



The *Happy Holidays* ComUUnicator

The Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Lima
November/December 2005

New Minister Called

When Chuck Thomas informed us that he would be unable to continue as our minister last September 18th, the Executive Committee formed a Search Committee at its very next meeting. By sheer chance, that meeting had already been scheduled for the very next night!

The Search Committee met to organize itself (and its collective thoughts) on October 3rd. The members of the Search Committee were the Bells, the Wilsons, Louise Daniels, Adaline Bridges and Kerry Snyder. A lot of very heart-felt discussion resulted in the decision to proceed with the search for Chuck's replacement.

Now the tale takes a personal turn. Your friendly neighborhood congregational president decided to phone Chuck and ask what seemed a very logical question at the time. "Do you know of anyone in the Dayton area who might be interested in your position?" Chuck responded that he knew of a lady who was in training to become a hospital chaplain and might be able to serve our needs for perhaps up to a year. We left it at that, with Chuck's promise to get back to me with her views on the subject.

When he did call back, it was with surprising news—Richard Venus had resigned

from the Dayton church to take a half-time ministry at the New Madison church. Chuck felt that perhaps he might be interested in also serving as our quarter-time minister. I asked him to sound Richard out on our behalf and the next thing that I knew Richard and I were discussing possibilities in a very positive phone call.

Engaging the active cooperation of our Program Chairman, Don Mack, the schedule was reshuffled to allow Richard to speak on October 16th. Immediately following that service, the Search Committee met with Richard upstairs in the Board Room. (Well, what WILL be our Board Room when we get it remodeled.) A list of ministerial functions that Chuck had performed in the past was discussed with Richard, with the resulting acknowledgement that he was willing to provide those services with the understanding that there may be times that he is simply unavailable to do so. Since that was essentially the same arrangement that Chuck had with us, there seemed to be no issues. We parted with Richard asking us to make contact with the UUA to see if they were aware of anyone who was closer or even locally situated of whom we were NOT aware. Subsequent inquiry with both the UUA and the Heartland District proved negative. We had already made contact with the only area

minister willing to take on the task.

The very next evening, October 17, the Search Committee met again to decide whether or not to proceed with recommending to the Executive Committee that Richard be called to serve. The recommendation that was adopted was to offer Richard an annual mutually renewable contract identical to Chuck's.

On October 23rd, the Executive Committee met immediately after the service to take action on the Search Committee's recommendation. The recommendation was approved after the usual round of UU debate and discussion. This cleared the way for final approval by the congregation.

Postcards giving notice of a Special Congregational Meeting to Vote to Call were sent out by the Secretary, Marilyn Bell. That meeting was called to order immediately after the Covenant on November 13th. The vote to call was passed by a significantly overwhelming majority. As a result, Richard will speak to us for the first time as our minister on December 11th.

At the regularly scheduled Executive Committee meeting on November 14th, the Search Committee rose and reported itself out of existence, having fulfilled its function.

BIRTHDAYS AND ANNIVERSARIES

Birthdays

Anne Edwards—November 23

Evelyn Vanek—December 13

Carol Siferd—December 14

Adaline Bridges—December 26

Don Mack—December 31

Anniversaries

Barbara & MD Wilson—December 2

If I missed your birthday or anniversary it is because I was not aware of it. Please inform me of same and I will add your information to the list.

Event Schedule

November

- 05** -- 9:00 am - Organic Buddies
- 06** -- Rabbi Javier Cattapan - *Keeping Faith*
- Music: Connie
7:30 pm - Rainbow Fellowship
- 09** -- 12:30 pm - Women's Lunch
- Packard Grill, Hostess: Ellen Wright
- 13** -- Brian Keegan - *Materialism*
After Service - Special Cong. Meeting
- 14** -- 7:30 pm - Executive Committee - Liesl's
- 18** -- 7:30 pm - PFLAG Meeting
- 19** -- 6:30 pm - Saturday Night Live
-- Bell's, Theme: Wedding Reception
- 20** -- Rev. Ray Michel - *Living The Life of God* - Music: Ryan
7:30 pm - Rainbow Fellowship
- 27** -- Don Mack - *Random Acts of Kindness*
7:30 pm - Rainbow Fellowship

December

- 03** -- 9:00 am - Organic Buddies
- 04** -- Twyla Wells - *Why Unitarianism Is A Good Choice For Women*
Service Leader: Evelyn Vanek
7:30 pm - Rainbow Fellowship
- 11** -- Rev. Richard Venus - TBA
7:30 pm - Rainbow Fellowship
- 14** -- 12:30 pm - Women's Lunch
- **CANCELLED**
- 16** -- 7:30 pm - PFLAG Meeting
- 18** -- Holiday Brunch - Carols/Readings
7:30 pm - Rainbow Fellowship
- 25** -- Round Robin

Full Schedule at <http://www.uulima.org>

The Nancy and Otto Austin Memorial Library

By Louise Daniels

We've had setbacks of various kinds in getting the library functional, but we are making progress. However, one major setback, only recently discovered, is the mysterious disappearance of most of the books at Fellowship House. They had not been completely catalogued and many might have been discarded anyway, but no matter, they are gone.

Therefore, the Library Committee is putting out a plea for donations of books. They should be in good condition, old or recent, new or used, fiction or non-fiction. Subject matter can vary widely: religion, ethics, philosophy; history, biography, travel, geography; nature, biology and other sciences, ecology, astronomy; social and political analysis or commentary, government; art, music, drama including librettos and scripts; children's books (all ages); and fiction (novels, historical fiction, science fiction). CDs, DVDs and VHS tapes are also welcome and will be separately shelved for easy access. Eventually, the Library will be organized enough that we will welcome donations of art and other exhibits. If you like, the name of the donor (book donors, too) can be inscribed.

For further information, talk with Louise Daniels, Kerry Snyder or Barbara Wilson.

President's Pulpit

While the next Executive Committee meeting is not scheduled until Jan 9th (7:30 at Liesl's), there is a project that I am initiating which may well involve most of the congregation—at least initially. I am compiling what can only be called an “Executive Com-

mittee Member's Manual”. The rationale for which is not to replace the committee descriptions that are in our Rules of Conduct (read as Bylaws in any other organization) but to provide additional job descriptions that are fleshed out with “how-to” and “when to” information. I am asking all officers and chairpersons from years past to jog their memories and jot down a short list of commentaries with the goal in mind of enabling a complete stranger to function in the position in question.

I would ask that your submissions be sent to me, either in print or via email (preferred) before the next Annual Meeting, say by April 15th.

On the other hand, as previously announced, CURRENT Executive Committee Members WHO HELD POSITIONS LAST YEAR are expected to turn in their submissions at the next Exec Comm Meeting.

Miscellaneous Announcements

New Member Installation and Welcoming service is tentatively scheduled for Jan 15th. We will, with modest fanfare, welcome Adaline Bridges and Edie and Colin Dunbar to our fold.

John Bell has acquired audio tapes of the *UU World*, intended to assist the disabled and blind in their investigation of Unitarian Universalism. These tapes will be available in the Library.

There will be no Ladies Luncheon in December. Current plans call for resumption of this activity in January.

Similarly, there will be no newsletter in December unless circumstances conspire to make one absolutely necessary. Hopefully, a permanent editor will turn up by January.