

VESTRY VISIONS SEPTEMBER, 2017

— SUE WELLER, VESTRY CHAIR

Vestry Visions

Welcome back to what is promising to be another vibrant church year. Hope your summer adventures were filled with fond memories and travel, even if the travel was sticking around and exploring our beautiful city.

The summer brought many staff departures including our Music Director, Johanna Evanson; Youth Coordinator, Marina Morrison; and our tenured Director of Religious Education (DRE), Janet Watts. While we are getting adjusted to the holes they have left in our hearts, we have the opportunity to welcome their replacements and help them get acclimated in their new roles. Amy Ball and Susan Conant will delight us with their musical talents as the Interim Music Director and Accompanist and Megan Thornton will flourish as our new DRE. These transitions led to a busy summer season for our Religious Education Committee and DRE search committee. Many thanks to those involved in the efforts to hire Megan. We are confident Megan will be able to build upon the solid foundations Janet has left for us and continue to provide the first-rate RE experience we have all come to know and cherish for our children.

Thank you for supporting the various fundraising efforts by the YRUU group over the last two years. Our UU teens were able to attend the UU General Assembly held in New Orleans, LA this year for the first time. They were able to witness history as the UUA elected Susan Frederick-Gray as the next UUA president. She is the first female to fill this role. Also, our very own Assistant Minister, Nancy Pellegrini, was recognized during the GA Final Fellowship ceremony.

Compliments to the Worship Services Committee for bringing us another successful round of diverse and engaging Summer Services. The quality of the programming was memorable and at times poignant in addressing the events of the world around us. Several of the services were timely in addressing recent events, including: Jen Bennett and Natalie Davidson's service on

“Unitarian LGBTQ+Advocacy: A Retrospective” in the wake of the president’s plans on banning transgender people in the military; Kat Morgan’s service on “Love Justice Out Loud” and Natalie Daise’s “When People Could Fly” in the aftermath of the violent racial struggles in Charlottesville, VA in early August. Much gratitude to all who made the summer services happen, providing dialogue and space in which to make sense and possibly find peace and solace amidst these unsettling times.

As we delve into another church year, the Vestry has been busy preparing and planning. Some items we will accomplish include: caring for our our aging and treasured historic buildings; long-range financial planning for the church; living wages for all of our hourly staff members; and growing our church. Many opportunities to help and provide input in these areas will be available via committee work.

I’m looking forward to kicking off the new church year by seeing everyone at the Pancake Breakfast on September 10 in Gage Hall from 9:00 -11:00 a.m. I am humbled by the privilege to serve as your vestry chair this year and am confident that together we will continue to live out our principles and strive to make our world a better place for all.

2017-18 Vestry Members

Sue Weller, Chair

Gail Schiffer, 1st Vice-Chair

John Hyatt, 2nd Vice-Chair

Diane Narkunas, Secretary

Zachariah Conover

Erica Hattings

Tommy Hughston

Jonathan Lamb

Mark Madden

Nolan Prestwood (Treasurer)

