

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD

2015 – 2016 Annual Report

Prepared for the Membership Annual Meeting, September 25, 2016



Every year our UU community prepares its annual report, a ritual required by our bylaws but also valuable because it creates a moment for organizational reflection, both about the past year and the year to come. The activities described in this annual report reveal incredible amounts of volunteer and professional skills and time devoted to the common good of our UU community and the larger world. It confirms that we are, indeed, a

SMALL BUT MIGHTY CONGREGATION

Mission

Adopted December 2015

We are an intentionally welcoming congregation of diverse faiths and shared values, fostering spiritual growth, community action and universal justice.

Vision 2020

Adopted December 2015

We envision a flourishing and caring congregation that . . .

- Lives our Unitarian Universalist principles
- Supports a shared ministry and vibrant music program
- Promotes lifelong learning
- Expands our efforts to achieve a fully functional and inspirational chapel
- Extends our quest for universal justice to the Vineyard and beyond

. . . as we seek to widen our spiritual horizons.

Welcoming Congregation Affirmation

Adopted September 2004

We, as a Welcoming Congregation, have chosen, through our words, our actions and the ways we engage our spirit, to fully open our doors and our hearts to the extraordinary richness and diversity of human life.

We affirm the inherent worth and dignity of every person.

We honor the differences among us, whether due to race, color, gender identification, sexual orientation, family status, age, mental or physical ability, class, national origin, or other bases for discrimination, without requiring adherence to any given interpretation of religion or to any specific religious belief or creed.

We celebrate our sense of community and the values that we share together, having affirmed this commitment.



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ANNUAL MEETING OF 2016

Agenda

Annual Meeting of the Voting Membership of the
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY OF MARTHA'S VINEYARD
Sunday, September 25, 2016, 11:15 am, Stevens Chapel (after the service)

<u>Agenda Item</u>	<u>Facilitator</u>
1. Call to Order	Moderator – Judy Crawford
2. Opening Words	Minister – Reverend Bill Clark
3. Moment of Silence to Remember Deceased Members & Friends	Minister
4. Introduction	President – Mimi Davisson
5. Approve Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting (Please read Minutes in Annual Report before meeting)	Moderator
6. Annual Report of Committees, Functions, and Task Forces (Motion to Waive Public Reading)	Moderator
7. Election of Leadership	Chair, Nominating – Johanna Kobran
8. Appreciation of Volunteers	Chair, Membership – Nancy Wood
9. Vote on 248 Main	President
10. Vote on Time of Sunday Worship Services	Chair, Worship – Tad Crawford
11. Words from President	President
12. Words from Minister	Minister
13. Closing Words	Minister
14. Adjourn	Moderator

Minutes of 2015 Annual Meeting of UUSMV

The one hundred thirty-third annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard was called to order by Judy Crawford, Moderator, at 12:28 p.m. on September 13, 2015. A quorum was established with forty voting members present and receipt of four absentee ballots.

Reverend Bill opened the meeting with words by David 's, Trust. He wished us trust, love, and brevity in this annual meeting!

Led by Reverend Bill, the members and friends present observed a time of silence and reverence for those members and friends who are no longer with us: Mev Good, Yvonne LeBrecht, Bud Stickney, Leslie Stark, Ted Hewett, and Josette Ebbs.

The agenda was accepted with one addition, an introduction to the 2016 pledge campaign by Johanna Kobran.

The minutes of the 2014 Annual Meeting were approved with two corrections.

A motion to waive the reading of the Annual Report was unanimously approved.

Dorie Godfrey, outgoing President, thanked the congregation for the hard work and accomplishments of her three-year tenure as President. She noted the hiring of Reverend Bill Clark after a long and careful search and self-examination; the growth of the children and youth programs and welcoming of Sam Greene, RE Coordinator, to continue to develop the program; and the hard work of committees to enhance our worship, build our community, welcome visitors and new members, and take care of our chapel. She expressed greatest appreciation for the work done together to stabilize our organization and build healthy relationships where we can agree and disagree with love. Mimi Davisson thanked Dorie for her service and on behalf of the members and provided her with a bouquet of flowers and a framed photograph of the chapel and rainbow flag with an expression of affection and appreciation. Mimi also recognized Barbara Caseau who has served on the Parish Committee as Secretary for two years and Christine Ferrone who has served as Parish Committee member at large with flowers and appreciation for their leadership service.

Tad Crawford of the Nominating and Leadership Development Committee presented the slate of officers, parish committee members, trustees, and moderator to be voted on by the membership. A call for additional nominations from the floor yielded none. Motions to vote the entire slate and waive the requirement for ballots passed unanimously. The following were elected unanimously:

President Mimi Davisson (1st year);
Co-Vice President Mike Kobran (1st year);
Co-Vice President Tad Crawford (1st year);
Secretary Dorie Godfrey (1st year);
Treasurer Jan Casey (2nd year);
PC Member-at-Large (2018) Lucinda Sheldon (1st year);
Trustee (2018) Rita Brown (1st year of 2nd term); and
Moderator Judy Crawford (2nd year).

Tad noted that Ann Hollister would continue to serve on the Parish Committee in the third year of her term; and Jack Street would continue to serve as a Trustee in the third year of his third term. He furthered noted that two elected leadership positions remain unfilled – a Parish Committee member at large and a Trustee, and that the Nominating and Leadership Committee would continue to seek candidates for these positions.

Jan Casey, Treasurer and Chair of the Finance Committee, presented the three amendments to the by-laws to be considered by the membership and addressed questions from the members. She explained that the amendments were needed to conform with the amendment approved last year to change the fiscal year from September to August to the calendar year, January to December.

A motion to amend Article V regarding Membership Meetings passed unanimously with no questions. The by-law was amended to delete the requirement to propose an annual budget at the Annual Meeting.

A motion to amend Article IV regarding the Business Year and Fiscal Year was unanimously approved with no questions. The by-law was amended to include the process for proposing and approving the annual budget by adding the following: *The annual operating budget for the coming fiscal year shall be prepared and presented to the membership before the end of the current fiscal year. The budget shall be presented at least one information meeting for the Members and publicized via a mix of electronic and physical communications aimed to reach all Members of the Society. Approval of the proposed operating budget shall be by ballots (printed or electronic). Ballots from a quorum of Voting Members shall be required for budget approval. The operating budget shall be approved no later than the first month of the Society's fiscal year.*

The motion to amend Article VI regarding election of officers raised the question whether the proposed amendment changed how officers were elected. Jan clarified that no change was being made to when or how officers were elected. The change was to clarify that elected officers take office immediately following the annual meeting. The addition is proposed to make it clear that those elected at the Annual Meeting take office immediately and not at the start of the new fiscal year. The motion to amend Article VI was passed unanimously.

Celeste Stickney, Co-Chair of Hospitality and Caring, took the podium and offered expressions of appreciation for the many volunteers who give their time and talent to the church. She invited people to stand if they had served as Minister of the church, served on the Parish Committee, served on any committee, helped on any of the many social justice activities such as Crop Walk, Red Stocking, Sewcial Action Knitwork and more, coordinated a worship service, provided Sunday hospitality, sang in the choir, assisted in the RE program, attended a pot luck . . . The tremendous support of volunteers was clear as everyone was standing and Celeste led the congregation in applauding each other in appreciation for the many hours of service provided.

Judy Crawford invited Dorie Godfrey to offer the motion to call Reverend Bill. Dorie shared some background and history which brings our Society to this momentous occasion.

In April of 2012, the Transition team of Dorie Godfrey, Mary Miller, and Tad Crawford began on its mission to assess the strengths, needs, and wants of the congregation

regarding a minister for UUSMV. Over several months, the team met with past ministers, past presidents, held several congregational conversations, and met with individuals and groups. The team also met with our District Executive and the Director of Transition at the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) in Boston. From those meetings, a statement of our strengths and challenges, the areas of momentum at UUSMV we wished to continue, and the strengths we sought in a minister was developed.

The decision was made to seek a contract minister rather than an interim or settled minister. We wanted the opportunity to get to know our minister and for him or her to get to know us before a long term decision was made. In June of 2012 our search began.

For over a year, we worked with the UUA and on our own to recruit possible candidates. We interviewed several candidates and, for one reason or another, did not find a good match for us. In the meantime, we engaged the services of Reverend Amy Freedman and Reverend Bill Clark as Sunday ministers to provide us with worship and pastoral care services and general guidance as we continued our search.

Because of and throughout this process we grew as a healthy congregation and community. We began to engage in covenantal relationships with one another. We learned and began to practice, in earnest, active listening. We learned how to live and work in right relations. We renewed the mission and purpose of our Committee on Ministries to truly assist us in this work.

Many on the outside were impressed with the hard and serious work of this congregation, including Reverend Amy, Reverend Bill, and Reverend Vicky Hanjian. And then one day, Reverend Bill asked Sarah Shepard to share lunch. He had grown to love this congregation and wanted to be considered as our contract minister.

And so it began. We have “lived together” for two years and learned of each other’s strengths and needs. In the Ministerial Assessment conducted by the team of Judy Crawford, Jenifer Parkinson, and Ann Hollister, the congregation made it clear that it would like Reverend Bill to be our long term minister and the assessment team recommended that you, the congregation, vote to call Reverend William Clark as our settled minister.

The motion for UUSMV to call the Reverend William Clark as its settled minister effective January 1, 2016, made by Dorie was seconded by many voices and was passed unanimously with a standing ovation. Reverend Bill expressed his profound appreciation, noting that it was a “dream come true”. The joy of all present was palpable.

Mimi Davisson, newly elected President was asked to offer words for the future. In song, Mimi presented three themes for the coming year!

1. We will be “a place where everyone knows your name”, where each of us feels valued and each of us finds that niche where we can help the congregation be even greater.
2. The Vineyard will “know we are here and is glad”. We will make an impact on our Island community that is meaningful.

3. That we don't spread ourselves too thin. That we set our priorities and do what is most important.

Mimi's beginning tenure and words were met with enthusiastic applause.

Johanna Kobran, Stewardship Chair and 2016 Pledge Team leader, announced that each of us may have won a future full of fellowship, music, children, social justice, friends and family that is intellectually stimulating, spiritually uplifting and challenging! All we need to do is support UUSMV with our time, talent, and our treasure. She presented a graphic representation of the issues of greatest importance to members gleaned during the mission and vision work underway. She also shared a graphic showing the breakdown of both income and expenses of our society, noting that the 85% of our income comes from the pledges of members and friends. She explained that expenses are expected to increase by about 15% for increased time with Reverend Bill, growth of our children and youth programs, more adult lifelong learning, and increased cost of lighting, heating etc. She encouraged all to consider increasing pledges by 15% but noted that whatever we can pledge is welcomed.

With no further business, Judy thanked the members for their participation and a motion to adjourn the meeting at 1:18 p.m. was unanimously approved.

Respectfully submitted by Dorie Godfrey, Secretary

Nominated Slate of Candidates

- President: Mimi Davisson
- Vice President: Mike Kobran
- Secretary: Diane Purvis
- Treasurer: Jan Casey
- Member-at-Large: Celeste Stickney – first year of a three-year term
- Member-at-Large: Peter Meleney – second year of a three-year term; first year unfilled
- Member-at-Large: Lucinda Sheldon – third year of a three year term; no vote needed.
- Trustee: Jack Street – first year of a three-year term
- Trustee: Norman Stickney – second year of a three-year term; no vote needed
- Trustee: Rita Brown – third year of a three-year term; no vote needed
- Moderator: Judy Crawford



Mimi



Mike



Diane



Norm & Celeste



Peter



Lucinda



Jack



Judy



Rita & Jan

Voting Members 2016

Aldrich-Moody, Mary Jane	Friedman, Mark	Noel, Jacqueline
Beebe, Ken	Friedrichs, Polly	Palches, Peter
Beebe, Laura	Gallagher, Ann	Parkinson, Jenifer
Behnke, David	Gillette, Mary	Peia, Rich
Brown, Christina	Glynn, Elizabeth	Purvis, Brad
Brown, Rita	Godfrey, Dorie	Purvis, Diane
Cartwright, Kimberly	Goldsmith, Marianne	Renear, Becky
Caseau, Barbara	Hartenstine, Russ	Santos, Alex
Casey, Janice	Hewett, Jeanne	Savoy, Michael
Charnley, Ann	Hickey, Judy	Savoy, Susanna
Colon, Katharine	Hollister, Ann	Seidel, Chris
Conroy, Arlene	Hopkins, Esther	Sheldon, Lucinda
Cox, Nancy	Hopkins, Ewell	Shepard, Sarah
Crawford, Judith	Kennedy, Clara	Shick, Blair
Crawford, Tad	Kinsman, Doreen	Smith, Leigh
Cushman, Barbara	Kobran, Johanna	Stickney, Celeste
Ann de Saussure Davidson	Kobran, Mike	Stickney, Norman
Scott Davidson	Leaird, Kay	Street, Jack
Davisson, Mimi	Loucks, Liz	Street, Pamela
Dean, Debbie	Maccaferri, Maddie	Streeter, Sue
Doherty, Paul	Maley, Ann	Thayer, Jane
Duff, Tom	McElroy, Donna	Thomas, Jim
Engh, Steve	Meleney, Peter	West-Fink, Vanessa
Engler, Bill	Merck, Ed	Weston, Margot
Engler, Sharon	Michalcyzk, Stephanie	Wilson, Alan
Famariss, Lyndsay	Miller, Mary	Wilson, Sunny
Ferrone, Christine	Myers, Clark	Williams, Sally
Friedman, Jenny	Neeld, Judith	Wood, Nancy

PROGRAMS

Worship

Worship Committee

Purpose: UUSMV's Worship Committee creates and coordinates worship services – in a variety of worship styles – that nurture spiritual and ethical growth and deepen the sense of community, consistent with Unitarian Universalist principles and values.

Membership: Co-Chairs: Reverend Bill Clark and Tad Crawford (replacing Mimi Davisson); Barbara Caseau; Nancy Cox; Esther Hopkins; Janet Newton-Thibodeau (Meadville Lombard Intern); and Diane Purvis (ex officio as Music Committee Chair). We feel a deep debt of gratitude to the prior members of the Worship Committee, who worked tirelessly with Reverend Bill Clark from the time he joined us to create the groundwork, structure and standards of performance that we now associate with UUSMV's Worship Services. We begin with Mimi Davisson and Mary Gillette, who served as Chairs of the Committee, together with Peter Palches, who was a member of the Committee for eight years and Jim Thomas, who retired from the Committee early in the Fall of 2015.

This Year Accomplishments (Compared to Goals listed in last year's Annual Report)

1) *Plan and implement the 52-Sunday worship year and provide worship assistance for all of its services.*

Following the precedent established last year, the Worship Committee supported all of UUSMV's worship services, not just lay-led and guest clergy-led services. In all, the Committee undertook responsibility for 52 worship services. Reverend Clark conducted 23 of these services; 4 services were conducted by Janet Newton, 8 services were conducted by clergy other than Reverend Clark and Janet; and the remaining 17 services were lay-led. (One service was cancelled in late January due to inclement winter weather.)

The planning and delivery of 52 services requires the commitment and energy of many. The Worship Committee feels a profound appreciation for all those who accepted the challenge of leading a worship service, beginning with UUSMV Members and Friends:

Worship Service Leaders - UUSMV Members and Friends (8)

Nancy Cox (2), including one with Friends, the other with Paul Doherty and RE youth; Sam Greene (2), including one led by Rebecca Gilbert; Peter Palches (2), including one with Barney Zeitz; Diane Purvis and Jenny Friedman with other members of the Music Committee and the Church Choir; and Jim Thomas with members of his Spirituals Choir.

Worship Service Leaders - Clergy (35)

Reverend Bill Clark (23), including one with Janet Newton; Janet Newton (4), including one with Ursula Goodenough; Diana Davies (Meadville Lombard Intern); Reverend Frank Hall; Reverend Armen Hanjian; Bob LaVallee (Meadville Lombard Intern); Reverend Art Lavoie; Rabbi Lori Shaller; Sam Teitel (Newton Andover Graduate); and Reverend Kim Wilson.

Worship Service Leaders - Other Lay Leaders (9)

Tim Boland; Sean Corcoran; Elliott Dacher; Chas DiCapua; Susan Klein; Melinda and Michael Loberg; Tony Lombardi; Paddy Moore; and Nick Page.

The Worship Committee also wants to extend a heartfelt thank you to the thirty-five volunteers who coordinated or hosted a service during the last year:

Christina Brown*	Dorie Godfrey	Diane Purvis
Barbara Caseau	Russ Hartenstine*	Michael Savoy*
Katharine Colon*	Judy Hickey*	Susanna Savoy*
Arlene Conroy	Ewell Hopkins	Chris Seidel*
Nancy Cox	Esther Hopkins	Sarah Shepard
Judy Crawford	Johanna Kobran	Norm & Celeste
Tad Crawford	Peter Meleney*	Stickney
Barbara Cushman*	Ed Merck*	Sue Streeter*
Tom Duff	Mary Miller	Jim Thomas
Christine Ferrone*	Janet Newton*	Alan Wilson
Jenny Friedman*	Peter Palches	Nancy Wood*
Mark Friedman*	Jenifer Parkinson*	

* First-time

- 2) *Continue to increase the number of congregation members who participate as leaders, coordinators, or hosts for services.*
Of the 35 volunteers who led, coordinated, or hosted a service, 17 or close to half did so for the first time.
- 3) *Conduct at least one service about the congregation's mission, vision, and values.*
In addition to Reverend Bill's service on "Taking Risks," UUSMV's new Mission Statement was built into the welcoming remarks that began virtually all of our services.
- 4) *Conduct at least one service about a UUA study issue or other relevant social justice topic.*
The service led by Sean Corcoran, the News Editor of WCAI, directly addressed income inequality and its corrosive impact on the Cape and Islands.
- 5) *Conduct another training workshop for current and potential worship coordinators that covers how to develop, lead, and assist in a worship service.*
On April 29, the Worship Committee conducted a half-day Worship Leadership Workshop. In addition to the members of the Committee and Judy Crawford, all of whom had active training responsibilities, there were 15 participants:

Ann Charnley	Russ Hartenstine	Chris Seidel
Barbara Cushman	Judy Hickey	Leigh Smith
Paul Doherty	Ewell Hopkins	Emily Solarazza
Jenny Friedman	Jenifer Parkinson	Alan Wilson
Mark Friedman	Michael Savoy	Nancy Wood

The over-arching goal of the Workshop was to increase participants' capacity to "Host" services led by Reverend Bill or Janet Newton and to "Coordinate" services led by Guest Ministers or Lay Speakers. The Workshop focused on:

- Developing a fuller understanding of worship and how it is experienced
- Learning how to find and deliver the elements of a worship service
- Discovering the many supporting resources now available

Based on the feedback received from the participants, not only were these objectives achieved, but the training was actually a lot of fun. Mission accomplished . . . a real tribute to all involved, beginning with the participants themselves!

- 6) *In collaboration with the Music Committee, assess the quality of the Chapel's sound system and get recommendations for potential improvements.*

In response to recommendations made by Brad Purvis, who has substantial professional sound system experience, both the portable and the podium mic.s have been replaced. The improvement has been so substantial Reverend Bill's hands-free headset no longer appears needed. In addition, Brad has repaired a number of individual hearing aids. "Thank you, Brad!"

- 7) *Facilitate a congregation-wide discussion of whether to change the time of Sunday services.* After consulting with the congregation, the Worship Committee implemented a Pilot Test of "Summer Hours," with services beginning at 10:00 AM. This Pilot Test began on July 3 and will remain in effect until September 25, the date of our Annual Meeting at which voting members will be asked to vote in favor of or in opposition to: a) the resumption of the new Summer Hours, next year from the Memorial Day to the Labor Day weekends as well as b) the adoption of the new hours for the balance of the year.

- 8) *Add more members to the Worship Committee.*

Given UUSMV's substantial need for volunteers in other areas of congregational life, the Worship Committee elected not to pursue additional members.

This Year's Challenges

The biggest challenge was providing worship coordination and support for 53 services while at the same time planning and conducting the Worship Leadership Workshop. This would not have been possible without the dedication and commitment of the members of the Worship Committee and the remarkable readiness of members and friends to serve as coordinators and Hosts. When asked to volunteer, hardly ever was the answer: "I'm sorry, not now." Thank you, everyone, for stepping forward this year in so many different ways!

Goals for Next Year, 2016 – 2017

- 1) Plan and implement the 52-Sunday worship year and provide worship assistance for all of its services.
 - Continue to enhance the quality of Sunday services.
 - Continue to enhance the integration of music into worship services.
 - Continue to plan ahead as much as possible.
 - Seek congregational participation in the evaluation of our services
- 2) Reassess the liturgy of our Worship Services.
 - Be adaptable and open to change as new ideas and worship practices emerge, taking into account the many different ways in which worship is experienced.
- 3) Support the fulfillment of Janet Newton's worship-related Internship responsibilities, including the thematic orientation of her services consistent with the "Soul Matters" approach to community building.
- 4) Link some Sunday service topics to elements of the Society's mission, vision and values, including social justice and/or UUA study issues.

- 5) Complete the congregation-wide discussion of whether to change the time of Sunday services.



Music Committee

Purpose: The Music Committee was chartered by the Parish Committee and held its first meeting in October 2012. Its mission is to support and advise the music program and musicians of the church in order to improve the integration of music into Sunday services, increase the cultural and religious diversity of the church's music offerings, and collaborate with church staff, members, and

committees to bring music into more church activities. The committee was formed in recognition of the importance of music to our church community.

Members:

Chair: Diane Purvis
Secretary: Jenny Friedman
Members: Jacqui Noel
Emily Anderson, *ex officio*

This Year's Goals:

- Provide support to our new Choir Director and work with her to see if she feels ready to fill the larger position of Music Director.
- Continue to work with the Minister, Music Director, and Worship Committee to increase the cultural and religious diversity of the music, including hymns, offered in our church, particularly on Sunday mornings.
- Plan and lead more Music Sundays over the course of the church year.
- Continue to network with UUMN musicians.
- Increase Music Committee membership and participation.
- Increase the involvement of the congregation in Music Committee activities.
- Conduct outreach to the broader Vineyard community through musical events.

Accomplishments:

- Reviewed and revised our committee's covenant.
- Supported Emily Anderson, the new Choir Director as of September 1, 2015, who then stepped up to take on the role of Music Director on January 1, 2016.
- Since a new Music Director was not hired until January, the Music Committee continued to take on the following duties through the end of the calendar year:
 - Identified and arranged for accompanists to play the piano or organ every Sunday through December 31, 2015.
 - Identified and arranged for guest musicians when needed through the calendar year.
 - Arranged for the care and tuning of the instruments through the calendar year.
- Continued our ongoing, collaborative relationship with the Worship Committee. The Music Committee Chair regularly attends Worship Committee meetings.
- Planned, publicized, and produced three concerts for the broader Island community as the beginning of the "Music in the Chapel Concert Series." These concerts offered a wide variety of musical genres. They were designed to bring non-members into the church and

to raise money to support the Stevens Chapel Project. All expenses were donated, including graphic design by Emily Anderson's father. A total of more than \$3,000 was raised through these first three concerts, listed below.

- March 20, "Broadway on Main Street," featured vocalists Jenny Friedman, David Behnke, and Emily Anderson accompanied by Steven Finch in a concert of Broadway favorites. Attendance close to 100.
- May 1, "Jazz Coffeehouse," featured jazz duo Jeremy Berlin (piano) and Eric Johnson (guitar) in an intimate evening of original and familiar jazz. Attendance around 50.
- August 7, "We Minstrels 3," featured Eric Johnson on classical guitar, Ed Merck on historical winds, and Niki Patton, spoken word and poetry, in an evening of music and poetry of Medieval and Renaissance Europe. Attendance just over 50.
- Sponsored and coordinated a Music Sunday on September 27, 2015, featuring Nick Page, a UUMN leader, entitled "So Much More than Music."
- Planned and conducted an original Music Sunday on April 10, 2016: "Thicker than Water: Music for the Ties that Bind." This incorporated a variety of music examining and celebrating family relationships. It featured the choir (collectively and individually), children of the church, and musical guests, including accompanist Steven Finch.
- Supported the selection of more diverse music offered by the choir on Sunday mornings.
- Helped plan and present music for the Candlelight Service, Easter, and Reverend Bill's Installation Ceremony and Reception.
- Provided vocalists from the choir for a service in January (Barney Zeitz) and for Mother's Day.
- Continued our membership in the national Unitarian Universalist Musicians' Network (UUMN).

Challenges:

- Our biggest challenge during the first part of this year (September through December) was acting in the place of the Music Director.
- Like many of our church committees, we find it challenging to accomplish all of our ambitious goals with such a small committee.

Goals for 2016-2017

- Continue to support the church's vision of a vibrant music program.
- Continue to provide support to the Music Director.
- Continue to provide support for increasing the involvement of the children and youth of the church in more musical activities.
- Continue to work with the Minister, Music Director, and Worship Committee to increase the cultural and religious diversity of the music, including hymns, offered in our church, particularly on Sunday mornings.
- Continue to plan and lead Music Sundays over the course of the church year.
- Continue to produce a variety of concerts for the broader Island community as part of the "Music in the Chapel Concert Series."
- Continue to network with UUMN musicians, especially to offer another choir workshop if possible.
- Increase Music Committee membership and participation.
- Increase the involvement of the congregation in Music Committee activities

Sunday Hospitality

Coordinators: Johanna Kobran and Celeste Stickney

The Sunday Hospitality is a section of Hospitality and Caring

The Sunday Hospitality Coordination supports the Sunday worship service by providing volunteer support for the many tasks necessary: facilities set-up, greeting, refreshment, welcome table and visual arts or flowers. The Sunday Hospitality Coordinators (SHC) secure a Sunday Hospitality coordinator for each month. The SHC secure volunteers for each task for each Sunday and inform the Administrative Assistant of the volunteers for that Sunday's activities.

Accomplishments: The following monthly Sunday Hospitality Coordinators secured volunteers to provide 265 service roles for Sunday worship services:

Rich Peia

Jenifer Parkinson

Diane Jetmund

Nancy Wood

Jane Street

Norman Stickney

Mark Friedman

Dorie Godfrey

Lucinda Sheldon

Debbie Dean

Mike Kobran

Lifelong Learning

Children and Youth Religious Exploration

Members: Co-Chairs – Dorie Godfrey and Barb Caseau; Sam Greene, ex officio; Reverend Bill Clark, ex officio; Sharon Engler; Sue Streeter; Vanessa West-Fink

Purpose: The Lifelong Learning Committee is responsible for overseeing the development and implementation of children's lifelong learning programs and supporting the RE Coordinator.

Accomplishments: Goals for this year included: Support the OWL training for Sam and a volunteer leader; Offer the OWL program to youth in grades 7-9; Plan and support Sam in implementing 3 additional programs: Love Surrounds Us for grades K-3, In Our Hands, a social justice program for grades 4-6; and a senior high group with Reverend Bill & volunteer leader; Provide childcare and logistical support for a monthly parent group. We achieved the following:

- Sam Greene and Michael Savoy completed the *OWL* training and provided the *OWL* program to 5 youth;
- UU Explorers 1 had 11 participants in *Love Surrounds Us* and *UU Heroes*;
- UU Explorers 2 had 8 participants in *In Our Hands*;
- 10 youth attended the first Senior High session in October;
- The committee was gratified to learn that the average rate of attendance in religious education programs is 50% while our average attendance was 58%;
- LLL Committee facilitated scheduling of 3 Sunday morning parent meetings and 2 family potluck gatherings and provided childcare;
- Nursery space was added to back of Chapel at request of Reverend Bill and then removed for lack of use;
- An orientation handbook for volunteers was developed;

- The committee revised policies and procedures for the children’s lifelong learning programs; and
- With Sam, coordinated the Sunday Youth service and celebrated and honored Sam who resigned in June.

Goals for Next Year:

- Hire a Religious Education Coordinator;
- For UU Explorers, initiate a new model for Sunday religious exploration, *Way Cool Sunday School*, that includes 2 Sundays of UU curriculum, 1 Sunday Children’s Chapel, and 1 Sunday Universal Justice project each month;
- Offer *Coming of Age* program to youth in grades 7-9;
- Offer Senior High group;
- Support families with parent and/or family gatherings;
- Increase participation of congregation members in the children & youth programs;
- Collaborate with Worship committee on intergenerational services and Janet Newton, Intern Minister, on *Soul Matters Sharing Circle*.



Adult Lifelong Learning

Members: Barb Caseau, with input from Dorie Godfrey, Sue Streeter

Purpose: to support any activity suggested by any congregation member/friend and to facilitate the completion of those activities

Accomplishments:

- Discussion of the UU Common Read book, facilitated by Dorie Godfrey

- Faith Journeys group discussion, facilitated by Janet Newton-Thibodeau
- Book Club regular meetings every six weeks, facilitated by Peter Meleney
Books read included *Dead Wake* and *Notorious RBG*
- Meditation group, meeting weekly, facilitated by Ed Merck
- Moon viewing, facilitated by Barb Caseau
- Constellation viewing cancelled due to poor weather
- Three Music in the Chapel concerts, facilitated by Diane Purvis and Music Committee

Goals for next year:

- Continue book club, meditation groups
- Support Janet Newton-Thibodeau in covenant groups themed Soul Matters
- Constellation viewing
- Support Diane Purvis in two/three more Music in the Chapel evenings
- Start a Laughing Yoga group, facilitated by Emily Solarazza
- Support any suggestions for activities from members/friends

Community Action and Universal Justice

Family-to-Family Holiday Suppers

Members: 40-50 UUSMV donors. **Coordinator:** Jack Street

Purpose: Working through the Vineyard Committee on Hunger, to provide Thanksgiving suppers for needy Vineyard families.

Accomplishments of the Past Year: Raised \$1,575 from 36 UUSMV donors, the equivalent of 63 Thanksgiving dinners.

Goals for the Upcoming Year: To again be a major player in this annual program. To engage more donors (we had 41 in 2014). To raise a minimum of \$1,650, the equivalent of 66 dinners.

Hospitality Homes

UUSMV Coordinator: Dorie Godfrey

Members: Membership is open to the entire congregation.

Purpose: The purpose is to facilitate and encourage UUSMV's support and involvement with the Hospitality Homes Serving Martha's Vineyard - Winter Shelter Program. This initiative is led by Father Chip Seadale representing the Island Interfaith Clergy and its purpose is to provide overnight shelter to the Island's homeless or under-housed community.

Accomplishments: The goal for 2015 – 2017 was to connect with more UUSMV members and friends about ways that they might be able to get involved in this effort

- The following members, staff, and friends supported the shelter by volunteering for one or more staffing shifts: Lori Shaller, Ann Charnley, Holly Nadler, Diane Purvis, Mimi Davisson, Abbie Steele, Peter Meleney, Dorie Godfrey, Peter Palches, Reverend Bill Clark, and Lyndsay Famariss;
- Dorie Godfrey served on the HH leadership team and as the Volunteer Coordinator and a Weekly Coordinator for the program;
- Marianne Goldsmith hosted a fundraising concert at her home;

- Reverend Bill selected this program as one of the charities to benefit from the offertory at his installation.

Challenges:

- Many UUSMV members and friends have expressed support for the shelter, but cannot serve as staff.

Goals for 2016 – 2017

- UUSMV members and friends continue to serve as staffing volunteers;
- Find ways for members and friends to serve other than staffing. Consider serving as a daytime warming shelter 1 day per week (January – March)

Peace Activities

Members: Jane and Roger Thayer

Accomplishments: We continued writing and submitting monthly items relating to peace to the UUSMV newsletter.

Challenges: We have received no comments again this year. We wonder if anyone reads them. Is it worth your and our time? We assume we are preaching to the choir, but maybe the Peace News articles suggest to some of us new areas for thought.

Goal: We intend to keep writing until we get negative feedback.

Red Stocking

Members: Lyndsay Famariss, Chair, with help from many UUSMV members and guests

Purpose: To help provide much-needed clothing, shoes and winter coats to Island children in need. Toys are also a part of the gifts that UUSMV members donate.

Accomplishments: We were able to sponsor three children in the 2015 holiday season; the interest from the congregation and the monetary donations were on par with previous years; again this past year, we offered members the opportunity to write a check to the church and then I bought gifts and turned in receipts for reimbursement. I believe that this helps to increase the numbers of donations and of people who donated.

The Peer Leader group of MVRHS helped us again this year to wrap all of our gifts.

Goals: for the upcoming giving season include improving the donation process by working with the UU Treasurer. We began the process of requesting donations in the November newsletter, as well at November and December UUSMV worship services. Ideally, it would be wonderful to increase the number of children we sponsor to four this year.



Sewcial Action Knitwork

Purpose: The Sewcial action Knitwork was formed to channel some of the congregation's considerable needlework talents into projects that provide comfort to people who are going through challenging times in their lives. Items have been created via knitting, crocheting patchwork/quilting and other forms of needlework.

Membership: Champions: Laura Beebe, Mimi Davisson

Members: any UUSMV needle workers are welcome.

Accomplishments: 6 comforts quilts and pillows were distributed to members and friends through the monthly Caring coordinator. 6 quilts and 3 Afghans were donated to Connect to End Violence.

Challenges: Our challenge was to reach out to the wider Island community with our comforts. This was done by our donations to Connect to End Violence.

Goals: continue to offer "comforts" to members and friends; continue to offer "comforts" to Connect to End Violence. To make and donate 15 sleep sacks to the Houses of Grace (formerly known as Hospitality Homes). These goals help us to continually serve our members and friends and extend our reach to the greater Island community.

Special Collections for Universal Justice

Accomplishments: One of the Parish Committee's goals for 2015/16 was to provide leadership in community action by publicizing all UUSMV actions of community action & universal Justice. The special collections taken by UUSMV for universal justice included:

- The offertory received on September 20 of \$732 was donated to the UUSC-UUA Refugee Crisis Fund;
- Reverend Bill donated \$300 to the Island Clergy Homeless Initiative;
- The UUSMV team for Crop Walk under the leadership of Diane Purvis raised \$1475 to combat hunger worldwide;
- A donation of \$389 to the UUSC Guest at Your Table thanks to the donations of 21 members & friends;
- 49 members, friends, and visitors donated \$1700 for the MV Committee on Hunger's Thanksgiving dinner program;
- Members and friends donated money and goods to serve 4 children in the Red Stocking Fund;
- The UU Explorers 2 raised \$805 through their meaningful gifts project
 - 26 meaningful gifts were purchased by 11 UUSMV members and 3 community individuals for these justice organizations: MV Animal Shelter \$135, Heifer International \$300, Island Food Pantry \$25, Precious Project \$150, UNICEF \$115, Water Project \$80;
- The Parish Committee, on behalf of the congregation, decided to become institutional members of the UUUNO and UUSC and donated \$100 to Unitarian Universalist Services Committee for social justice activity and \$100 to Unitarian Universalist United Nations Office for climate justice, human rights, sexual & reproductive health & rights, and racial justice;
- UUSMV Women's Group donated a goat through Heifer International;
- The participants at the Installation of Reverend Bill offered \$702 to benefit the UUA Tradition Fund and the Island Clergy Hospitality Homes.

Goal for 2016/17: Consider sharing the plate with a universal justice organization once a month.

UU Service Committee (UUSC)

Purpose: The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee puts faith into action. It was founded in 1940 by the American Unitarian Association, acknowledging the work of Unitarian Minister Waitstill Sharp and his wife Martha and other volunteers who helped refugees to

escape Nazi persecution. Today the UUSC's work around the world is guided by the values of Unitarian Universalism and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

UUSC Liaison: Mimi Davisson

Accomplishments and Challenges:

- The Guest at Your Table campaign is the UU Service Committee's major fundraising program every year. Special thanks to those who supported the UUSC with their voluntary contributions to the campaign. Twenty-one (21) UUSMV Members and Friends contributed \$389 in late 2015. Although the number of donors and total \$ donated were down from the prior year, the average donation increased 15% per donor.
- UUSMV also made a budgeted congregational donation to the UU Service Committee in fiscal year 2016.
- Continuing a practice started in 2014, the Guest at Your Table campaign was moved from late in the year to September and October, so that it would not compete with the many worthy holiday causes.

Goals for 2016 – 2017:

- Name a new UUSMV liaison to the UU Service Committee. This has been a carry-over goal for several years.
- Explore the feasibility of involving the children and youth of the congregation in the Guest at Your Table campaign.
- Conduct the annual Guest at Your Table campaign in September and October of 2016.
- Include a line item of at least \$100 in the 2017 UUSMV budget for a congregational donation to UUSC.

Caring Network

Coordinators: Johanna Kobran and Celeste Stickney

Role: The Caring Network is a section of Hospitality and Caring

Purpose: The mission of the Caring Network is to provide assistance to members of the Society who are experiencing bereavement, temporary illness or disability. The Hospitality and Caring Coordinators secure volunteers to serve as monthly Caring Coordinators. These monthly coordinators call on additional volunteers who are part of the network of caring to provide needed caring assistance. The monthly caring Coordinators for 2015-2016 were:

September	Peter Palches
October	Judy Hickey
November	Sunny Wilson
December	Doreen Kinsman
January	Katharine Colon
February	Sarah Shepard
March	Celeste Stickney
April	Chris Seidel
May	Johanna Kobran
June	Jack Street
July	Barb Caseau
August	Barb Caseau and Johanna Kobran

Small Group Ministries and Social Activities

“Age-ing to Sage-ing”

PURPOSE: To continue to create opportunities for current and potential members of UUSMV, who are largely between the ages of 65 and 85, to learn more about each other, to deepen the relationships within our Society and to increase the knowledge of its values, purposes, and principles. The focus has been to explore what is a new age and stage for many of us.

MEMBERSHIP: Open. Participants during the 2015-2016 year have been: Barbara Caseau, Katherine Colin, Tad Crawford, Mimi Davvison, Steffie Elliot, Judy Hickey, Ann Hollister, Esther Hopkins, Doreen Kinsman, Johanna Kobran, Michael Kobran, Ed Merck, Myra Stark, Nancy Wood.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS, FOCUS, MEETING TIMES: Our fourth year evolved with the continued exploration of the meaning and stewardship of our particular age, stage in life at monthly meetings. The group used various methods to insure continuity and growth including an opening Guided Meditation, Consciousness Raising sessions and readings and book discussions focused on topics of interest to members. The group sets an agenda for the following meeting at each session. “Age-ing to Sage-ing” meets on the 4th Wednesday of the month from 2:00-4:00 PM at members’ homes.

CHALLENGES and OPPORTUNITIES: We are committed to remaining vital, relevant and open to new members and agenda items. The group desires to continue to offer the opportunity to delve deeper into meaningful topics and subjects in a safe environment. This year an outgrowth of our meetings has been a weekly Meditation Group held Tuesday mornings at Steven’s Chapel from 9:30-10:30 AM, led by Ed Merck. It is an open membership group.

GOALS FOR 2016-2017: To continue to grow and flourish as a meaningful part of UUSMV.

MEETING INFORMATION: A monthly email reminder goes out to all on the member list with the current month’s agenda. Meetings are held from 2:00-4:00 PM on the third Wednesday of the month.

Meditation Circle

The Meditation Group met every Tuesday morning, 9:30-10:30 am, beginning in May. It was led by Ed Merck, and the number of participants ranged from seven to twelve.

Men’s Group

PURPOSE: To provide an opportunity for men – both Members and Friends of UUSMV – to meet in fellowship. At times our gatherings are strictly recreational. But for the most part, we function as a discussion group and occasionally as a support group.

MEMBERSHIP: Open to all men.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: Conducted discussions about immigration policy, affordable housing, challenges of aging, politics, and travel. Sessions were held both in homes and at the beach. The group enjoyed the freedom of meeting somewhat randomly rather than adhering to a regular schedule.

CHALLENGES: Meeting consistently during the course of the year. Leadership of the group is shared, but exercised very informally. This is both a strength and a challenge.

GOALS FOR 2016/2017: To strengthen our fellowship and to focus our energies on subjects that will appeal to as many men as possible.

Neighborhood Convention

Over a century ago, Island churches began Neighborhood Convention gatherings to strengthen community. Now, the meetings continue on the first Tuesday of the month from October through June, with a brief worship service led by the host church and a program of interest to all. Members from UUSMV take part. Our Society hosted the February meeting. Thirty seven people attended. After the customary short worship service led by Ministerial Intern Janet Newton, with piano music played for the hymns by Esther Hopkins, Betty Burton spoke about the Vineyard Committee on Hunger. Guests had been invited to bring a donation for the Island Food Pantry. As is the custom, guests were invited to bring a sandwich/salad lunch and UUSMV provided beverages and home baked desserts. There are no dues, but a collection is taken at the end of each meeting, with all the money donated at the end of the year to selected Island charities.

Play Discussion Groups

There were three play discussion and potluck supper evenings: one each in June, July, and September. They met at members' homes to discuss the plays showing at the Vineyard Playhouse: *High Times*, *Table of Joy*, and *Reds*.

Potlucks and Cottage Dinners

Our Church year began in September with the Annual Meeting, at which time a light luncheon was served. This was followed by a Halloween Pot Luck with trick-or-treaters stopping in, as well as attendees wearing spooky and colorful masks. In November we had our Service Auction/Italian Dinner, and the Chapel was transformed into an Italian Bistro. A lasagna dinner was served by wait staff, so that members and friends were able to better circulate and bid on Auction items. This proved to be a fun and very lucrative fundraiser. December had our traditional Candlelight Reception at the beautiful home of Steffie Elliott.

In the New Year we had a Chinese New Year theme dinner in February and a March St. Patrick's Day corned beef dinner. Rabbi Lori Shaller and Reverend Bill Clark co-led a Passover Seder in April, and we closed our dinner event season in May with the Installation of Reverend Bill at the home of David Behnke and Paul Doherty. It was a catered event put on by our very talented committee of Jenifer Parkinson, Diane Purvis, Celeste Stickney and Judy Hickey, with additional contributions of food by Dorie Godfrey, Barb Caseau, and Johanna Kobran. Summer followed with theatre discussion groups at the homes of The Kobrans and Anita Christian. A church picnic is being planned for September.

Social events bring many people into the church and provide a chance to socialize and get to know each other in a more casual atmosphere. They also build community. In addition, this year many winners of the service auction attended dinners they had bid on, such as Comfort Foods, Spanish Tapas, Seafood supper and lunch/dinner at the Vineyard Haven and Edgartown Yacht Clubs. These were also supplemented with Circle Dinners with Reverend Bill and celebrations at members' homes. It is hoped that the Circle Dinners for eight will be expanded in the coming year. Our goal is to have everyone, both members and friends, attend at least once of the special events.

Women's Group

Purpose: The Women's Group began in 1992; the UU Women's Seminar we called ourselves (very) briefly. We meet to share ideas, sometimes to explore an agreed-upon topic; issues political, personal and societal are discussed. We talk and we listen. Our numbers vary: sometimes there are five or six of us, other times a dozen or more.

Membership: The Group is open to all UU women and meets at our various homes every 2nd and 4th Thursday of the month, year-round, from 3:00 to 5:00 pm, (2:00 to 4:00 pm during the dark winter months). We keep an attendance notebook for each meeting, including photos, which over the years has made quite a little history. Notice of where the next meetings are to be held is in the monthly newsletter and in the Sunday church bulletin.

MINISTER AND STAFF



Minister

It has been an exciting church year – make no mistake about it!! From our great participation in last fall's Crop Walk to hiring our new Music Director to our sanctuary lighting and music programs to the celebration of being called as your permanent minister, it has been a great year. Some of the highlights are below.

Religious Education

Our RE program benefited greatly from the leadership of our first RE Coordinator, Sam Greene. The program expanded this year into three groups. The success of our first OWL class was certainly a highlight. We saw an increase in young families attending and later joining our community. Some of this proved to be a challenge for us, as we do not yet have programming for the youngest children. As always it is a joy to have them come forward during our conversation together.

We said good-bye to Sam Greene this year and have begun the search for another qualified RE Coordinator.

Music

Our greatest achievement this church year was the hiring of our Music Director, Emily Anderson. Emily brings integrity and professionalism to the job, which we have not experienced before. She is a joy to work with. Our music programming has expanded to "coffee house" and concert-type programs such as "Broadway on Main." More are planned for this coming year. Jeremy Berlin continues to work with us bringing his unique style and musicality to our worship services. With continued support of our music committee volunteers like Diane Purvis and Jenny Friedman, we are becoming yet another venue to hear great music on the Island.

Worship

This year I co-chaired the Worship Committee with Tad Crawford. I found this to work well. Our Candlelight Holiday service was very well received and had over 100 people in attendance. Tad and I put on Worship Coordinators Workshops, which were well attended and gave us a

larger pool of volunteers to work with. I continue to preach on two Sundays back-to-back, using themes and topics the congregation seems to appreciate. Our new microphone at the pulpit adds clarity and volume to our chapel.

I also participated, along with our own Rabbi Lori, in the Island's first interfaith service for those suffering from addictions. The service was held in Union Chapel.

Rabbi Lori and I facilitated our second annual Seder dinner. It was a great success.

Stevens Chapel Project

The work continues with the SCP team. We made a decision about the lights, ordered them and await their hanging. All of the new chairs and red cushions are in place and the sanctuary has taken on a whole new look.

Lifelong Learning

We continue to try and offer the New to UU class but have not had much success in finding an appropriate time that suits many possible participants. There have been some book discussion groups; *Becoming Nicole*; is the one I attended. Such groups appear to be very successful here at UUSMV.

Committee Work

I continue to meet with the chairs of the committees I have direct contact with: Music, Worship, Membership, Caring and Hospitality. This year we reduced our meeting times to every other month, which is working well.

Memorial Services & Weddings

I facilitated memorial services for Josette Ebbs, Bud Stickney, Ted Hewett and non-member Lorriane Hoggan. I also performed marriage ceremonies for Janet Newton and Maria Thibodeau, Toby and Paul Allen and Deb Keller and Peter Wood.

Mission and Vision Work

We successfully created and voted upon a new mission and vision for UUSMV. The process and the meeting to vote were a prime example of our success in right relations. It was a joy to witness.

Community Action and Universal Justice

We added our participation in the Crop Walk, along with a good number of volunteers working with the Homeless Shelter Initiative. Our own Dorie Godfrey created and organized the sign up for volunteers for overnight stays.

Ministerial Intern

This was our first year working with Janet Newton-Thibodeau our Intern. She is a joy to work alongside. Having an intern does keep a minister on his toes! We facilitated two worship services together. Janet was a valued participant in the Worship Training Workshops and she continues to be a pastoral presence when I am off Island.

She has facilitated four services here at UUSMV, which includes being the worship host. In addition Janet has facilitated three other services for her classmates. She is becoming known for her excellent writing of prayers, as was commented by our guest speaker on Sunday, Ursula Goodenough! Janet also facilitated a small group gathering called Faith Journey.

I love the way the congregation has embraced her ministry!

Goals

Some of the goals for next year are:

- Support our intern's initiative for her themed worship proposal and small group ministry
- Facilitate at least one New to UU class & two membership Sundays
- Begin training session for the lay pastoral care team
- Offer more Adult LLL class
 - Blessings of the Heart
 - Living with Dying
- Make our congregation's name and activities more relevant to the Island community
- Continue our involvement with the Nights of Hospitality and the Homeless Initiative
- Explore possibility of teen group.

The Reverend Bill Clark

Intern Minister Committee

PURPOSE: As determined by Meadville Lombard Theological School, an Intern Minister Support Committee was set up in September 2015 for Intern Minister Janet G. Newton-Thibodeau at UUSMV. Janet is doing her two-year internship with us at UUSMV. The purpose of the Committee is to provide support, feedback, guidance and evaluation during her time with us.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: Janet Newton Thibodeau, Nancy Cox, Esther Hopkins, Sarah Shepard, and Ann Hollister, Chair.

MEETINGS: Meetings are scheduled each month with Janet. We share together what she has been doing within the UUSMV community and her goals and aspirations. We provide feedback when Janet has delivered a service or has participated in an activity. We share together with Janet her expectations, experiences and progress, both at Seminary and with us at UUSMV.

EVALUATION TASK: Our largest task was to provide Meadville Lombard with an extensive evaluation of Janet's first year with us. The questionnaire required very detailed responses to every facet of Janet's ministry with us thus far. The Committee met after preparing individual ideas and experiences with/about Janet and worked together to create an evaluation that would express accurately and fully our knowledge and the personal experiences of many who worked with Janet throughout the year. The document was shared with Janet before it was submitted. We feel her first year has been very successful and full. We are enjoying getting to know Janet personally and professionally and look forward to another year as a Committee.

GOALS: To continue to provide support and useful feedback to Janet and to listen to her ideas and assist with implementation of them.

Ann Hollister, Chair, Intern Minister Committee

Music and Choir Director

Purpose: In collaboration with the minister, music committee, UUSMV Choir and Worship Committee plan and implement choral and instrumental music for worship services throughout the year, in order to heighten our spiritual experience and enhance the message of the sermon.



Choir Membership 2015 – 2016: Judy & Tad Crawford, Paul Doherty, David Behnke, Jenny & Mark Friedman, Johanna Kobran, Jacqui Noel, Peter Palches, Diane Purvis, Craig Saunders, Sue Streeter, Roger Thayer, Mimi Davisson, and Sally Williams.

Accomplishments:

- Coordinated scheduling and planning of music at Sunday worship services, rehearsing and playing for 2 services a month.
- Choir: Selected choral music, some purchased from the music budget, rehearsed weekly, and performed during 10 services (once a month) from September to June, including Candlelight Service, a Music Sunday service in April, and for Reverend Bill's installation in May.
- Provided piano and/or organ music to enhance weekly services (prelude, hymns, interludes, offertory, postlude, and choral accompaniment)
- Scheduled with and accommodated guest accompanists (Jeremy Berlin), Lisa Weiss, and Phil Dietterich for 2 Sundays each month
- Assisted Music Committee in recruiting and hiring guest musicians for 4/10 Music Sunday: Steven Finch-piano, Ross Wicherski-guitar/solo, Kyle Higley-guitar/solo, Second Bridge-barbershop quartet
- Rehearsed and chose music for children of the congregation to sing at Candlelight Service and 4/10 Music Sunday.
- Arranged for 2 piano tunings (Roberta Kirn and David Stanwood), and one organ tuning (Jeremy Adams)

Challenges

- Choosing and acquiring music in time for weekly services
- Still just getting my bearings in a new position with new responsibilities, but feel very supported by everyone!

Goals for 2016 – 2017

- ASAP: Either leasing or borrowing a piano keyboard to enter a trial period with the congregation using an electric keyboard during services to determine the best option for Sunday services and other chapel events.
- Choir:
 - recruit more members from the congregation or community (will be more possible after downsize of piano)
 - Aim to have a few months where the choir performs twice a month.
 - Continue to sing challenging music and develop ensemble
- Increase involvement of children and youth of the church in more musical activities.
- Reach out to more community musicians to participate in services and Chapel concerts
- Network and plan more workshops or services with UUMN musicians
- Continue to increase the cultural and religious diversity of musical selections

Emily Anderson, Music and Choir Director

RE Coordinator

Dorie Godfrey, LLL Chairperson

Sam Greene, who was our Religious Education Coordinator for two years, resigned in June. We are so grateful to Sam who helped us build our program for children and youth. This year we had 23 children and youth registered for our programs. Sam led the UU Explorers 1 group and with Michael Savoy facilitated the Our Whole Lives (OWL) program for our middle school youth. This is the first year UUSMV offered the highly acclaimed OWL program. We will miss Sam's leadership but welcome her as a member of our congregation.



We are seeking a part time RE Coordinator for the coming year's religious exploration programs.

Administrative Assistant

This year's goals:

- Continue to increase skills with Microsoft Word and Excel and website management;
- Improve use of pictures on the website;
- Implement strategies to reduce errors and maintain correct information on calendar and website.



Accomplishments:

- Published 12 issues of the newsletter and learned more about the Publisher software;
- Updated the website weekly, reviewing and revising content; worked with a website consultant with the proper software to re-size pictures and replace pictures on www.uusmv.org; kept website backed up; investigated changing template for website and presented findings and recommendations to the Parish Committee;
- Managed rentals of Stevens Chapel;
- Assisted the Treasurer by making weekly deposits into UUSMV's bank accounts;
- Published 52 orders of service and 52 Friday emails;
- Performed the administrative work for running our B&B program.

Challenges:

- Getting past my current levels of word processing and spread sheet abilities without more in-depth training. Training monies were allocated, and I was not able to fit training into my schedule.

Goals for 2016/17:

- Continue to learn to use more functions of Word and Excel.

I continue to be honored to serve the UUSMV as its Administrative Assistant.

Lori Shaller, Administrative Assistant

Music Director Search Team

Purpose: The Search Committee was chartered by the Parish Committee and held its first meeting in April 2014 after John Gorman, Choir Director, decided to retire on June 15, 2014. The Committee's mission was first, to make a recommendation to the Parish Committee about music staffing at UUSMV; and then to recruit and recommend for hire an individual or individuals to fill the position(s) recommended.

Members:

Chair: First, Reverend Bill Clark (who remained a member thereafter)
Then, Diane Purvis
Members: Jenny Friedman
Johanna Kobran
Christine Seidel

This Year's Goals

- Support the new Choir Director as she began working with the choir in September, 2015.
- As the year goes on, explore with the Choir Director the possibility of expanding her responsibilities to take on more of the Music Director role.
- If this proves unlikely or undesirable, continue to search for additional qualified candidates for Music Director.

Accomplishments:

- Provided ongoing support for the new Choir Director as she became acclimated to the choir and congregation.
- Recommended to the Parish Committee that Emily Anderson be hired as the Music Director. This was approved, and she began her new role on January 1, 2016.
- Worked with the Choir Director to help her transition to the role of Music Director.

This concludes the work of the Search Committee.

Minister's Installation Team

Purpose: To organize an Installation ceremony and reception for our newly called Minister, Reverend Bill Clark

Membership: Judy Crawford, Mimi Davisson, Dorie Godfrey, Jenifer Parkinson, Diane Purvis

Important Helpers: Virtually every member of our UU community helped in some way, however, some merit special acknowledgement: David Behnke and Paul Doherty (Reception hosts), Barbara Caseau, Jeff Fisher, Judy Hickey, Johanna Kobran, Peter Meleney, Michael Savoy, Susanna Savoy, Celeste Stickney, Norm Stickney, Jack Street, Maria Thibodeau, the UUSMV Choir.

Accomplishments: All activities were conducted in on-going consultation with Reverend Bill, who had final say on everything.

- Designed invitations and Installation ceremony program
- Arranged flowers and other decorations for both the ceremony and the reception
- Planned and prepared food for the reception and enlisted circulating servers and kitchen helpers from the congregation

- Selected and performed music for the ceremony and the reception
- Provided photography for the ceremony and reception
- Provided hospitality to off-site guests – overnight lodging, ferry pickup and deliver, parking, “rehearsal dinner”
- Organized equipment needs (eg: sound and music, trays, punchbowls, linens, loaned flowers)
- Raised \$850 from “angels” to augment the Installation budget

The Installation ceremony at Stevens Chapel and reception at the Behnke/Doherty home were held on a beautiful Sunday, May 22, 2016, and were spectacular! This concluded the work of the Minister’s Installation Team

GOVERNANCE

Parish Committee

Parish Committee Overview

The Parish Committee is entrusted with governing the congregation – setting policy, exercising fiduciary responsibilities, and assisting the professional staff and volunteer groups in the congregation to achieve their goals. The officers are elected annually; members-at-large are elected for three-year terms.

Parish Committee Membership: Mimi Davisson, President; Tad Crawford, Vice President; Mike Kobran, Vice President and Assistant Treasurer; Dorie Godfrey, Secretary; Jan Casey, Treasurer; Ann Hollister, Member-at-Large, serving her third year of a three-year term; Lucinda Sheldon, Member-at-Large, serving her second year of a three-year term; and Rita Brown, Trustee. Reverend Bill Clark is a non-voting member. One Member-at-Large position was unfilled this year.



2015-2016 Parish Committee
Ex Reverend Bill

We have unbounded gratitude and affection for the three Parish Committee members who will be ‘retiring’ from the PC in September. Dorie Godfrey served as President for three years, followed by a year as Secretary. Tad Crawford served as a Member-at-Large for one year, followed by a year as Vice President. Ann Hollister served as Member-at-Large for three years. All three of them have contributed unique skills and wisdom and we thank them profusely.

Accomplishments: The year began auspiciously with the calling of Reverend Bill Clark to be our settled, part-time Minister. After settling in to its new routine, a routine that changes every year as its membership changes, the Parish Committee set its goals for the year. The goals were a combination of new and carry-over goals, which are described in more detail in the following pages:

1. Complete the congregation’s development and adoption of a new Mission and Vision. PC point person was Rita Brown, with Sarah Shepard as co-leader. This goal was completed.

2. Complete phase 1 of the Stevens Chapel Project to upgrade lighting in our chapel. PC point person was Lucinda Sheldon. This goal was completed.
3. Complete one-on-one conversations with members of the congregation about their interests and how they would like UUSMV to enhance their lives. PC point person was Ann Hollister. This goal is in progress and will be carried over to the next Parish Committee.
4. Provide leadership in community action and universal justice
 - a. Conduct a Welcoming Congregation refresher program. PC Point person was Rita Brown, with Judy Crawford as co-leader. This goal will be completed late in 2016.
 - b. Publicize the activities that members of our UU community pursue on behalf of community action and universal justice. PC point person was Dorie Godfrey. This goal was completed and has become an on-going feature of our newsletter.
5. Begin long-range planning for our facilities. PC point persons were Tad Crawford and Mimi Davisson. This goal was superseded when the property next door to Stevens Chapel went up for sale. The goal morphed into a task force chartered to evaluate the possibilities for buying part or all of that property. This goal is in progress and will be carried over to the next Parish Committee. PC point person was Mimi Davisson, with Judy Crawford and Ed Merck as co-leaders.

In addition to discretionary goals, the Parish Committee deals with many on-going matters. Some are very time-sensitive and pop up unexpectedly; some mosey along toward eventual completion. We have found that organizations, just like individuals, experience the universal reality of life getting in the way of plans. On-going and on-demand activities:

1. FINANCIAL

- a. Monitored budget status and supported the Treasurer and Finance Committee efforts to bring income and expenses into balance.
 - i. Fiscal year 2015 ended with a surplus of \$2,700 against a budgeted deficit of \$3,700. This was a net improvement of \$6,400 in UUSMV coffers over what was budgeted.
 - ii. Fiscal year 2016 financial concerns to-date: As of early August, adult attendance was up 8% and attendance of children was up 39%, but the plate collection was down 7% and the average gift was down 14%. As of early August the forecasted year-end deficit was \$9,500 against a budget of \$9,900.
 - iii. As of early August – 60% of the way through the fiscal year – 13 of 86 pledges had not had any payments made toward them. It is hoped that, barring unforeseen circumstances, every pledger would have made payments somewhat in proportion to the passage of the year.
- b. Provided guidance on 2016 budgeting issues and guidelines and confirmed the timeline for the pledge drive and budget preparation and approval.
- c. Implemented the new vote-by-mail approval of the 2016 annual budget.
- d. Dealt with UUA insurance and other compensation/benefits matters.
- e. Approved expansion of Chapel cleaning services.
- f. Authorized UUSMV congregational membership in UUSC and UU-UNO to demonstrate commitment to universal justice.
- g. Authorized credit card processing for pledge and other payments.

- h. Endorsed Finance Committee proposal to conduct a September budget workshop to discuss how priorities might translate into financial allocations.

2. GOVERNANCE

- a. Assisted Reverend Bill as needed to assure his continuing success and comfort in our congregation and on the Island.
- b. Prepared Letter of Agreement with Reverend Bill, effective January 1, 2016.
- c. Authorized UUSMV sponsorship of Janet Newton-Thibodeau as a ministerial candidate, in addition to hosting Janet as an Intern Minister.
- d. Hired Emily Anderson as Music Director and Lorena Crespo as Religious Education Assistant.
- e. Created a team to plan Reverend Bill's May 2016 Installation.
- f. Chartered a search team to find an RE (Religious Exploration) Coordinator to replace Samantha Greene who resigned in June.
- g. Created a team to evaluate the possibility of buying part or all of the property next door to Stevens Chapel and provided on-going guidance to that team.
- h. Guided work on all of the Parish Committee's goals for the year.
- i. Conducted a simple congregation survey via SurveyMonkey software, which subsequently led to a test of an earlier Sunday service time and to changes in conventions for content of communication tools.
- j. Prepared for seven congregation town meetings on significant matters that all required membership votes.
- k. Launched the new Parish Committee, including refresher on Bylaws, PC Covenant, Our Shared Ministry, Email Tips and Courtesies; naming PC Liaisons; learning GoogleDocs conventions.
- l. Updated policies related to Membership, Lifelong Learning, and Intra-Denominational Affairs
- m. Strengthened emphasis, with some success, on putting scheduled events on the website calendar.
- n. Committed to conversion of UUSMV website to the UUA template to improve ease of maintenance and access to technical support. Deferred implementation until budget \$ are available.
- o. Discussed potential changes to bylaws surrounding leadership meetings and the timing of the annual meeting. Deferred recommendations until next year.

Challenges: Leadership development and availability of volunteer time

Goals for Next Year: To be established by the new Parish Committee

Goal – Dream Team (Mission and Vision)

Leaders on behalf of the Parish Committee: Rita Brown and Sarah Shepard

In December of 2014, the Parish Committee appointed a Dream Team to "clarify UUSMV's Mission and Vision and develop a process for including the ideas of all members and friends." The Parish Committee appointed Rita Brown and Sarah Shepard as Co-chairs of this Dream Team with Debbie Dean, Kay Leaird and Peter Meleney also members. Reverend Bill Clark provided wisdom, experience and guidance. Later, Janet Newton-Thibodeau, UUSMV

Ministerial Intern, also provided input. Tad Crawford, Liaison from the Leadership and Development Committee, arranged a conference call to solicit wisdom about the process from the UUA and from Ed Merck of our congregation who had experience in this field. Tad and Ed and, later, Bill Engler continued to be especially helpful.

Key words were extracted from the Every Member Conversation survey. Reverend Bill Clark preached a sermon, "Church, For? For" to explain the need for this effort. The Dream Team coordinated with the Pledge Campaign. The next step was hosting "Vision Quest - a Mission and Vision Carnival," a morning of fun and games with the serious purpose of determining the words we especially value from the thirty-five members and five children who spent the morning in retreat. The words of value were placed in a Word Cloud by Mimi Davisson, which vividly highlighted the words valued by the most.



The next step was completed by chosen Wordsmiths Nancy Cox, Bill Engler, Christine Ferrone, Clark Myers, and Judith Neeld, who worked with Reverend Bill Clark to achieve our Mission Statement. The original aim was to have our Mission and Vision ready for congregational approval at the September 2015 Annual Meeting but this was not possible. However, presentation to the membership meeting that December was accomplished. A prior October meeting of the Dream Team produced a Mission Statement that fit the criteria for brevity. Another meeting produced the Vision Statement. They were presented to the Parish Committee for their endorsement. These proposed statements were presented to the December 6th membership meeting, which was moderated by Judy Crawford, where there were forty-four voting members present. Eight absentee ballots were received. The membership was fully engaged and two last-minute changes were made. The final Mission and Vision statements were enthusiastically approved.

MISSION STATEMENT OF UUSMV

We are an intentionally welcoming congregation of diverse faiths and shared values, fostering spiritual growth, community action and universal justice.

VISION STATEMENT OF UUSMV

We envision a flourishing and caring congregation that . . .

- Lives our Unitarian Universalist principles
- Supports a shared ministry and vibrant music program
- Promotes lifelong learning
- Expands our efforts to achieve a fully functional and inspirational chapel
- Extends our quest for universal justice to the Vineyard and beyond

. . . as we seek to widen our spiritual horizons.

At the next Parish Committee meeting, the Dream Team recommended and the Parish Committee endorsed the following:

- Prominently display the Mission Statement in all our communications,

- Give special consideration to the Mission in all future planning,
- Lead the congregation to the mission of community action as prominently and expressly stated in the Word Cloud and the Mission,
- Provide benchmarks for achieving our Mission over the next five years, and
- Commit to review our Mission and Vision Statements in 2020.

The Dream Team remains grateful for all the hard work, engagement in the process and strong support of all UUSMV members, friends and Reverend Bill Clark.

Goal – Stevens Chapel Project

The Stevens Chapel Project was initiated two years ago to improve the appearance and functionality of the chapel, including seating, lighting, and storage.

Purpose: To improve the lighting, seating, storage and overall functionality and appearance of Stevens Chapel.

Overall Goals:

- The Parish Committee set a goal for this year of completing Phase I of the project: complete the electric infrastructure and install new pendant lights and some wall sconces; and
- Raise \$27,000 through loans and donations.



Members: Dorie Godfrey, Peter Palches, Lucinda Sheldon, and Reverend Bill Clark; Consultant, Adam Peck

Accomplishments:

- The electric infrastructure for the new lighting will be completed by Brissette Electric by mid-September.
- The congregation participated in selecting new lighting fixtures to replace existing hanging pendants and to add new wall sconces.
- The fixtures that were chosen have been ordered and received.
- Completion of the installing of the new lights to be completed by Sept. 18th.
- Framing and reframing of some UUSMV documents has been completed.
- To date, \$25,177 has been raised through donations and loans, leaving \$1,823 still to be raised. The UUA crowd-funding tool Faithify was used successfully to raise \$6,040 of this total.

Goals for next year: The Parish Committee will determine what of the remaining project will be a goal for next year:

- Replace existing piano with a smaller one;
- A rear wall storage credenza to be designed by Adam Peck and built locally to improve storage for hospitality, RE, worship;



- Purchase file cabinets for music and committee storage;
- Build storage bins for lost and found and food pantry collection;
- Build pamphlet rack for wall;
- Install new bulletin board and display area;
- Reframe historic documents now housed in office;
- Move library to reading area.

Goal – Every Member Conversations

PARISH COMMITTEE POINT PERSON: Ann Hollister

GOAL/PURPOSE: To complete interviews of voting members to collect data about the interests, talents, and preferences of UUSMV members to assist in knowing members better and to match the interests and capabilities of members to UUSMV tasks that need attention.

MEMBERSHIP: A cohort of volunteers has each been assigned not more than 4 voting members to interview, using the prescribed questionnaire, and has been asked to submit them to Administrative Assistant via email by September 1, 2016. The Administrative Assistant will enter them in the secure place on our Google site.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS: There were approximately 50 congregants interviewed in the first initiative in 2014-2015 and the goal now is to complete the remaining 47 by September 1, 2016.

CHALLENGES: Meeting the September 1, 2016 deadline for all interviews to be completed and entered at a very busy time in UUSMV history.

Goal – Welcoming Congregation Refresher

Purpose: The Welcoming Congregation Refresher was constituted to remind the congregation of the goals of our initial work eleven years ago and to reaffirm our commitment to be an intentionally Welcoming Congregation. We have also sought to identify ways in which we can be effective allies to people of all races, religions and varying gender identities.

Membership: The Task Force consists of Rita Brown and Judy Crawford, the same team who led the original Welcoming Congregation program.

Goals: The Welcoming Congregation Refresher was designed to:

- Celebrate progress already made
- Identify areas of new learning
- Create multiple and varied opportunities to engage the congregation
- Strengthen relationships with other Island Churches
- Develop ties with MVRHS Gay-Straight Alliance

Consistent with these goals, we have addressed the lives of transgender people and the discrimination they live with in our society. We continue to strive to become good allies to all

people who experience discrimination.

Activities: Our plans covered a wide spectrum of activities. During the past year we published several articles in the church newsletter on LGBTQ issues, including a glossary of gender terminology. We promoted a congregational book reading of the widely acclaimed *Becoming Nicole: The Transformation of an American Family*. There was such an overwhelming response to this activity that we scheduled three discussion sessions to allow for full participation. During each of the three sessions, Nicole Maine's Ted Talk was viewed and discussed. Twenty-nine people participated in all.

We also scheduled a viewing of a *Frontline* video entitled, "Growing Up Trans." This viewing was scheduled during the summer in order to offer something to our summer members. However, only five people participated. There were several conflicting activities that night, as would be true on almost any summer night on the Vineyard. Our conclusion is that we should offer our activities during the months of September to June.

Goals for 2016-2017: Work with the Worship Committee to invite a transgender minister to speak during a Sunday service this fall. Produce a panel discussion of transgender people and family members who will share their experiences with our members. This will take place in the late fall and will be the culminating activity of the Refresher.

We are pleased that UUSMV is playing a role in promoting understanding of transgender issues and to achieve a new level of commitment to valuing diversity in our community.


Rita Brown and Judy Crawford, Co-Chairs

Goal – Enhanced Publicity for Community Action & Universal Justice

Purpose: To provide leadership to the congregation by publicizing the community action and universal justice activities that are being pursued by the UU community.

Coordinator: Dorie Godfrey, PC Point Person

Accomplishments:

- Supported champions of community action and universal justice by publicizing events and actions and providing resources.
- Announced all justice activities to the congregation using a consistent icon  and posted monthly actions and activities in newsletter.
- Publicize UUSMV community actions of universal justice to the Island community and beyond using our UUSMV Facebook page - an average of 6 posts each month.
- Opened some UUSMV justice activities to the Island community, such as Mike Kobran's talks.
- Partnered with other Island organizations: UUSMV is an active partner in the Island Clergy homeless shelter initiative.
- Conducted a simple, brief survey of UUSMV members & friends to determine perception of UUSMV involvement in community action and universal justice with the following response:
 - 15 (27.3%) extremely well,
 - 26 (47.3%) adequately,
 - 12 (21.8%) somewhat,
 - 2 (3.6%) not well at all.

Goal for Next Year:

This publicity has been integrated into the on-going life of UUSMV. The goal is to give these activities prominence and to encourage members of our UU community both to share their community action and universal justice activities and to step forward as champions for community action and universal justice.

Goal – Long-Range Facilities Planning (Team 248)

Purpose: When the property next door went on the market, the Parish Committee swiftly formed a task force to coordinate the evaluation of the opportunity to purchase some or all of the property next door to Stevens Chapel. This significantly changed the intended focus and time horizon for long-range facilities planning.

Membership: Judy Crawford, Mimi Davisson, Ed Merck

People Who Assisted with the Evaluation: Christina Brown, Jan Casey, Joan Clark, Tad Crawford, Johanna Kobran, Mike Kobran, Mary Miller, Diane Purvis.

Accomplishments and Challenges:

- Evaluating the feasibility of purchasing part or all of 248 Main Street involved:
- Numerous formal inspections of the property
- Many hours of deed research, followed by physically measuring the property to confirm boundary measurements (special thanks to Mary Miller)
- Poring over zoning bylaws to understand what could be built in the future (building envelope, septic, parking, etc) (special thanks to Tad Crawford)
- Meeting with the Tisbury Building Inspector, Health officials, Selectmen so they would know what we were doing and to get confirmation that we were on the right track
- Forging a working relationship with potential partners in the adventure
- Visiting with bank loan officer and preparing several rounds of financial estimates
- Maintaining a relationship with the listing real estate agent
- Talking one-on-one with 15% of UUSMV Members to assess the preliminary financial capacity of the congregation to support a purchase
- Keeping the congregation well-informed
- Preparing for a congregation decision at the September Annual Meeting

Challenges: All of this was accomplished during the busy summer months, stressed by the possibility that the property could be sold to another buyer at any time.

Goals for 2016 – 2017:

- Make a congregation decision about what course to pursue.
- If decision is to move forward:
 - Work with Stewardship to conduct a joint pledge drive and capital campaign for UUSMV's future.
 - Negotiate a purchase agreement for a portion of the 248 Main Street property.
 - Integrate new members into Team 248 membership and say good-bye to retiring members.
 - Implement the purchase agreement

Finance Committee



Purpose: The mission of the Finance Committee is to safeguard the financial assets of UUSMV, provide guidance to the Parish Committee, and continue to monitor the financial condition of the Church in a competent and accurate manner thereby supporting the mission of UUSMV.

Members: Janice Casey, Treasurer; Michael Kobran, Assistant Treasurer; Tad Crawford; Mary Miller

Goals for this year: Major goals for this year included drafting Finance policy for consideration of the Parish Committee, developing a budget for 2016 and reviewing the investment of UUSMV funds.

Accomplishments: In addition to several budget-development meetings last summer, the Finance Committee met in 2016 on February 6th and June 24th to date. The following items were accomplished:

- The restricted funds checking account was closed and the funds were moved to the operating general account, since the restricted funds are detailed on the monthly balance sheet. This eliminates the need to reconcile that account monthly.
- Unpaid pledges from the 4-month transition period were written off. Some of the unpaid 2015 pledges (as noted in the check memo) were paid in 2016. Follow-ups were made by the Treasurer for a few unpaid 2015 pledges.
- The Treasurer issued a report on accepting credit cards for payment of pledges and other items noting the costs and the necessary documentation required. Policies and procedures were accepted by the Committee
- Revised Chapel rental rate schedule was developed to replace the 2007 schedule. This was later revised to clarify that voting members were entitled to use the chapel for rites of passage events without charge.
- The accounting for loans for the Stevens Chapel project and procedures were developed.
- Priority items were developed for Financial policy.
- A preliminary budget development/pledge canvass schedule was developed with the possibility of a combined operating/capital fund raising in connection with the 248 Project.
- Recommendations were made to the Parish Committee for someone to perform a financial audit.
- A monthly projection of the operating budget to December 2016 will be presented to the Parish Committee for purposes of financial analysis and budget guidance.

Future Goals: Review and revision of the financial policies and procedures. Continue to research and monitor investments and ensure safe keeping and reasonable returns on the investments. Work with the Parish Committee, Pledge Canvass Committee, and members to identify goals and “dreams” for the future of UUSMV and the funds that will be necessary to achieve our dreams. Review methods of making the Treasurer’s job less time-consuming.

Treasurer's Report and 2015 Year-End Results

Purpose: The role of the Treasurer is:

- Be responsible for the financial receipts and disbursements of the Society within the constraints of the approved annual budget and subject to the approval of the Parish Committee.
- Provide bookkeeping and records retention of all income and expense transactions in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.
- Provide financial information as input to the annual budgeting process.
- Monitor the investment and safekeeping of the funds of the Society and, in conjunction with the Finance Committee, make recommendations for the investment of the Society's funds for review and approval of the Parish Committee.
- Supervise the Assistant Treasurer and assign some of these roles to the same.
- Fulfill the fiduciary responsibility entrusted to the President and elected officers by the congregation.

Goals for this year: Major goals for this year included drafting Finance policy for consideration of the Parish Committee, developing a budget for 2016 and reviewing the investment of UUSMV funds.

Accomplishments:

The following is a comparison of the assets as of December 31, 2014 and December 31, 2015:

ASSETS	12/31/14	12/31/15	Difference	Percent
Checking accounts	\$ 104,982	\$ 90,051	\$ (14,931)	-14%
Investments	\$ 103,625	\$ 110,580	\$ 6,955	7%
Accounts Receivable	(\$ 80)	33	\$ 113	142%
Un-deposited Funds	\$ 100	\$ 0	\$ (100)	-100%
Building & Improvements	\$ 638,975	\$ 638,975	\$ 0	0%
Furniture & Equipment	\$ 7,500	\$ 13,844	\$ 6,344	85%
TOTAL	\$ 855,102	\$ 853,483	\$ (1,619)	-0.2%

The following is a statement of income and expenses for 2015:

<u>Income Item</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Change</u>
Contributions	\$ 90,500	\$ 89,993	\$ (507)	-1%
Fundraising	\$ 6,500	\$ 7,065	\$ 565	9%
In-Kind Contributions	\$ 0	\$ 333	\$ 333	N/A
Grants	\$ 600	\$ 265	\$ (335)	-56%
Interest & Dividends	\$ 6,350	\$ 14,418	\$ 8,068	127%
Pass-thru Donations	\$ 0	\$ 2,168	\$ 2,168	N/A
Building Use	\$ 500	\$ 900	\$ 400	80%
TOTAL INCOME	\$ 104,450	\$ 115,142	\$ 10,692	10%

<u>Expense Item</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>	<u>2015 Actual</u>	<u>Difference</u>	<u>Change</u>
Minister	\$ 44,566	\$ 45,006	\$ 440	1%
Programs & Services	\$ 27,250	\$ 27,588	\$ 338	1%
Administration	\$ 27,150	\$ 27,249	\$ 99	N/A
Facilities	\$ 9,150	\$ 12,611	\$3461	38%
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$ 108,116	\$ 112,454	\$ 4,338	4%
SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	\$ (3,666)	\$ 2,688	\$ (6,354)	173%

As can be seen in the above tables, there were no major changes in the financial situation of the Society. However, the following points are worth noting:

- The checking accounts balance decreased by \$14,931 during 2015, but the total assets of the Society decreased by only \$1,619. This can be explained primarily by the increased value of Furniture and Equipment (new chairs) of \$6,344 and a \$6,955 increase in the value of our Investments.
- Fiscal Year 2015 ended with a surplus of \$2,688 instead of a budgeted deficit of \$3,666. While UUSMV received \$14,156 from the Luce Fund (interest and a greater than expected required distribution), the costs for maintaining the Chapel were greater than expected due to a change in the cleaning service, reseeded of the front lawn, retiling of the bathroom, mold treatment, and lots of snow shoveling.

Future Goals: Review and revision of the financial policies and procedures. Continue to research and monitor investments and ensure safe keeping and reasonable returns on the investments. Work with the Parish Committee, Pledge Canvass Committee, and members to identify goals and “dreams” for the future of UUSMV and the funds that will be necessary to achieve our dreams. Continue to work with the Parish Committee to reduce the amount of financial reporting required during the summer months.

Jan Casey, Treasurer

UUSMV 2015 Income and Expense Statement

	Jan - Dec 15	Annual Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense			
Income			
Contributions & Pledges			
Offerings	\$ 9,119	\$ 7,000	130.3%
Pledges	\$ 76,465	\$ 81,000	94.4%
Total Gifts	\$ 2,993	\$ 2,500	119.7%
Total Contributions & Pledges	\$ 88,576	\$ 90,500	97.9%
Fundraising			
Total Fundraising	\$ 7,065	\$ 6,500	108.7%
In-Kind Contribution	\$ 333		
Total Grants	\$ 265	\$ 600	44.1%
Total Interest & Dividends	\$ 14,418	\$ 6,350	227.1%
Total Pass-thru Donations	\$ 2,168		
Use of BUILDING	\$ 900	\$ 500	180.0%
Total Income	\$ 113,725	\$ 104,450	108.9%
Expense			
MINISTER			
Total Minister Compensation	\$ 44,187	\$ 44,316	99.7%
Supplemental Pastoral Care	\$ 819	\$ 250	327.5%
Total MINISTER	\$ 45,006	\$ 44,566	101.0%
PROGRAMS & SERVICES			
Hospitality	\$ 594	\$ 600	99.0%
Lay Pastoral Care	\$ -	\$ 200	0.0%
Total Membership	\$ 286	\$ 200	143.1%
Total Music	\$ 10,934	\$ 12,550	87.1%
Total Social Action & Contributions	\$ 2,325	\$ 600	387.5%
Total Worship	\$ 4,920	\$ 5,000	98.4%
Total Life Long Learning	\$ 8,528	\$ 8,100	105.3%
Total PROGRAMS & SERVICES	\$ 27,588	\$ 27,250	101.2%
ADMINISTRATION			
Total Denominational Affairs	\$ 5,881	\$ 5,400	108.9%
Total Employer Expenses	\$ 1,862	\$ 3,250	57.3%
Total Fundraising Expenses	\$ 1,067	\$ 400	266.6%
Insurance Expense	\$ 2,224	\$ 2,500	89.0%
Total Office Expenses	\$ 13,368	\$ 13,300	100.5%
Total Parish Committee	\$ 2,076	\$ 2,000	103.8%
Pledge Canvass Expenses	\$ 460	\$ 300	153.3%
Dream Team	\$ 312	\$ -	100.0%
Total ADMINISTRATION	\$ 27,249	\$ 27,150	100.4%
FACILITIES			
Equipment	\$ 539	\$ 200	269.6%
Total Maintenance	\$ 7,167	\$ 4,800	149.3%
Total Utilities	\$ 4,288	\$ 4,150	103.3%
Total Stevens Chapel Improvements	\$ 617	\$ -	0.0%
Total FACILITIES	\$ 12,611	\$ 9,150	137.8%
Total Expense	\$ 112,454	\$ 108,116	104.0%
Net Income	\$ 1,271	\$ (3,666)	-34.7%

8:45 AM
08/11/16
Accrual Basis

UUSMV
Balance Sheet
As of December 31, 2015

	<u>Dec 31, 15</u>
ASSETS	
Current Assets	
Total CHECKING ACCOUNTS	\$ 90,051
INVESTMENTS	
Total MVS8 CD 805958 Genl	\$ 6,074
Total UUA CEF Smith	\$ 62,011
UUA-CEF Endowment	\$ 25,471
Total Vanguard	\$ 17,025
Total Accounts Receivable	\$ 4,137
Total Current Assets	\$ 204,768
Fixed Assets	
Buildings & Improvements	\$ 638,975
Furniture and Equipment	\$ 13,844
Total Fixed Assets	\$ 652,819
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 857,587
LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Liabilities	
Total Credit Cards	\$ 293
Total Other Current Liabilities	\$ 557
Total Current Liabilities	\$ 850
Equity	
UNRESTRICTED	\$ 20,679
Opening Balance Equity	\$ 641,576
Total Perm. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 25,471
Total Temp. Restricted Net Assets	\$ 145,099
Total Vanguard Equity	\$ (423)
RETAINED EARNINGS	\$ 21,648
Net Income	\$ 2,688
Total Equity	\$ 856,737
TOTAL LIABILITIES & EQUITY	\$ 857,587

2016 Year-to-Date Forecast

A projection of the 2016 fiscal year operating budget has been done based on actual income received as of August 31, 2016, and expenses incurred as of July 31, 2016. Income is expected to exceed the budget of \$115,300 by approximately \$4,600. The increase is primarily attributed to increased investment returns from the Luce Fund, a better payment record of pledges than anticipated, and increased building rentals. The budgeted expenses of \$125,188 are expected to be exceeded by only about \$500 assuming a new RE Coordinator is hired for October. If the hiring is delayed the expenses will be somewhat under budget. On the basis of an increase in income and expenses remaining basically as budgeted the operating deficit, budgeted at \$9,888 will be reduced to approximately \$6,000 or less.

Michael F. Kobran, Assistant Treasurer

Trustees of the Church Property and Buildings and Grounds

Members: Rita Brown, Norm Stickney and Jack Street (Chair)

Purpose: It is the responsibility of the Trustees to keep the Chapel in repair and properly insured and to pay any taxes that may be assessed on the church property (per Article VIII of By-Laws.)

(NB: Listing of Accomplishments and Goals that follow that display an asterisk indicate that work was done in conjunction with Building & Grounds Committee. The listing includes only non-routine maintenance/repair tasks or projects.)

Accomplishments of Past Year:

- Re-seeded portions of back lawn around septic tank area.*
- Re-tiled Bathroom floor.
- Assessed state of dry rot in front and south window sills. Dug out and re-filled with wood hardener and filler.*
- Winterized Chapel as usual, including contracting for winter snow removal.*
- Oiled access ramp, refinished back door.*
- Contracted with ServPro to clean and fumigate heat ducts and cellar joists.
- Cleaned gutters (fall leaves).*
- Repaired/replaced broken railings on access ramp.*
- Prepped and painted all window sills front and side.*
- Touched up front door paint, painted door kick plate and threshold, cleaned front sign.*
- Cleaned and sealed leaky front gutter (may have to be replaced).*
- Set up automated lawn watering system for front yard.*

Goals for Upcoming Year: Based on Trustee Chapel and Grounds inspection on 7/2/16, as set forth in Annual Chapel Repair and Maintenance Plan for the 12 month period July 2016 through June 2017.

Maintenance/repair related:

- Replace steps on back porch*
- Replace rotting step in cellar*
- Re-inspect front door gutter; determine necessary action to permanently fix.*
- Winterize Chapel for winter 2016/7. Seal transoms, outside water off, heat taps on, contract for winter snow removal.

- Conduct Annual Chapel & Grounds Clean-up and Harvest Table Lunch. Seek congregation participation.
- Oil back porch floor and railings (office door)*
- Re-seed bare spots on front lawn and rear of Chapel.*
- Replace coat rack in foyer.*
- Secure back porch light.*
- Assess lighting set-up on access ramp; consider replacing with motion sensor floor lighting.
- Carry out routine tasks in a timely manner.*

Other:

Encourage greater involvement from Building and Grounds Committee members.

Buildings and Grounds Members and Chair: Mary Miller, Stephanie Michalczyk, Liz Loucks, Chris Fried, Norm Stickney, Pete Meleney, Jack Street (Chair)

Purpose: “Responsible for maintenance and improvements to the Society building and grounds under the direction of the Trustees” (Per By-Laws, Article X).

Accomplishments of Past Year: See Trustees report and/or B&G Quarterly Updates.

Goals for Upcoming Year: See Trustees report.

Communications

Communications “Committee”

Purpose: As stated in the Communications Charter of August 28, 2012, the Communications Committee exists to assure that communications for the congregation and community outreach reflect the values of UUSMV and are consistent, of high-quality, cost-effective, compatible with IT infrastructure, and prepared with a minimum of operational redundancy. Key roles are:

- Recommend and maintain a Communications strategy for UUSMV that articulates why and how various communications tools will be used, implemented, and supported.
- Recommend and maintain policies and practices for preparation, distribution, and maintenance of communications to the congregation in all forms.
- Recommend and maintain policies and practices for preparation, distribution, and maintenance of communications to the public in all forms.
- Provide advice and assistance to communications operations as needed.

Membership: Although the charter for this group was ratified in 2012, the Committee was never officially convened. Pending formal creation of the Committee, Reverend Bill Clark, Mimi Davisson, Tad Crawford, Dorie Godfrey, Maddie Maccaferri, and Administrative Assistant Lori Shaller met several times to discuss some issues with UUSMV communications and to devise solutions.

Accomplishments:

- Agreement that led to content changes to the UUSMV Newsletter, *The Vineyard UU Voice*;
- Agreement that led to content changes to the Friday email *This Week at UUSMV*;
- Agreement that led to content changes to the Order of Service;
- Appointment of Dorie Godfrey to monitor the UUSMV Facebook page, and agreement that pictures on the Facebook page would not include names;

- Communications from various UUSMV constituencies and carried out by the Administrative Assistant and others have been remarkably consistent and unencumbered despite the lack of a Communications Committee.

Challenges:

- Without a functioning Communications Committee, some decisions about communications at UUSMV are being delayed.
- There is some lack of clarity about how to implement some changes in UUSMV communications, since there is no Committee to make decisions about changing current policies.

Goal: To create a Communications Committee and begin to address questions and decisions that need resolution.

Newsletter

Accomplishments: The newsletter, the *Vineyard UU Voice*, was published monthly this year by Editor Maddie Maccaferri and Publisher Lori Shaller.

Challenges: Occasionally feature submissions don't arrive by the deadline. Occasionally features exceed the guideline of 300 words and require (sometimes extensive) editing.

Thank you to Maddie for her tenure as Newsletter Editor.
The September 2016 newsletter will be her final edition as Editor.

Wayside Pulpit

The Wayside was active this past year and broke into new territory going beyond thought-provoking quotes. New this year, the Wayside relayed messages of social justice (Black Lives Matter) and displayed prayers for current tragedies (Prayers to Orlando). Hopefully 2017 will require fewer prayer messages and more time will be permitted for finding quotes that make you go hmmm....

Committee on Ministries

Purpose: The purpose of the Committee on Ministries (COM) is to promote quality in the relationships that exist within each of the shared ministries of the Society; including Worship, Membership, Pastoral Care, Life Long Learning, Social Justice and Small Group Ministries. The primary purpose of the COM is to facilitate a balanced and positive, two-way relationship between the Minister and members of the congregation, with particular emphasis on the mutually supportive partnership that needs to exist between our Minister and those Lay Leaders of the Society who are responsible for its ministries and those responsible for its governance and stewardship. The Committee is responsible for working with Minister and members of the congregation to promote the overall health of the Society.

Membership: Reverend Bill Clark, Mary Miller, Katharine Colon, Barbara Caseau.

This Year's Goals:

- Support Reverend Bill's work as our called Minister
- Establish COM's goals with Reverend Bill
- Write about important topics for newsletter as needed and
- Promote and support healthy relationships within our congregation.

Accomplishments

- Contact on a regular basis with other UUSMV committees to ensure their covenants are working well for them
- Worked with various committee chairs as they dealt with challenges
- Kept Reverend Bill informed of members needing pastoral care
- As a by-product of our work – the meeting to vote on the mission/vision

Challenges

- Helping individuals to understand the advantages of building consensus
- Helping individuals to put the organization in front of personal agendas
- Finding a chair or co-chairs for the committee.
- We did not meet for six months due to a lack of leadership

Goals for Next Year

- Support Reverend Bill in the challenge of half-time ministry
- Find new leadership for the COM
- Assist Reverend Bill to increase his involvement in our Island community
- Participate actively in Leadership Development activities that will provide a strong leadership core supporting Reverend Bill's half-time ministry
- Promote and support healthy relationships within our congregation.

Membership

Membership Committee

Purpose: Membership in UU congregations is a covenant among individuals to walk together in fellowship as we affirm the principles of our faith. The relationships members build in this beloved community are as important as our mission and principles. The Membership Committee's mission is to maintain a vibrant growing church membership and foster a culture of welcoming and belonging, so that each member has the opportunity to become an integral and vital part of our congregation.

Membership:

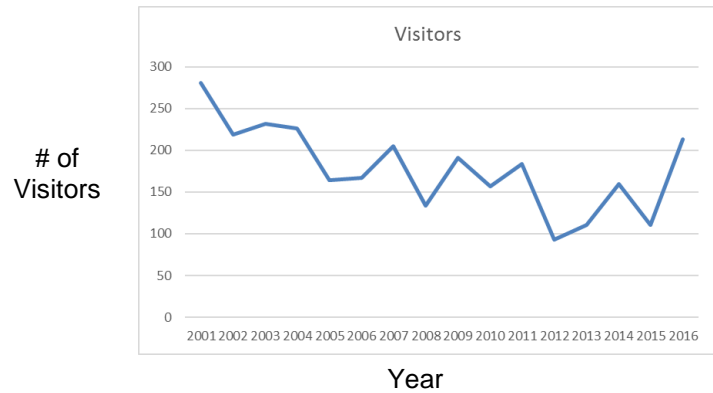
Co-Chairs: Dorie Godfrey & Nancy Wood

Members: Sunny Wilson, Leigh Smith, Jenifer Parkinson

Accomplishments: Our goals for 2015/16 were: Create additional ways to attract and welcome visitors and new members; create additional ways to honor and engage existing members; assist Reverend Bill with at least two New to UU classes; assist Reverend Bill with at least two Membership Sundays; in consultation with the Stevens Chapel Project team, obtain a new case for nametags and a new display case for pamphlets.

- The committee was active, met regularly and was constantly looks for ways to improve our welcoming of visitors, friends, and members;
- Sent a note or made a phone call to all visitors from the Island to welcome the visitor and encourage their return;
- Sent winter holiday cards on behalf of the congregation to off-Island members & friends, past ministers, and guest speakers & musicians of the past year;

- Published 7 articles highlighting new members and existing members in the *Vineyard UU Voice*;
- Maintained member lists and reported the membership to the UUA
 - UUA certification was completed in January and UUSMV reported: 77 members, 22 RE registrants, 66 average weekly attendance, and 52 non-member friends;
- Assisted Reverend Bill with 1 *New to UU* classes,
- Assisted Reverend Bill with recognition of 8 new members at a Sunday service,
- Produced new name tags for members and friends upon request,
- Contacted members who have been inactive inviting them to upcoming UUSMV events,
- From September 2015 through July 2016, we had 215 visitors, substantially more than last year (111 for the full year).

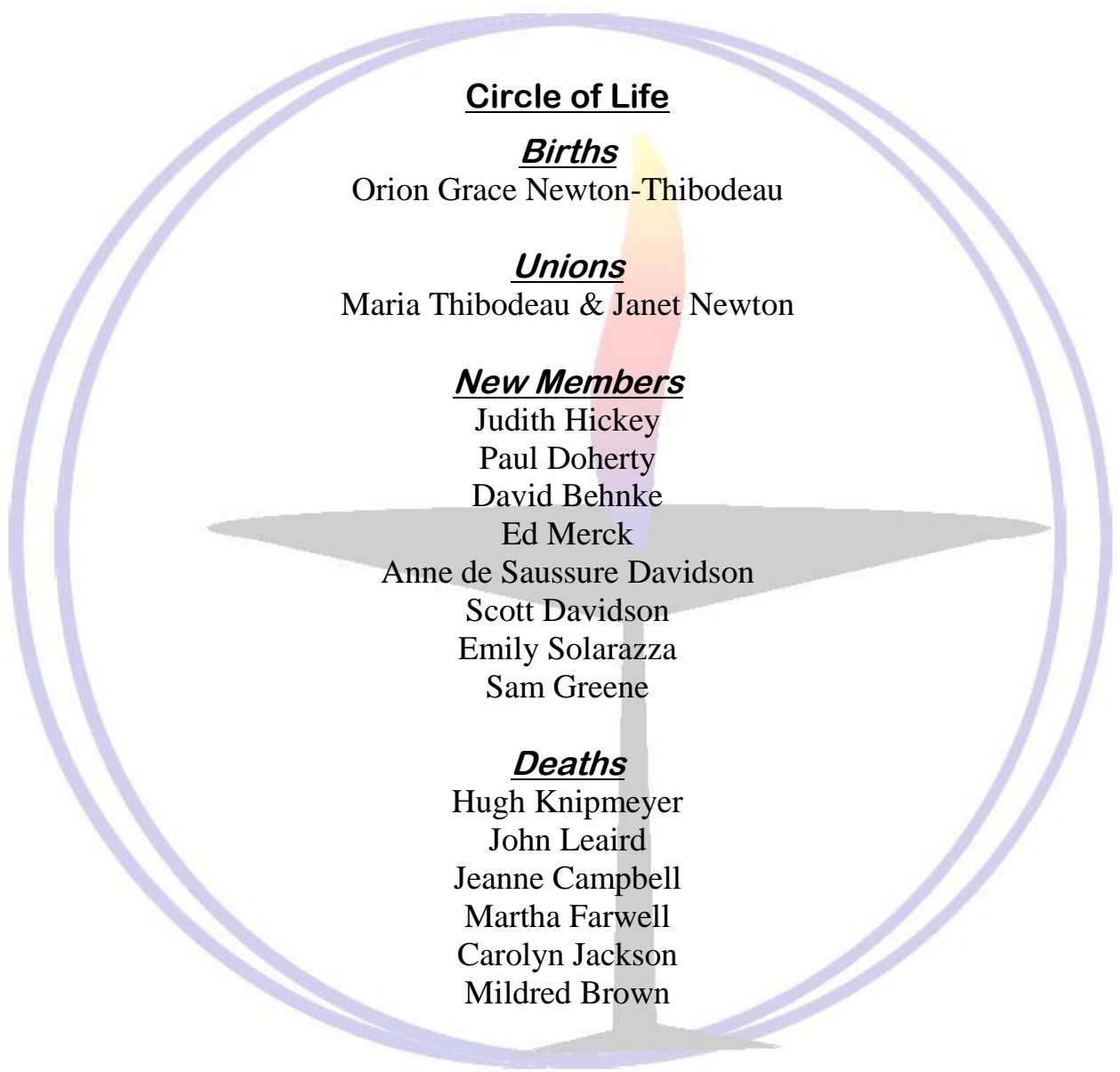


Challenges:

- Obtaining information from visitors is difficult; all do not sign in or introduce themselves,
- Contacting each visitor can be challenging due to indecipherable writing,
- Scheduling dates and times for New to UU classes that at least 6 people can attend is difficult; several arrangements were tried to no avail.

Goals for 2016-17

- Publish a new directory,
- Create additional ways to attract and welcome visitors and new members,
- Create additional ways to honor and engage existing members,
- Assist Reverend Bill with at least two New to UU classes,
- Assist Reverend Bill with at least two Membership Sundays,
- In consultation with the Stevens Chapel Project team obtain a new case for nametags,
- In consultation with the Stevens Chapel Project team obtain a new display case for pamphlets.



Circle of Life

Births

Orion Grace Newton-Thibodeau

Unions

Maria Thibodeau & Janet Newton

New Members

Judith Hickey

Paul Doherty

David Behnke

Ed Merck

Anne de Saussure Davidson

Scott Davidson

Emily Solarazza

Sam Greene

Deaths

Hugh Knipmeyer

John Leaird

Jeanne Campbell

Martha Farwell

Carolyn Jackson

Mildred Brown

Membership Anniversaries

Our Society is sustained by every Member and Friend, especially by those Members who have committed their time and resources to our congregation for many years.

50+ Years

Sarah Shepard

40+ Years

Becky Renear
Stephanie Michalczyk

30+ Years

Ken Beebe

Laura Beebe

Peter Palches

20+ Years

Christina Brown
Betty Burton
Judy Crawford
Tad Crawford

Debbie Dean
Jeanne Hewett
Ann Maley

Mary Miller
Judith Neeld
Celeste Stickney
John Sundman

10+ Years

Mary Jane Aldrich Moodie
Betsy Bayer
Rita Brown
Kimberly Cartwright
Katharine Colon
Arlene Conroy
Nancy Cox
Mimi Davisson
Steve Engh
Polly Friedrichs

Mary Gillette
Marianne Goldsmith
Ewell Hopkins
Diane Jetmund
Doreen Kinsman
Midge Knipmeyer
Holly Nadler
Tom Osborn
Jenifer Parkinson
Rich Peia

Ellie Reville
Chris Seidel
Blair Shick
Norman Stickney
Jack Street
Pamela Street
Jim Thomas
Sally Williams
Sunny Wilson

5+ Years

Barbara Cushman
Susan Desmarais
Tom Duff
Lyndsay Famariss
Jenny Friedman
Mark Friedman
Ann Gallagher
Abby Gilpin

Dorie Godfrey
Russ Hartenstine
Esther Hopkins
Clara Kennedy
Johanna Kobran
Mike Kobran
Liz Loucks
Maddie Maccaferri

Clark Myers
Steve Myrick
Betty Oakes
Brad Purvis
Diane Purvis
Jane Thayer
Vanessa West-Fink
Alan Wilson

Stewardship

Pledge Drive

Membership: Organizer: Johanna Kobran

Members of the Pledge Team:

- Budget and Finance – Mike Kobran
- Worship – Reverend Bill Clark
- Membership – Nancy Wood
- Music - Diane Purvis
- Committee on Ministries – Judy Crawford
- Nominating & Leadership – Tad Crawford
- Dream Team - Peter Meleney

This Year's Goal:

- The fundraising target: Increase giving by 5%
- Establish goals with Committees
- Complete process by November

Last Year Accomplishments:

- Committee representatives participated in outlining the programmatic and financial targets for the pledge campaign;
- Raised \$92,338 from 86 pledge units: Average Pledge \$1,047

Bed and Breakfast

Purpose: The UUSMV B&B Program offers members of UU churches across the country places to stay for reasonable rates when they visit the Island. At present, we have eight UUSMV members who have volunteered to be hosts, some who have provided our visitors hospitality for many years. The B&B Program gives our hosts an opportunity to contribute to the church in a meaningful way.

Coordinator: Nancy Wood, assisted by Administrative Assistant Lori Shaller

Accomplishments:

- As of August 31 we have raised \$1,255.
- We have provided rooms for 9 guests.
- We have found rooms for family members and guests of our congregation who have come for special occasions such as a family reunions, weddings, and memorial services and for other UU's who want to visit the Vineyard. We also host visiting ministers, which we do without charge.
- This year guests have been hosted by Johanna and Mike Kobran, Celeste and Norman Stickney, Nancy Wood, Katharine Colon and Leigh Smith. Anita Christian, Judy and Tad Crawford, and Sarah and Mike Shephard are regular hosts. They all deserve our thanks.

This Year's Goals:

- The goal for this year was to raise \$6,000. That amount was based on an unusually high number of guests last year due to the GA being held in Providence, RI. We have revised the goal to be \$3,000 this year.

Yard Sale

Purpose: Fundraising

Organizing Team Members: Johanna Kobran

Achievement: The June 2016 Yard Sale grossed \$2,600.

Goal for Next Year: None. The yard sale is a biennial event.

Goods and Services Auction and Dinner

Purpose: Fundraising

Organizing Team Members: Johanna Kobran, Mimi Davisson, Doreen Kinsman, Kay Leaird, Diane Purvis, Celeste Stickney

Achievement: The November 2015 Goods and Services Auction and dinner grossed \$3,460.

Goal for Next Year: Conduct a Services Auction, which is scheduled for October 15, 2016.

Stevens Chapel Legacy Society

Purpose: To encourage and facilitate planned giving by UUSMV members as a means of assuring the long-term financial well-being of our church.

Coordinators: Tad Crawford and Jack Street

Background: The Stevens Chapel Legacy Society was created in the fall of 2010, in order to visibly recognize and honor members of the Church who have made a commitment to its future through a bequest from a will or estate, or by naming the Society as a beneficiary to a life insurance policy or retirement account.

In the past, we have been blessed with several bequests from members who had passed away but who had remembered UUSMV in their wills or estates. The handicap access ramp is but one tangible example of this kind of planned giving. The Stevens Chapel Legacy Society and the new plaque we placed this year at the back of the Chapel are designed to honor this type of commitment to the values of Unitarian Universalism and of UUSMV.

The installation this year of Reverend Bill Clark as our settled Minister and the financial commitment that this entails are but one example of the optimism that we all share for the future of UUSMV. What better time to become a member yourself.

Membership: Tad & Judy Crawford, Mimi Davisson, Dorie Godfrey, Jeanne Hewett, Rich Peia, Sarah Shepard and Jack & Pamela Street.

How to Become a Member: A charitable bequest is easy to implement, it is revocable should your situation change, it is versatile should you wish to place restrictions it, and it can have Estate Tax benefits.

This Year's Goals: To increase participation in planned giving at UUSMV.

Accomplishments:

- Continuing communication in the *Vineyard UU Voice*,
- The addition of Rich Peia as a new member, for which we are very grateful, and finally
- The creation and placement of the new plaque.

Challenges: Identifying new contributors.

Next Year's Goals for 2016/17:

- To clarify for donors the principle funds of UUSMV and how they are used, most notably the Endowment and the Future Fund.
- To ensure proper long-term archiving of bequests.
- To engage in continuing face-to-face solicitation of Stevens Chapel Society donors.

Leadership Development

Purpose: The Nominating and Leadership Development Committee (N&LD) is responsible for nominating candidates for Parish Committee to be elected at the Annual Meeting,

Members: Johanna Kobran, Chair; Judy Crawford; Mimi Davisson, PC Liaison

This year's Goal and Accomplishments: To expand the outreach to the congregation to discover the interests and talents of individual parishioners and to connect service to the Society to their stated interests.

- Participated in the additional "every person" interviews and reviewed those interviews currently on file.
- Identified parishioners' willingness to serve with their stated interests.
- Prepared a slate of candidates for the Parish Committee, Trustee and Moderator positions to be elected at the Annual Meeting.

Challenges: Encouraging and identifying people who will serve on longer term assignments. Our aging population and the newer members challenge us to find ways for service that fit both the Society's needs and the individuals' time and talent.

Next Year's Goals: Continue to work with other committees to discover service opportunities and to match those with current and new members.

Archives

Much work has been done on arranging and recording the UUSMV archives during this past year, but much work remains. This is a labor of love, which I am very much enjoying.

It is very frustrating in many ways, as we lack so many records of the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's. Reverend Kenneth Smith told me that an un-named Secretary of UUSMV when she moved away taking the church minutes with her, asking that they be returned, but they were not. However, some peripheral information exists. It has recently been a great help that Mike Shepard has offered to peruse the Vineyard Haven Public Library's microfilm of the *Vineyard Gazettes*. This has yielded valuable information. For example: I recently found records in our Archives of repairs made to Stevens Memorial Chapel in the 1970's when Reverend Max Kapp was here. The roof needed replacing, as did the windowsills, and the walls were bowing out. These were the first major repairs made since the Chapel was built in 1896.

All if this was very expensive. Christine Colman died in New York in 1973, leaving a bequest of \$10,000, which could be placed in the Endowment (Memorial) Fund or used - a beautifully timed gift. But who was Christine Coleman? Neither a member nor mentioned in records of activities. *The Gazette* reported the bequest at the time of her death. Christine was a daughter of Reverend Charles Elder, the beloved Unitarian Society Minister from 1921 to 1929. For many years after his retirement, Reverend and Mrs. Elder spent summers on the Vineyard, and when Mrs. Elder died, Reverend Elder continued to reside here seasonally, often with one of his daughters accompanying him. His home on Main Street where Fairfield Avenue joins it was later bought by Dean Swift.

And the project continues. I hope to complete it within the next year.

Sarah Shepard, Self-Appointed Archivist