.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Updike

Membership

Mission Statement: The mission of the Membership Committee is to welcome visitors and to facilitate their integration into the life of the Congregation.

Committee Members: Claudia Updike, Chair; Susan Hartry and Ren Manning, Co-Chairs; Maureen Porter, Will Moredock, Kris Rife, George Castano, Marcia Castano, Ruby Cooper, Marjorie Beecher, Rhoda Sterling, Betty Rosenberg, Lisa Dunlevy.

Activities, Accomplishments, and Transitions:

- We held 3 meetings: August 2013 BBQ, November 2013, and March 2014.
- We held 3 sessions of Pathways Classes (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, and a 2nd Spring 2014) and welcomed over 50 new members.
- New Member Potlucks were held for the first 2 classes at Reverend Danny's home; a large all-inclusive potluck will be held on May 2nd in Gage Hall.
- We have held 3 New Member Ceremonies.
- We have been transitioning since last July 2013, when Carol Oates joined us as the new UU Membership Coordinator. After many meetings and much soul-searching, we decided the roles we should all take in the Pathways Classes. Carol Oates will organize the Pathways Class, contact the participants, and gather Mentors. The Membership Committee Chairs will assist Carol with the Registration, and also run the Hospitality part of Pathways, which includes lunch, set-up, and clean-up.
- We welcome new members Betty Rosenberg, Rhoda Sterling, and Lisa Dunlevy.

Respectfully Submitted By Claudia Updike

Music

Members: Richard Nelson, Chair; Johanna Evenson, Music Director; Dee Boggan, Cathie Currin, Susan Findlay, Frank Hardie, Claire Law, Sally Newell, Myrtle Staples

Mission Statement: The Music Committee supports the Music Director and attends the business of the Music Program, including the budget, care of the musical instruments and hymnals, and encouragement of all musicians, especially RE youth through the Martha Welch Music Scholarship. The committee also channels communication from the congregation to the Music Director.

Accomplishments for the 2013-14 year:

1. Organized three Candlelight Concerts (in conjunction with the Fine Arts Committee)
 - a. Chamber Music Charleston, November 1
 - b. Saxophone Fantasies, January 31
 - c. Legends of the Celtic Harp, April 4
2. Along with members of the choir, provided food and served various function for the receptions/art opening in Gage Hall after the Candlelight Concerts.
3. Held auditions for the \$500 Martha Welch Music Scholarship on April 3
 - a. The committee hired an outside judge, Andrea Kemper.
 - b. There were four candidates. Jenna Farnham, violin, was selected as the winner.
4. Recommended hiring Amy Ball as Summer Music Coordinator

Observations:

The Candlelight Concerts were successful in that the performances were excellent and well-received by those who attended. However, committee members have expressed some concerns.

1. We do not appear to be attracting an audience outside of the church community. We need to find additional ways to publicize the concerts.
2. Net proceeds from the concerts, which are donated to the James Simons Elementary School music program are now diminished due to discontinuance of funds from Pig Card sales, which were used to compensate the performers.

As chair, I extend my thanks to the committee for their work this year and to our first-year Music Director, Johanna Evenson, who has delighted the congregation with a wide variety of musical styles and instrumentalists and continues to work wonders with both the Chalice and Chancel Choirs.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Nelson

Personnel

This has been a busy and successful year for staff development and change. It continues to be a pleasure to serve with excellent staff and volunteer leaders!

Last summer, our Sexton Search Committee pursued a successful process to recruit and engage Joe McCormack to fill this critical position.

Johanna Evenson became Music Director upon the departure of Lin Raymond in July 2013. This has been a smooth transition and we continue to be inspired by the musical offerings under Johanna's leadership.

Our ability to hire Carol Oates as Membership Coordinator on a trial basis has been such a gift. Carol researched and developed the possibilities for this position in addition to "showing up" (as she says) in grand style. We are thrilled to be able to extend the position with expanded hours for 2014-15.

We also welcomed Nancy Pellegrini as our Community Minister. Nancy brings a wealth of diverse professional and life experience and we are very lucky to have her with us.

Janet Watts continues to be a steady guiding force for coordinating Religious Education for children, youth and adults. We have also benefitted from Tyler Ray's contributions as a youth leader and RE program contributor. We say goodbye to Tyler this month as he departs for a world tour, wishing him safe and enriching travels!

Hannah Piazza has continued to perform and develop her central role serving staff, volunteers and members, while at the same time finishing her degree at the College of Charleston.

Now is Hannah's time to spread her wings and move into her future. We will say goodbye to Hannah in July with gratitude for her flexibility, competence and dedication to the church. Our search for a new Administrator is on, being lead by Karen Abrams. We are mindful of opportunities to enhance communications and support for Danny as we all continue to define what it means to be a "program church."

As Chair of Personnel, I always appreciate working with Danny and committee members Tony Brown, Nancy Waters, and Bill Finn. We continue to be fortunate in all our Personnel matters, including attracting, integrating and keeping fabulous staff.

Respectfully submitted by Betsy Grund

Service Auction

Committee: Co-Chairs Lisa Hajjar and Susan Garrison; Terry Walsh, Nancy Simpson, Ellie Setser, Susan Conant, Fran Ennis, Gail Schiffer, Prudence Finn, Claudia Updike, Ron Updike, Jonathan Lamb, Anita Harrison, Nancy Carnell, Michael Carnell, Michele Faliero.

Purpose: The function of the Service Auction Committee is to plan, organize, advertise, and run the church's annual Service Auction to raise operating funds for the church. The success of the auction is highly dependent on the congregation's participation in donating items and services to be offered at the auction and in attending the auction and bidding on these donated offerings. The auction is also viewed as a social event and a fun way to give back to the church by all who participate. Therefore, it is a critical function of the committee to make the auction an enjoyable evening, by providing good food, drinks, atmosphere, and a desirable number and variety of offerings for both the silent and the live auctions, and to meet the finance committee's set goal for the operating budget.

Accomplishments:

- **One Auction/Two Events.** This was the second year in which the Silent and Live auctions were held on separate weekends and different locations. The Silent Auction was held on the first Sunday in November right after the church service at the Charleston Day School Cafeteria and was well attended. Food was served from tables located outside of the school entrance and included a variety of healthy finger foods and snacks similar to what church members have grown accustomed to having after church in Gage Hall. This was a lot of work and food was quickly consumed. The Live Auction was held the evening of the second Saturday in November at Gage Hall and was also well attended. We were again grateful for our auctioneer, Fred Skipper, who has run our live auction for many years and grateful for the many other volunteers who assisted with these events.
- **Exceeded Finance Committee budget expectations.** The earnings from the 2013 auction smashed the previous year's record by about \$10,000. **The net income for the November 2013 auction was just over \$33,000.** Some events still have spaces available

and this amount could increase. Bidding got so competitive that some events did not sell out.

- **Upcoming Challenges.**

- Strike a balance between making as much money as possible and keeping live auction bidding in balance with item value and reasonable affordability. We do not want to turn people off from attending due to excessively high bidding on the dinners, for example. We should rely on the expertise of our auctioneer to reign in the bidding if needed and to let it go when warranted.
- Maintain a variety of purchasing options for social/food events, including live bidding and fixed price, so there is something for everybody; advertise available items online earlier.
- Purchase new, updated auction software and streamline data entry process between office staff and committee.
- Last but not least is the need to find a new co-chair for the committee to replace Lisa as she has served in this capacity for three years. If no one on the committee steps up to serve as co-chair with Susan Garrison, then volunteers from the congregation will be solicited. The committee as a whole functions very well, but needs someone to oversee, organize and guide the process.

Respectfully submitted by Lisa Hajjar

Social Justice

The committee serves as an umbrella group that provides coordination and communication with the Unitarian Church in Charleston congregation, Social Justice Committee members and the greater Charleston community. Our main focus has been to address issues related to social justice and social responsibility at the local and state level. Most of the outreach and in reach activities are done by sub-committees/action groups who meet as necessary to meet their objectives.

The Social Justice Committee meets three times a year: October, January and May. Minutes are available upon request.

Social Justice Committee Leadership: Suanne Ansari, Co-Chair; Dimitri Chernyshov, Co-Chair; Cathie Currin, Secretary (until April 2014); Kris Rife, Secretary Pro Tem; Diane Narkunas, Past Chair; Richard Hayes, Webmaster; Nina Fair, Vestry Liaison .

Committee Highlights:

- Third Social Justice Sunday – September 2013.
- Please see the Subcommittee reports below; each has achieved goals worthy of highlighting.

Respectfully submitted by Suanne Ansari

SOCIAL JUSTICE ENDOWMENT FUND

The Social Justice Endowment Fund currently has \$4,800 available to support social justice activities. The Social Justice Committee voted at its fall meeting to make an award in that amount to a local non-profit organization. A total of 12 organizations were nominated by members of the congregation. Application packets have been sent to the organizations requesting that they submit a proposal for utilizing the available funds. The proposals are due in May and will be reviewed by a panel of three church members. The applicants have been requested to address certain criteria in their applications which will be scored by the review panel with the award made to the highest-scoring applicant. The award is expected to be made by May 30, 2014.

ADVOCACY

The Social Justice Committee supports those who wish to improve their capacity to advocate for social justice issues locally and at state and federal levels. The Committee leadership is exploring the goals of this subcommittee moving forward. In the meantime, the subcommittees have actively advocated for social justice issues by:

- Participation in the Emancipation Day Parade January 1
- Participation in the Gay Pride Parade in the August in Charleston
- Active involvement in the CAJM activities, including the Rally on April, 2014 and the Assembly on April 29 attended by over 2,000 network members and invited guests, and public leaders and officials.

CHARLESTON AREA JUSTICE MINISTRY (CAJM) ANNUAL REPORT

CAJM Leadership Team: Danny Reed, Minister; Team Leaders: Diane Boyer, Frank Hardie, Suzanne Hardie, Richard Hayes, Joanna Innes/George Tempel and Bill Thomas and Diane Narkunas, who is also CAJM UU Coordinator. Suzanne Hardie also serves as a special consultant to CAJM. There are approximately 90 UUs who have signed up to be CAJM Network Members.

The second year of CAJM was very active during 2013 – 2014. The following are highlights:

- September/October, 2013 -Three house meetings were held during September, as well as a CAJM Potluck on October 4 in Gage Hall. Approximately 40 people participated in the process which promotes individuals to have input into selection for our 2014 justice projects. This input is put forward to CAJM.

- October 28 – 46 UUs gathered at St. Matthews Baptist Church Community Problems Assembly as one of 20 congregations meeting to select this year’s priority justice issues. Education was selected as related Unemployment
- CAJM received half of a \$65,000 grant from SC Catholic Diocese for Human Development. The remainder of the grant will be awarded June 2014.
- Diane Narkunas was appointed to serve on the Education Steering Committee for 2013-2014. Suzanne Hardie, a member of the 2012-2013 Education Steering Committee acts as liaison to the current committee.
- December 3, CAJM held its Research to Action Kickoff at Grace Episcopal Church. Approximately, 150 people attended this meeting; 20 UUs were in attendance.
- January 16, the CAJM Education Meeting identified a target group that suffers from a unemployment, young adults ages 16-24 year olds. These young adults have a 25% unemployment rate in Charleston County; young African Americans have a 39% unemployment rate.
- January also included expansion of the Charleston County Child Development Programs targeting 4 year old Title I children. Ten more classes of 20 preschoolers were added to the five classes which were put in place September 2013.
- In January 2014, Kayla Gilchrist was hired as a full time assistant community organizer. Kayla was born and raised in MN, and comes to us from CA, where she received a Masters Degree.
- March 7, a potluck was held in Gage Hall. Sixty UUs attended the dinner. Reverend Nelson Rivers provided a motivational speech urging those present to support justice in the Charleston area. Updates from the Education Committee and Crime and Violence Committee research were shared.
- April 7 Rally at St Matthews Baptist Church was held to encourage participation in the April 29 Nehemiah Action Assembly. The clergy provided inspiration and motivation to attend the action. Also, there were presentations of selected projects for upcoming year: 1) the use of education/training to reduce the 25% unemployment rate of young adults, and 2) the use of best practices of in-school discipline, rather than youth arrests and incarceration for non-violent offenses.
- **Understanding the two CAJM Justice Issues**

1. Education Committee Issue: Unemployment from an education perspective

In Charleston County unemployment has dropped to around 6%, yet young adults, ages 16-24 face an unemployment rate of over 25%. That number goes up to 37% for young African Americans. People with disabilities are not included in the unemployment statistics. Over 7,500 young adults in our county would like to be employed, but are unable to secure employment. SCWORKS, Trident United Way, College of Charleston and Trident Technical School shared that many young adults lack the basic skilled of English and math needed to be hired, or that they lack interpersonal or technical skills needed for jobs available.

South Carolina loses \$409 in state tax revenue every year for each unemployed 18 to 24 year old. Over 3 million dollars is lost in state tax revenue. With all of the costs

associated with being unemployed, each South Carolinian pays and extra \$59 in taxes. Our research has shown that although young adults are our largest unemployed population, many of our local agencies only work with small numbers from that age group. Also, many job training programs do not include direct placements in jobs for individuals after they have been trained, or receive certification.

Many young adults in this age group are seeking employment for the very first time and are having great difficulty. Getting that first job can be a springboard for future employment and success in life. With that first working experience come lifelong lessons that can be applied to their next job. Many of us have learned the value of working hard, showing up on time, and how to successfully interact with a diverse group of people. That first working experience is critical to moving young adults up the employment ladder. Without employment, they face a life of poverty, lack of self-confidence and are powerless to change their circumstances.

2. Crime & Violence Committee Issue: Reduce Incarceration of Children in Charleston County

This year's research shows that a very high percentage of incarcerations are coming from schools. We are concerned that excessive use of referrals from schools for punishment, zero tolerance policies, SRO's (School Resource Officers) who must act on any crime they see, and the complex system of Juvenile Justice with no overall owner, is producing double punishment for children, as well as feeding the pipeline from school to prison. To further reduce incarceration of children, we are now conducting research meeting with educators whose responsibilities are showing very good results, as well as very poor results, to find 'proven best practices.' Standing up for Justice is needed to bring more balance to the Charleston area.

April 29, Nehemiah Action Assembly, North Charleston Performing Arts Center. There were 1,627 CAJM members and friends that attended the Action Assembly; approximately 273 submitted Unitarian church tickets. Public officials attending included: Mayor Joseph P. Riley, City of Charleston, Dr. Nancy McGinley, Superintendent of Schools, Charleston County and members of the Charleston County School Board: Craig Ascue, Todd Garrett, Michael Miller, Rev. Chris Collins and Elizabeth Moffley. Rev. Henry Darby, Charleston County Council.

There was a gospel choir and great enthusiasm at the assembly. Members of the CAJM Clergy spoke with eloquence about the CAJM mission and the rules for the process at the Action Assembly.

Four questions requiring a 'yes' or 'no' answer was asked of Mayor Riley. He answered yes to three questions related to improving employment through education/training by agreeing to work with CAJM and a group of stakeholders to write a hiring policy for publicly funded projects that targets entry level work for unemployed young adults, 16 to 24 years old. This included a timeline and marketing/communication connecting job

training agencies, informing and connecting the unemployed young adults to newly created job opportunities. He answered 'no' to agreeing to the goal of 25% of all entry level work hours to be completed by local young adults.

CAJM's research raised concerns about the large number of suspensions in Charleston County School District. The four questions posed to Dr. McGinley addressed the large number of suspensions and detentions for students. The questions addressed best practices that would train school district staff in Positive Behavior Intervention and Support (PBIS), enhancement of reporting, the audit of ten schools with highest rates of suspensions, and overall strengthening of PBIS Implementation through pilots in 5 schools that would help move the schools toward lowering their rates of suspensions through changes of behavior that benefits children. The results were that Dr. McGinley supported all requests except for piloting implementation of Restorative Justice in 5 pilot schools. Dr. McGinley stated that there are many version of the Restorative Justice Model and she was not comfortable committing to doing this. She did say she would work with 2 schools to pilot implementation of decided upon Restorative Justice Model. All School Board Members committed to supporting Dr. McGinley.

There were strong feelings expressed by the audience that Mayor Riley and Dr. McGinley were treated with disrespect. The questioners were perceived as rude and in some instances, badgering the public officials. CAJM UUs have shared their concerns and feelings with Danny Reid and CAJM UU Team Leaders, which will be shared with CAJM leadership with recommendations for some changes in CAJM procedures.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Narkunas

COFFEE HOUSE CONCERT FUNDRAISING/ MITCHELL SCHOOL PROGRAMS

Promotes educational equity for children living in poverty in the Charleston Tri-County area. Funds generated through monthly Gage Hall Coffee Houses are used for academic enrichment activities at Mitchell School. Enrichment activities include enhanced math and science as well as field trips for children in grades K-6.

Coffee House leaders: Mark Farnham and Bill Morris; Mitchell School: John Narkunas

Accomplishments:

Coffee House funds continue to support student enrichment activities at the Mitchell Math and Science Elementary School in Charleston.

- Funds earned from six concerts September 2013 through March 2014- \$4,013).
- Funds that went out to Mitchell School for enrichment activities and related Coffee House expenses- \$2,478 – (More invoices expected in May). A total of \$6,000 was budgeted for the school year.

- Net amount in revolving account that will carry over to next year- \$5,380 as of April 25, 2014.
- Over 250 students participated in the program this year in grades K through 6.
- Students were involved in science-based field trips to such places as the Children's Museum, Magnolia Gardens, Legare Farms, Middleton Plantation, Cypress Gardens, Patriots Point, and the College of Charleston Hollings Science Center.
- After school science programs were conducted using the Mad Science curriculum at the Mitchell School.
- Funds were used to pay for fees and transportation costs associated with the program.
- Members of the congregation participated in this program as chaperones on trips.
- Several school dates were cancelled this year and that greatly affected the number of field trips conducted as teachers were attempting to catch up with classroom activities.
- Some of the student activities this year as described by Ellen Mintz, Magnet Coordinator at the Mitchell School include the following:
 - Kindergarten students (49) were studying properties of matter. The specific materials in the standards are wood, paper, metal and fabric. A trip to Home Depot where the management arranged for department heads to show different woods and metals. They discussed the differences and uses for each. They also discussed their careers and skills needed to effectively do their jobs.
 - First graders (45) were studying balance and motion. They went to the Children's Museum of Charleston. At the museum there is a series of ramps that are used to illustrate how higher ramps result in balls moving faster and farther. Afterwards we had a person from the State STEM2 program come and help our first graders build roller coasters to apply what they learned.
 - Our second graders (47) were studying simple physical changes in matter and simple mixtures. We arranged a trip to Yogurt Mountain. The manager explained to the students how these concepts were important in making the product they sell. She showed the ingredients used and demonstrated how they were combined to create the yogurt. They were given the opportunity to select ingredients to mix into their yogurt to make mixtures.
 - We have really begun to focus on the career aspects of the science they are studying as we move to a STEM curriculum. Our new four year old classes are also beginning to incorporate science and problem solving into their curriculum. We are hoping to include them in our field trip program next year. Hopefully we will be able to spread the money a little further to include them. We know we will be under budget this year because the weather has affected our program for the current school year.
 - We are bringing the Star Lab to Mitchell for our fourth graders study of Astronomy. They and the sixth graders will also be taking a trip to support their study of weather.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH GIVING

Subcommittee Members: Myrtle Staples, Suzanne Hardie, Kay Haun, JoAnn Simson

The Social Justice Committee, Community Outreach Giving Project will go on hiatus for 2014-2015 church year due to low interest reflected by very few nominations of non-profit organizations that support disadvantaged people in the Charleston. Our focus for spring 2014

will be donations for the Charleston Area Justice Ministry (CAJM) for the spring campaign – March 1-June 15. CAJM addresses systemic problems of people in need, rather than individual projects.

The Community Outreach Giving Project was launched the fall of 2007. There were members of the congregation who had concerns about charitable giving interfering with our collection for church operation, but that did not happen. Over the past six years we successfully funded projects in the Charleston area totaling over \$62,000 due to the generosity of our church community. Thank you for your support. Also, thanks to church members who championed this project to get it underway, those who nominated non-profit organizations, and those who participated in the transparent approach to select the projects through nominated projects' submission of mini-grants.

The following is a listing of the organizations we supported beginning in 2007: Alston Wilkes Society, skill building for ex-offenders to get jobs, \$5,000; Sea Island Habitat for Humanity – Women Build, paid for foundation for one home for a single mom & children, \$5,000; Carolina Youth Development Center, summer reading program in partnership with Charleston County Schools for disadvantaged children \$5,000; The Clemente Course, college level humanities course targeting homeless people, (2008) \$4,325 & (2013) \$4,682; Florence Crittenton Programs of South Carolina, counseling for pregnant teen mothers, \$5,000; Lowcountry Food Bank: Backpack Buddies, paying for healthy food that underprivileged children take home for nourishment on weekends, \$5,000; Our Lady of Mercy Literacy Program for migrant worker's pre-school children, \$5,000; South Carolina Strong, residential home for skill building and development of social skills for ex-offenders to prepare for jobs, \$5,000; BEGIN WITH BOOKS, pre-school literacy program for children in rural areas, \$4,000; Darkness to Light, sexual abuse prevention and support of children, \$5,000; My Sister's House, supports & houses victims of domestic violence, \$5,000; Metanoia After School Program for elementary school children, \$5,000 and The Clemente Course, college level humanities course targeting homeless and disadvantaged people in the Charleston community, \$4,682.

Fall 2013 Community Outreach Giving Project: The Clemente Course

The Charleston Clemente Course was awarded \$4,682 for books/supplies for 60 students and 48 bus passes. The course is a free of charge, college level humanities course offered to homeless and disadvantaged people in the Charleston community in the hope that a study of the humanities can help them escape the cycle of poverty. The program, offered through Trident Technical College, Charleston, serves as a catalyst for personal, community and economic development by empowering individuals through education and training. It is now in its eighth year.

The purpose is to empower individuals through education to open up new ways of thinking about their own potential. In Charleston, 65% of the students complete the course and significant numbers enroll in additional college courses and pursue degrees. This course is held in the fall

and spring semesters. Approximately 30 students each semester take The Clemente Course at Trident Technical College's Palmer Campus

COMMUNITY OUTREACH VOLUNTEERING COMMITTEE,

Cathie Currin, Subcommittee Chair until April 2014; Kris Rife, Subcommittee Chair April 2014-2015.

Our primary project continues to be the Backpack Buddy Program at the Low Country Food Bank. This year, our volunteers have packed 4500 bags of food for low-income children who usually get their lunches at school. The bags are put in the children's backpacks on Friday so that they will have food for the weekend. Approximately one hundred and eighty hours of volunteer time have been spent in this worthy cause. We are investigating opportunities for volunteering with other agencies that our congregation has supported through Community Outreach Giving. We bring requests from agencies needing volunteer help to the attention of members of the Social Justice Committee through e-mails and the Gateway.

CRISIS MINISTRIES

The Unitarian Church of Charleston, Social Justice Committee donated \$1,000 to support the needs of the Crisis Ministries Homeless Shelter. This donation came from funds collected for food that was used when we were volunteering as a congregation in the preparation and serving of diners and breakfast every other Wednesday. We have a balance of \$1,604.

The volunteer project is on hold while Crisis Ministries builds a badly needed new building for the homeless. Volunteer activities were halted due to safety concerns during construction. According to Ann Jackson, Dr. of Development at Crisis Ministries, the volunteer projects will resume late fall 2014.

GREEN SANCTUARY COMMITTEE

Green Sanctuary is a subcommittee of the UU Social Justice Committee. Our mission is to lead the church's effort to become more environmentally sustainable through capital improvements, education, and outreach, often in collaboration with other UU committees. Green Sanctuary's mission falls under the seventh UUA principle: "Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part."

Members: Dimitri Chernyshov, Beth Dalton, Erin Demory, Nina Fair, Bill Grayson, Laura Moses (chair), Richard Moss, Sharon Strong, Paul Vanwagenen. The group meets monthly in members' homes.

Objectives:

- Continue to support environmental education with green-themed Sunday forums and services.

Sponsor the Earth Day service each year.

- Continually work to reduce the church's environmental footprint.
- Ensure that everyone who uses Gage Hall is aware of the waste-reduction policies now in place with regard to reusable eating utensils, recycling, and composting.
- Contribute a column to the Gateway in support of environmental education.
- Provide expertise to other church committees, especially those involved with capital improvements, to encourage the church to make environmentally sound decisions.
- Continue to work toward a church that is accessible to alternative transportation. For example, we have installed bike racks near Gage Hall.

- Encourage members to participate in area clean-ups and other activities to green our communities.

- Work with the Religious Education program to support sustainability awareness and activities.

Accomplishments During 2013-14 Church Year:

Earth Day Service (2008 – present) Our guest speaker this year was Chris Carnevale of Charleston Permaculture Guild

Green Forums (2007 – present) Green forums included Nik Rigas on wind energy and Beth Dalton on GMOs.

Green Film Series (2012 - present) Free environmental film series, open to the public, followed by Q&A with local experts relating to the films. Two films were screened at Gage Hall this year, *Fresh* and *Trashed*.

Hungry for Change: Food, Ethics, and Sustainability – a six-session Northwest Earth Institute class offered by GS, open to the congregation, and run by Sharon Strong.

Recycling of e-waste, printer cartridges, batteries and light bulbs (2007 – present)

Vegetarian Potlucks – New event this year, begun January 4. Held bi-monthly at Gage Hall, open to the congregation, organized by Erin Demory.

Gateway articles (2007- present) on green topics of interest submitted by GS members each month.

Beach Sweep and City Sweep (2008 – present) Participation in area clean-ups. This year Richard Moss and Carol Oates cleaned the marsh at Charles Towne Landing.

Recycling bins in Gage Hall – GS members worked with sexton Joe McCormack to purchase and label new recycling bins in Gage Hall.

Sustainability Institute Energy Audit - The cost for an energy audit of Gage Hall and the Annex by Sustainability Institute is \$550. GS is working with Buildings and Grounds on this in conjunction with the sanctuary's heat and air conditioning upgrades.

Budget:

For 2013-14 Green Sanctuary was allocated \$200 by Social Justice in support of the Green Film Series.

For 2014-15, Green Sanctuary requests a budget of \$500 to support public performance rights for the Green Film Series and the cost of the energy audit of Gage Hall and the Annex by Sustainability Institute.

MEDIA REFORM

Since our SJC Annual Report of April, 2013, Media Reform SC has been extremely busy. In the summer and fall our main activity was preparing our application to the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) for a Low Power FM (LPFM) radio license. (LPFM stations provide nonprofit community radio for towns and cities all around the country.)

We were thrilled to learn in February that we have, indeed, been awarded an FCC permit to construct an LPFM station. This has ratcheted us to a much higher level of activity as we address the technical and financial issues necessary to create a truly successful, effective, and enduring community radio station.

We are extremely grateful to the Social Justice Committee – particularly to Laura Morris, Diane Narkunas, and Suanne Ansari – for encouraging, nurturing, and supporting the creation of our group, whose aspirations have grown *way* beyond our original expectations. Our group (still small, but intrepidly ambitious) is now composed of about half UUs and half community members. We expect that we'll continue to grow outward into the Charleston community, particularly as the LPFM station becomes a greater and greater reality. We are already incorporated as a non-profit organization by the state of South Carolina. Once we become a 501(c)(3) we'll be a completely independent, charitable entity.

So this is our last Annual Report to the Social Justice Committee, submitted with great gratitude and love. We will always feel connected to you in our quest for a better democracy.

To summarize activities since last April:

- We were accepted into Prometheus Radio's "Torchbearer" program. As a result we got \$2,000 worth of help from Prometheus for only \$200 (which we raised by contributions from within our group).

- We secured the approval of ILA Local 1442 (International Longshoremen’s Association) to place our radio tower atop their building at 1442 Morrison Drive if the license is approved. (See more on this below.)
- Our first fundraiser was held at Treehouse Productions’ recording studio on October 17. Although we’ve been told we made \$295, to our chagrin we have not been paid.
- We commented to the FCC regarding three matters of local concern:
 - We expressed our disapproval of the fact that two local TV stations (WMMP and WTAT) are both controlled by Sinclair Broadcast Group.
 - When Sinclair announced its intention to buy yet another local TV broadcaster (WCIV), we petitioned the FCC to prevent the sale. (We also published a letter to the editor in the *Post and Courier* about this issue. The letter was quoted in an article in the business section of the paper, mentioned in a blog release by the national media reform organization Free Press, and highlighted in an article on Truthout.org.)
 - We wrote both the FCC and the Department of Justice (DOJ) to express our opposition to the proposed merger of Comcast and Time Warner.
- We began efforts to apply to the IRS for status as a 501(c)(3) organization. This will be absolutely necessary in order to do fundraising and apply for grants to support the LPFM station, which must be up and running within the next 16 months. The \$400 needed to apply for 501(c)(3) was raised from within our dedicated group.
- Several of us visited ILA Hall to explore methods of installing the LPFM antenna there. Finding numerous structural and bureaucratic barriers at that location, we’ve expanded the search for antenna, transmitter, and office locations to other nearby buildings. We’ve identified promising possibilities and are energetically pursuing them.
- We’ve begun planning for governance of the radio station. Planning for programming was part of the FCC license application and, of course, continues.
- We’re planning a large music fund-raiser for the fall. (This effort is spearheaded by our members Lee Barbour and Vikki Matsis, recent SJC Coffee House performers.)
- We created two PowerPoint presentations to offer to interested community groups – one on low power FM and the other on media reform generally.
- We began working with Common Cause in Washington, DC to bring Dr. Michael Copps (formerly, for 11 years, an FCC Commissioner) to Charleston for a series of talks.
- We opened a bank account.
- We held our first corporate Annual Meeting (at which our Treasurer’s Report showed a balance of \$50).
- We continued to update our web site (MRSC.org) and made plans to improve it and make it more user-friendly in the near future.

Respectfully submitted by Faye Steuer

WELCOMING COMMITTEE

Richard Hayes, leader and contact

Activities: Our Welcoming Congregation activities are well integrated with our Church Life. Although I serve as the focal point for Welcoming Congregation Activities in the Social Justice

Committee, we no longer have any formal meetings or members. We all watch to ensure we continue to welcome our LGBTQI brothers and sisters in the church, and concentrate on supporting community activities through strong community organizations like Alliance for Full Acceptance (AFFA) and SC Equality (South Carolina Equality Coalition). The highlights of our year include: Increasing number of LGBTQI members, LGBT discussion in the curriculum of the Our Whole Life (OWL) teen religious education program, a major sponsor of the AFFA Annual Dinner, and our Charleston Pride Parade involvement -- over 50 Church members marching and riding on a float in the 4th Annual Charleston Gay Pride Parade in August 2013.

Respectfully submitted by Richard Hayes

Stewardship

Chairman: Steve Simon

Vice Chairman: Ren Manning

Committee Members: Ellie Setser, Priscilla Shumway, Stan Goldberg

The 2014-2015 Stewardship Committee was formed in the Fall of 2013 and has conducted most of its committee meetings via teleconferencing calls. In addition to the conference calls, the committee has met in person on two occasions.

The committee organized “Dream Card Sunday” on November 10, 2013 for the purpose of ascertaining what priorities, likes and dislikes the members of our congregation wanted to share anonymously prior to the committee structuring its upcoming campaign theme and focus.

“Let’s Dream Together” was chosen as the theme for the 2014-2015 Stewardship Campaign.

The committee organized a Major Donor event at S.C. Strong on January 12, 2014 and Pledge packages were distributed to the attendees that evening.

The annual Stewardship campaign kickoff was on Sunday, February 2nd and pledge packages were distributed during Coffee Hour in Gage Hall on February 2nd and February 9th.

The committee formed a Stewardship Team comprised of most of the members of the members of the church’s leadership. Program Council and Vestry members assisted the committee in distributing Pledge packages that were not picked up in Gage Hall, in contacting members to ascertain the status of their pledges as well as, in some cases, visiting members at their homes.

To date, the 2014-2015 Stewardship Campaign has received pledges in excess of \$320,000.

The committee will be hosting a celebration for all members after Sunday services on May 4th in the grave yard behind the sanctuary.

Respectfully submitted by Steve Simon

Worship

The Worship Services Committee is chaired by Priscilla Shumway.

Mission: The Worship Committee enhances the Sunday services throughout the year, in the spirit of enlightenment, to nurture the body, mind, soul and spirit of our congregation. The Worship Committee partners with both the congregation and the minister to provide the best possible services, to get feedback on the services, and to act as a sounding board for the minister's own services. Each week, a Worship Associate helps coordinate the service with the minister or an outside speaker.

Members: As of May 2014, the members are: Cecil Bennett, Ralph Haller, Richard Hayes, Tommy Hughston, Hillary Hutchinson, Marc Kruza, Jerry Prazak, Floy Work, Kathy Hale-Getman, Bernadette Victor, and Tobias Van Buren (with Rev. Danny Reed and Assoc. Minister Nancy Pelligrini).

Activities: The committee continues to arrange at least one service each month not conducted by the minister. Summer services were conducted to large audiences. A church picnic in June and pancake breakfast in September provided a fun social beginning and end to the summer season. What we have accomplished:

- We have a Worship Associate available to support the minister for all of his services.
- We have brought in outside speakers for services on variety of topics, with more variety and a looser service structure during the summer.
- We have continued to hold summer services, so that we are still a year round church. Summer services are very popular and lead to new members.
- We held two services this past Easter.
- We have assisted with exploring other elements that affect the worship experience, such as whether to move the chalice to the opposite side of the communion rail (to be done in fall of 2014 with new chalice stand), coordinating coffee hour snacks during the summer services, and dropping the introduction of visitors. (to be started in fall of 2014)
- We have coordinated with other church initiatives to incorporate themes into services (such as compassion, social justice, and stewardship). An Earth Day service was conducted and a summer service on ethical eating will be done this summer.
- We encourage new voices in our summer services such as a Hindu Monk, a one woman service on Harriet Tubman, and Herb Silverman, SC's most famous atheist.
- We held our annual retreat in April where we discussed our summer services, creating a summer services brochure, and again began the discussion for 2 services as we continue to grow.

The Worship Committee usually meets on the third Sunday of the month.

Respectfully submitted by Priscilla Shumway