



High Plains News

June 2012

High Plains Church - Unitarian-Universalist

Vol 19, No 6

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Interim Minister Named

Introducing Rev. Beatrice M. C. Hitchcock, AIMIT

By Danielle Heimer

The Board of Trustees and the Interim Minister Search Team are pleased to announce that we have chosen the Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock to serve as our Interim Minister.



A contract for this period has been signed. A second year has been proposed and a contract will be negotiated at the end of the first year of ministry. AIMIT stands for Accredited Interim Minister in Training.

Beatrice will arrive with her daughter, Elizabeth, in early August, to settle into their home and to enroll Elizabeth in her senior year of high school. Jim Hitchcock, husband of Beatrice, will visit Colorado Springs and HPCUU in August or September to become acquainted with our city, community, and congregation. Beatrice and Jim are currently looking for a caretaker for their family homestead in Alaska, making it possible for Jim to visit on a regular basis.

Rev. Beatrice brings a wealth of education and experience, including chaplaincy work in clinical settings, peace and justice work, developing adult and children's education programs at Anchorage UU Fellowship, and serving as their Consulting/Transitions Minister. We are very excited to begin working with Rev. Beatrice later this summer and invite you to read more of her biographical information, included in the newsletter.

Membership Musings

By Sue Majors

Do you remember why you came back to High Plains after your first visit? Was it because someone connected with you? Did someone get you involved in a book group or a U and I group or a discussion group? When you were leaving, did someone wish you a good week and said they hoped they would see you again? What was it that made you feel like this community might become yours?

You now have the opportunity to give visitors that same warm connection you felt. Church is a place to meet and greet our friends; it is also a place to welcome others into our caring community.

How can you help in doing this? Next Sunday, after you connect with the people you know and love, please make a connection with someone you have not met or do not know well. If we all reach out to others in this way, we can become even more inclusive and welcoming to all to come through our doors.

Events Calendar - June 2012

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 Stitchers/Hands 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm High Plains Sisters 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm	2 Cleaning Day / Cleansing Ritual 10:00 am - 2:00 pm
3 Sunday Service 10:00 am - 11:30 am	4	5	6 Fellowship Team 6:30 pm at Pikes Perk	7 Yoga Class 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Y.E.P. HS Youth Group 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	8	9 Intro to High Plains UU 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
10 Sunday Service 10:00 am - 11:30 am Fostering Hope Meeting 11:30 am - 12:00 pm	11	12	13 Intergen Book Club 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	14 Yoga Class 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	15 Stitchers/Hands 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm Parent/Childcare U&I 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm	16 Issues of Aging Group 7:00 pm - 9:00 pm
17 Sunday Service 10:00 am - 11:30 am	18	19	20 Pastoral Car Team 6:00 pm - 8:30 pm Board Meeting 6:30 pm - 9:30 pm	21 Yoga Class 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm Y.E.P. HS Youth Group 6:00 pm - 8:00 pm	22	23
24 Sunday Service 10:00 am - 11:30 am Summer Potluck 11:30 am	25	26	27	28 Yoga Class 5:30 pm - 6:30 pm	29	30

Be sure to check the Events Tag on the website at www.hpcuu.org for additions and corrections to the calendar.

Upcoming Services

June 3: *What a Friend We Have in Science* - Tom Ward will give his last in a series of four sermons on heeding the guidance of reason and the results of science. He will identify three areas of current scientific activity where the findings can be applied to everyday living consistent with liberal religious teachings.

June 10: *A Celebration of Flowers* - A congregation-created service in celebration of the arrival and love of spring and summer flowers. Three people from the congregation, Kelly Miller, Dianne McRae, and Bob Nemanich will each give a brief homily on The Spirituality of Growing Things. There will be special music and a ballet dancer.

For this service, we would like to have the church filled with flowers. Vases of flowers from your yard or purchased at the grocery store would be very welcomed. In addition, service attendees are asked to bring a single flower of their choice either from their own garden or from a field or roadside. They will be collected in a bucket at the entrance. After the flowers are consecrated you will leave with a different flower--thus symbolizing our shared celebration in community

June 17: *Fatherhood: An Appreciation* - Come hear Joe Uveges and Amanda Udis-Kessler talk about fatherhood from two different perspectives. Joe will talk about being a dad and Amanda will talk about how her father made her the musician she is today.

June 24: *Before the Trinity* - Before the Trinity was established by the Council of Nicea in 325 CE, there were a variety of different early Christian groups and beliefs. Most of these beliefs eventually were stamped out as heresies. When compared to orthodox Christianity, Unitarian Universalists would also be considered heretics. This sermon by Larry Sargent explores the various early Christian beliefs and attempts to relate them to modern concepts.



Faith Formation

by Laura Worley

By now, most everyone knows that I will not be with High Plains after July 14, 2012. July 8 will be my last Sunday with High Plains as your Director of Faith Formation. I will truly miss you all, and will be sad to leave. However, my new job at First Universalist of Denver will leave me close enough to perhaps cross paths with you folks in the Front Range community. I will be giving you a warm welcome when we do. In the meantime – we have work to do! Summer is upon us, and we are in need of Fall Teachers and leaders, as well as OWL instructors. INTERESTED? Of course you are. Please contact me asap to work in this fine ministry.

In peace, Laura

Faith Formation Calendar

June: HPCUU Issues of Aging: Third Saturday, 10:30 am - 12 noon

June 3: Advisor Debrief -- after the congregational meeting at Pike's Perk on North Academy.

June 3: All Children and Youth remain in the service.

June 10: Junior High and High School, attend service at First Universalist in Denver.
Elementary Children: class.

June 17: Junior High and High School, attend service at All Souls in Colorado Springs.
Elementary Children: class.

June 24: Possible visit for Youth to Prairie UU in Parker.
Children: Game Day.

Summer FF Schedule for Children and Youth:

Summer volunteers are needed for June, July, and August, 2012.

We will be organizing trips for 6th - 12th grade youth to attend services in June at All Souls in Colorado Springs, and Prairie and First Universalist churches in Denver. Driver/chaperones and two larger vehicles are needed on each of these Sundays: we need one driver for June 17 and two drivers for June 24.

Once a month, we will have Game Days for all -- two volunteer helpers are needed for each of the three Sundays.

Twice a month, we will have Elementary classes on the theme of UU Identity -- Two volunteer assistants are needed for three of six Sundays.

Our Youth will join us in service two Sundays/month, and our elementary children will join us in service one Sunday per month.

Nursery care will continue to be provided for our youngest. Contact Laura (dff@hpcuu.org) to help.

Easter Egg Hunt

By Lori Salgado

What do you get when you mix 30 kids and 300 eggs with a mini-golf course? An Easter Egg Hunt ... HPCUU style, of course! Visionary dads Ken Lowry and Mike DeLuca orchestrated the entire event, with a little assistance from some of the middle school and high school youth, and a few generous Easter Egg donors. The weather was beautiful and spirits were high as everyone found a variety of treasures. Those lucky kiddos who found the special numbered eggs received some fabulous chocolate prizes.

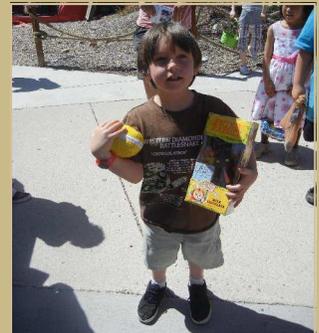
And the winners are:

Pre-School - 2nd Grade



1st place - Corrina Ekberg
2nd place - Jade Kramar-Wine

Pre-School - 2nd Grade



3rd Place - Jade

HPCUU is Hiring Children's Class Supervisors for Summer 2012

Job Description

Education majors preferred but not required

High Plains Faith Formation is built upon a team approach. Children are divided into three grade levels with one supervisor and one adult volunteer present per grade level for the children on summer Sunday mornings. Summer Children's Class Supervisors will be hired on a \$500 stipend basis to prepare for, attend and lead nine (9) children's classes, 3 per month, between June 1 and August 31. The hours required will vary, between 2.5 and 5 per week. The Summer Children's Class Supervisor will report to the Director of Faith Formation until July 14, 2012, and the Faith Formation Team between July 15 and August 31.

Requirements:

- Minimum one year of college classes, and at least Nineteen years of age
- Some experience leading groups
- Some experience working with children
- Good communication skills and a positive attitude
- Successful Background Check

The Summer Children's Class Supervisor is expected to:

1. Attend training with the Director of Faith Formation
2. Interface with Adult volunteers:
 - Confirm their attendance by the Wednesday prior.
 - Share a summary of the class lesson.
 - Get adult volunteer's feedback on the class, and share in weekly report.
3. Become familiar with the curriculum and prepare lessons.
 - Take notice of supplies you will need. Purchase/procure supplies and apply for reimbursement if necessary.
4. Arrive at 9:30 am and stay until 11:45 am. Set up your table/room and obtain your supplies from your classroom metal cabinet or Faith Formation office.
5. Accompany class from Sanctuary to classes. Greet your class, take attendance, teach your lesson, and have the children clean up their table and room.
6. Accompany your class back to the fellowship hall after the lesson. Make sure that the children in your class meet up with their parents after the service has ended.
7. Fill out a weekly class report form. Call or email the DFF/FF Team to summarize the class' accomplishments and any concerns by the following Monday.

Contact Laura Worley, DFF asap about these positions at [248-224-2697](tel:248-224-2697)

3rd Grade - High School



1st Place - Justin Cowles

3rd Grade - High School



2nd Place - Logan Powell

3rd Grade - High School



3rd Place - Rileigh Adams

Visionary Dads



Mike DeLuca and Ken Lowry



The President's Post

by Danielle Heimer

There is good news at High Plains as we head into the summer. We are so excited to begin working with the Rev. Beatrice Hitchcock as our Interim Minister in August. Reverend Beatrice has worked with the Anchorage UU Fellowship through a period of transition and has experience with churches who are in the pastoral to program size change. Reverend Beatrice is a lifelong UU and says "I know that UU congregations are capable of great strength and health, and I love seeking creative ways to bring that to the forefront. We owe the Interim Search Team a great deal of gratitude for their hard work, thoroughness and thoughtfulness as they conducted the search to find the best possible fit for our Interim Ministry.

Earlier in May the Board regretfully accepted the resignation of Laura Worley, who has accepted a position with First Universalist in Denver as their Director of Faith Formation. The Board is meeting with the Faith Formation team this week to discuss plans for going

forward. Please know that the Board will also be meeting with all interested members of the congregation to gather ideas and suggestions for our Faith Formation Program.

The annual Congregational Business Meeting will take place on Sunday June 3, and all voting members of the congregation are encouraged to attend. The agenda will include electing a slate of candidates to the Board of Trustees and Leadership Development Team, voting on the budget for the next fiscal year, and hearing from the Team on Ministry about initial results of the interview project they began earlier this spring. All members and friends were contacted and offered the chance to participate in an open ended interview. The information from this project will be very valuable to the Board and other teams and the church as a whole as we move forward, and we look forward to sharing it with you!

Danielle Heimer,
President of the Board of Trustees

Meet Rev. Beatrice M. C. Hitchcock, AIMIT

Beatrice will arrive with her daughter, Elizabeth, in early August, to settle into their home and to enroll Elizabeth in her senior year of high school. Jim Hitchcock, husband of Beatrice, will visit Colorado Springs and HPCUU in August or September to become acquainted with our city, community and congregation. Beatrice and Jim are currently looking for a caretaker for their family homestead in Alaska, making it possible for Jim to visit on a regular basis.

In order for you to get better acquainted with Beatrice's background, the Interim Minister Search Team has provided the following information from her interview process and materials.

Rev. Hitchcock describes herself as a mystic theist. In her application she states: "I believe in God based on my personal experience of God. It would be utterly foolish for me to expect anyone else to believe in God because of my experience. I have been an atheist and appreciate having been included in the UU fold at that time. I was raised a liberal Unitarian Christian, and am in sympathy with UU Christians who feel ignored or devalued. I am supportive of CUUPS and enjoy some pagan elements in worship services. I believe that religious humanist values -- that deep meaning is found in many sources, both sacred and secular; that we are to show love to all others; that our life and immortality is about the good work that we do on earth; and that it is up to us to do the work of the world, (no deity is going to step in and save us) - are foundational beliefs for all Unitarian Universalists.

The "UU" beliefs with which I am not in sympathy are those that hold that Unitarian Universalism is not a religion, and which celebrate intellectual superiority over spiritual belief. The way I have dealt with this is through education about Unitarian & Universalist history and the evolution of the many belief systems that have been held over time, and an invitation to personal exploration of one's own spiritual journey and spiritual practice. I am open to finding other ways."

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In addition in her application materials she writes:

"During my high school years, I was active in the peace movement, an advocate for family planning, and a leader in Project Concern's youth group (an organization providing medical care in rural Vietnam) in San Francisco. My junior high and high school served San Francisco's Chinatown and gave me, a Caucasian, the experience of being a racial minority.

I spent a lot of time back-packing with my friends in California's coastal mountains and the Sierra's; this was my main spiritual practice as a teen and young adult. I worked in clerical jobs in San Francisco, temporary work and as a statistical secretary, until I joined the Air Force with the mistaken idea that this would be a safe way in which to explore the world. The Air Force (1977-1981) sent me to Georgia and to Michigan and gave me an education in the realities of sexism and racism from which my liberal Unitarian family and west coast life had sheltered me.

I was married while in the Air Force and spent one year at Northern Michigan University, majoring in English, before we moved to Alaska in 1982. Settling in Palmer, I joined the Anchorage UU Fellowship (50 miles away) my second week in Alaska. I worked for the Valley Women's Resource Center as their Volunteer Coordinator (1982-83), doing recruiting and training for advocates of domestic violence and abuse, and had a lead role in opening the Mat-Su Valley's first women's shelter. I then served Planned Parenthood's Wasilla Clinic as Clinic Coordinator (1983-1985), and was their public speaker for the schools and other community organizations.

As my marriage disintegrated, I entered counseling for childhood trauma. Sometime in the course of my recovery, I noticed a longing for something more, something spiritual. The Anchorage UU Fellowship was without a minister at that time, and had only forum-style services, devoid of spiritual content. I began attending a Unity church and went there for two years while maintaining membership in the Anchorage UU Fellowship. During this time there grew in me a belief that I had something to offer to the Anchorage Fellowship and to Unitarian Universalism.

I returned to college to earn my bachelor's degree, graduating from Alaska Pacific University with a major in pre-ministry (1990). I was divorced during my first year of school and supported myself with summer jobs. I worked on the Alaska railroad as a tour guide/entertainer for Princess Tours the summers of 1987 and '88. In 1989 I worked as head of housekeeping at a remote Alaskan fishing lodge. For the summers of 1991 and '92 I

was a tour guide at a musk ox farm. I met and married Jim Hitchcock, during this time, a long-time Alaskan, log-home builder, and bush pilot.

Our house burned down during my last year of undergraduate work, and I chose to stay in Alaska for a year while we rebuilt rather than go off to Starr King School for the Ministry that year. This experience of loss was another pivotal time in my life. I discovered the gift of receiving from others, found that all is not lost as long as I can remember, and learned to give nothing away unless I can give it whole-heartedly and without attachment.

I began an extended unit of Clinical Pastoral Education (1990-'91) in Anchorage at Providence Hospital and at the Palmer Pioneer Home (assisted living facility). It was during my first day 'on the wards' at Providence that I experienced what really felt like my call to ministry...

I had come from my first patient's room feeling like a total failure. I had not known what to say to the woman with AIDS or how to offer any comfort. In the hallway, a woman was standing by the elevator, and a voice said to me, "Go to her." I introduced myself to her as a student chaplain, and she threw her arms around me and sobbed out, "God must have sent you to me," and told me about her husband, who was dying. At that point I knew that I did have something to offer, and that I didn't have to do it alone.

I attended Starr King, taking classes in Alaska when I could, including two more units of CPE. I was trained in Critical Incident Stress Debriefing. I graduated in 1994, when I was 39 years old. I was pregnant with our daughter, Elizabeth.

My situation at the Anchorage UU Fellowship was unusual in that I had either held a leadership role or been absent for the previous five years. I was granted permission by the Ministerial Fellowship Committee to do my internship at the Anchorage Fellowship. This began in August, 1994. My daughter was born in December and became the "church baby," going to work with me there through May 1995. I also worked as adjunct faculty at Mat-Su College, teaching Speech 111, Fundamentals of Oral Communication, from fall 1994 through spring 1997.

November 1996 I obtained fellowship from the UUA Ministerial Fellowship Committee, and the Anchorage UU Fellowship ordained me in May 1997. By that time we had moved to Seward, Alaska, population 2,600, for my husband's work. Our first year in Seward, I taught

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Dream Work and led a women's group on The Spirituality of Menopause.

In the spring of 1998, I began ongoing meetings with a small group to plan a UU congregation. That September, we began weekly services, with childcare for preschoolers and three children's RE classes. Seward UU's met in borrowed or rented space, moving seven times in as many years. We had adult RE classes and monthly potluck dinners with a movie and discussion. We sponsored community forums on communicating across cross-cultural lines (primarily white and Alaska Native), sexual minorities, moving beyond religious tolerance to acceptance and understanding, teens in crisis, and more. We held annual rummage sales, and for a year and a half, operated a thrift store. In 2004-05, Seward UU had 42 adult members and 20 registered children and youth.

By 2005, my husband's work had moved away, back to the family homestead at Caribou Creek, so with great reluctance, we left Seward at the end of July. Three years on the homestead with no connection to the electrical grid or running water, over 100 miles from the nearest UU congregation, had me missing ministry fiercely. I worked as a substitute teacher at the nearby K-12 school (2006-08), served on the PTA, and led an all-ages Girl Scout troop. My husband and I started a community theater company and I created and co-taught a class in dramatic arts. I was able to teach an online course for Starr King on Small Town UU Ministry, spring 2008.

February 2008 I began a ¼-time consulting ministry with Anchorage, staying in town a few days at a time. By summer, they had decided they needed an interim minister. Having been advised by the District Executive that no one would want to move to Alaska for a part-time interim ministry, the congregation sent me to

Fundamentals of Interim Ministry in July. I became half-time in August, and rented a house in Palmer, half-way between Caribou Creek and Anchorage. At the 2009 General Assembly my District Executive and I consulted on the slow pace of the interim work with the Anchorage congregation. She recommended that I return to consulting status so that I could spend more time with them on the interim tasks. This required permission from the Ministerial Transitions Office in Boston and the Anchorage UU members. November 2009, I was back in consulting status with Anchorage and working ¾-time as their Transitional Minister.

In August 2009 I was diagnosed with thyroid cancer, and underwent two surgeries, one of which damaged the nerve to my right vocal chord, which is now paralyzed. This has been another learning experience in recovery, acceptance, and working with a hidden disability. Six months of voice lessons and a surgery in July 2011 restored a great deal of strength to my voice.

September 2010 I became full-time in Anchorage. I will serve the UU Fellowship there through July, 2012.

Continuing Education: Fundamentals of Transitional Ministry, Boston 2008. UUMA CENTER course in Adaptive Leadership, Feb. 2011. PNW Chapter UUMA: "Whose Are We?," April 2011, Oct 2011. Healing Racism Workshop for Community Leaders with Tim Wise, October 2011. Religious Institute, "Sexuality Issues for Religious Prof.JA12," March 2012.

I bring to my next ministry an understanding of the unique challenges of small-town ministry, and knowledge of the dynamics of a pastoral-size congregation trying to move to program-size, as well as the struggles of a congregation that began as a fellowship attempting to become a 'church.' I know that UU congregations are capable of great strength and health, and I love seeking creative ways to bring that to the forefront."

New Project for East-West Relationship-building

Does it upset you to hear the multitude of news stories where East bashes West and visa versa? One more violent act, one more defamation of Islam or Judaism or Christianity? Would you like to dampen the hatred by doing something positive? Your chance is coming to help define a new interfaith, relationship-building project between Middle Eastern and Western cultures.

The Middle East Peace Project (MEPP) group--a division of Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission--wants church groups and other individuals to join together in making the world more just and peaceful. The current group includes members who have not only conducted projects locally, but also traveled to the Middle East to deal with conflicts first-hand. They are hoping to expand membership. Who at High Plains would like to be a part of this effort?

MEPP will meet at 5:00 pm on Thursday, June 7, at the PPJPC office, 332 West Bijou Street, Suite 102 to plan for this project. Will the new project be, perhaps, an interfaith service project, a war veterans conclave, an Internet value-sharing exercise, or an adoption of a sister mosque? Bring your suggestions; we'd love to hear them. For more information, or if you need a ride, contact Lori Sly, sly.lori@gmail.com.



Dollars & Sense

by Jack W. McElroy

“Money has everything to do with religion, with the choices that we make about how to be in relationship with ourselves, our neighbors, and with the divine. Religion is about life, and life, it seems, has a whole lot to do with money.”

Lynn Ungar

As you read this month's newsletter, a lot has happened in the life of the church since the last issue was published. One item of extreme importance to me is the approval by the Congregation of a Church Operations budget for the new fiscal year. This budget does not provide for everything we would like or even everything we need. It requires the use of a large portion of the remaining Capital Fund which adds to the financial uncertainty in years to come. However, this budget will provide for the basic needs of the church for the coming year, including an interim minister.

The big question mark is whether or not we will be permitted by the lender to continue with reduced monthly mortgage payments after December. We are currently unable to pay in full debt payments that we committed to pay. For the first half of the new fiscal year we are authorized to continue paying interest only monthly payments on the UUA note. In addition we have the promise of a one time contribution that will cover the first annual payment on the to All Souls Church note. I am convinced there are three things that will provide relief to our financial woes – Growth, Growth and More Growth. In the words of Max De Pree, *“We cannot become what we need to be by remaining what we are.”*

YTD Financial Highlights:

At April 30, 2012, High Plains had a cash balance of \$49.4 thousand, a decrease of \$23.6 thousand from June 30, 2011. The April 30, 2012 cash balance consisted of \$7.4 thousand in unrestricted cash and \$42.0 thousand of temporarily restricted cash. This is to say provided we receive income as budgeted. Pledges must be met, unpledged donations must increase and scrip sales and fundraisers must produce significant revenue.

Temporarily Restricted Cash at April 30, 2011 included the following:

Capital Fund Drive	37,437
Playground	118
Aesthetics	3,169
Music Director	<u>1,320</u>
Total Restricted	<u>42,044</u>
	=====

Donations and contributions for the ten months ended April 30, 2012, excluding Temporarily Restricted Donations and Designated Collections, totaled \$164.3 thousand and were \$3.9 thousand below budget. Total Church Operations Revenue of \$182.5 thousand for the same period was under budget by \$1.6 thousand.

All questions regarding HPCUU financial issues may be directed to cfo@hpcuu.org

Make your Monthly Payments Electronically

If you don't already participate in the electronic funds transfer program for monthly pledge payments at church, please consider doing so. Under this program, you authorize the church to transfer funds for your pledge payment each month from your bank account to the church's account. High Plains has offered this payment option for seven years, and about a third of church members take advantage of it. The program is great for the church because it helps to make revenues constant and predictable, like many of our expenses. It's great for you because you don't have to remember to write a check every month—you just fill out a form one time, and the treasurer does the rest.

If you are interested in participating, or if you have questions, please talk to the church treasurer, Carol Peterson, or to Amy Plapp, the finance team member who oversees the program. Or, just look in the “finance procedures” binder on the church secretary's desk and find a blank form, fill it out, and give it to Carol or Amy or leave it in the treasurer's mailbox at church. The forms are entitled “Direct Answers to Questions about Electronic Contribution” and are located in one of the inside cover pockets of the notebook. Any time that you wish to change an existing payment amount or discontinue payments, use the same form.

High Plains Church—Unitarian Universalist
Board of Trustees Minutes
May 16, 2012

In attendance: Danielle Heimer, Gloria Carpenter, Jack McElroy, Al Sly, Joe Nerad, Michelle Bull,
Laura Worley, Cindy Fesgen, Kelley Ghorashi, Liz Wilson, Sheila McElroy

1. Check-in
2. Opening words / Chalice lighting
3. Reading of the Board covenant
4. Pulse check: Roger's last service on May 13 went well.
Several teams need new members
5. Interim progress
 - a. Sheila and Liz discussed the team's work in the second round of the interim search process.
6. DFF report (full report will be on the website)
 - a. Laura has accepted a position at First Universalist Church in Denver. She appreciates the support and growth that she has experienced while serving HPCUU.
 - b. Michelle moved and Al seconded that HPCUU continue to pay Laura through July 14, since she is facilitating Spirit Quest through then.
 - c. There are 72 children and youth registered in the program, and an average attendance of 36 in the month of April.
 - d. Summer curriculum has been planned with a focus on UU identity
 - e. Children and youth will be in the service once or twice a month (depending on age group) in June, July and August.
 - f. John Atkinson and Andi Hammond continue to offer a variety of educational and discussion offerings for adults.
 - g. Laura expressed concern that FF team members are stretched and are experiencing burnout.
 - h. The board discussed options for supporting the FF program during the time we are without a DFF, and also the possibility of moving from a full-time to a part-time DFF. The board will ask the congregation for feedback on this possibility.
7. Finance Team report
 - a. Donations and contributions are about \$4,000 below budget for the fiscal year. Operating expenses are below budget due mostly to the reduction in the UUA mortgage payments. Program team expenses are also under budget.
 - b. The board has requested monthly financial reports from Academy Mini Golf during the summer season.
 - c. Janet Oliver and Meighan Powell have assumed treasurer responsibilities.
 - d. The board discussed the budget that will be presented to the congregation at the June 3 meeting.
8. Planning for June 3 congregational meeting
 - a. The congregation will vote on 1) the budget, 2) Kelley and Cindy as candidates for the Board 3) Jack as candidate for the Church Financial Officer, and 4) Julia Mesnikoff as candidate for the Leadership Development Team.
 - b. Per our by-laws, official notification, ballots, and proxy forms must be sent to all members at least 10 days in advance.
9. Church Council
 - a. Candy Birgers has taken on the role of Shared Ministry Coordinator (formerly Volunteer Coordinator).
 - b. Meighan Powell is the new leader of the Caring Team.
 - c. The Caring Team and the Pastoral Care Team will collaborate more closely throughout the time when HPCUU is without a minister.
10. Words for next month - Gloria
11. Closing words

Respectfully submitted,
Michelle Bull, Board secretary

Compassionate Communication Workshop

by Lori Sly

What do six High Plains members, three Catholic nuns, two communications experts, and a peace musician have in common? We all attended a compassionate communication workshop at High Plains Church recently.

The workshop was modeled on the studies of psychologist Marshall Rosenberg, founder of The Center for Nonviolent Communication. He emphasizes the ultimate goals of identifying and meeting everyone's needs, while sharing resources. The workshop was conducted by Reverend Dr. Ellen Johnson-Fay and Barry Johnson-Fay. Ellen is Minister Emerita of All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church.

During the three-hour session, we revisited a conflict in each of our lives. Analyzing in pairs and the bigger group, we named our own underlying feelings and needs, as well as guessing those of the person we were in conflict with. Then we experimented with ways we might better fix the underlying problems. We practiced using phrases without blame, focusing on solutions which would satisfy the needs of both parties. It was very practical help for our everyday lives.

A group of us plan to continue meeting once per month to regularly exercise and hone these methods. We hope to make them a habit. Ellen and Barry will be joining us! If you are interested in participating, please contact Lori Sly at sly.lori@gmail.com.

Fostering Hope at High Plains

by Lori Sly

High Plains Church adopted the Lowry-Del Duca foster family in 2011. Once per month we meet with them to figure out what support they can use from church members. Guardians Ken and Mike have impressed us with their willingness and abilities to mentor many youth with unique challenges. Their house or campground is always full of fun activity, including from past foster kids who have "aged out" and love to return for visits. We can easily see why these parents have received multiple awards for their long term work in the El Paso County foster program. Part of our job is to make sure these community assets don't burn out.

One of our church's first actions was to provide Christmas presents in December. Since then, we have enjoyed getting to know the youth in the home and their talented guardians. We often provide the family with

dinner on Wednesdays, a busy day with many therapy appointments. We've hosted pizza, game and bowling sessions. Our latest venture was to throw a high school graduation party for one child. He was very proud to have made it through to graduation and astonished so many people would attend a party for him. Candy Birgers organized it at Fargo's Pizza Parlor. Plans for the future include a night out for the foster parents in June and a mini-golf session in July.

This relationship has proven to be a two-way street. It was a pleasant surprise that this family, who already has so many time-consuming challenges, volunteered their time with the church. They spent two days cleaning up the golf course and also hosted our Easter egg hunt this year. The family often attends church and has made positive contributions to Faith Formation classes.

Members of the High Plains Fostering Hope Team include: Barbara Lara, Melissa Fletcher, Julie Feuerbach and her boys, Carol Harper, Chris and Candy Birgers and their party baby, Beth Ingham, Lori Salgado and her crazy gang, Albert and Lori Sly, Ken Lowry, and Mike Del Duca. Christmas Adopt-a-Family workers were: Alcira Estevez, Gail Ballare, Brian Delaney and Lori Sly. Thanks for your help, everyone!

Peace Camp!

Peace Camp is an exciting alternative summer day-camp, immersing kids in the basics of peace, justice and sustainability. Peace Camp 2012 is scheduled for Monday through Friday, July 16-20 at Beth-El Mennonite Church, 4625 Ranch Dr. Children ages 6-13 will choose different crafts and projects every day to focus on Peace with Self, Peace with Neighbors, Peace with the Earth, Peace with the World and Becoming Peace Builders. There's also an enchanting overnight campout Friday night at Rocky Mountain Mennonite Camp - parents can join the fun or pick up children Saturday afternoon. Tuition is \$125, or \$100 each if you register a friend.

High school-aged kids ages 14-18 can also join the Counselors-in-Training team, learning to mentor the younger ones in an exciting hands-on experience-based program. Tuition for CITs is \$50. Spaces are limited and some scholarships available. For more information or to print out a registration form, visit www.ppjpc.org or contact Melissa Allen at peacecamp@ppjpc.org or (719) 632-6189.



Caring Corner

Please keep in your hearts ...

- Judy Sargent - who has returned from the Mayo clinic and is recovering from successful heart surgery.
- Michelle Bull - whose one daughter has graduated from CC and is moving home and whose other daughter is moving away.
- Helene Fagerquist on the death of her husband, Ulf.
- The Plapp/Ward family on the death of Shirley Plapp.
- Meg Evans - who is recovering from Gallbladder surgery.

Best wishes to ...

- Dale Hohm - Who is moving to Vermont.

Congratulations to ...

- Jasmine Gershanov- who graduated and is moving to Arizona.

The Caring Team is here for you ...

Whether you need a helping hand, an ear to listen, a ride to the doctor, meals delivered to your home, or other assistance, the Caring Team is here to help. Please let us be there for you, and please notify us of any of our members and friends who may need help. Contact team lead Team lead Meighan Powell at apixxie@gmail.com or 719-243-4786, or other members of the Caring Team: Phyllis Dunn, Michelle Bull, Jennifer Centric, or Candy Birgers1.



Fellowship Forget-Me-Nots

Please mark your calendars for these upcoming Fellowship events

- Wed, Jun 6 **Fellowship Team Meeting** - 6:30 pm at Pikes Perk (5965 N. Academy) – All welcome! Do you enjoy planning parties and social events? Grab a cup of coffee and join the Fellowship Team as we make plans for the upcoming holiday season and beyond. We would love to have you! Contact: Heather Ashbee heatherashbee@comcast.net or Ann Harris, aharris0407@comcast.net
- Sun, Jun 24 **Summer Potluck Lunch** - Join us in the picnic area after church for a summer potluck lunch. Bring a dish to share and stay to enjoy food, fun and fellowship with everyone! Volunteers are needed to set up and tear down canopies. If you can help with this super simple task, contact Heather Ashbee (heatherashbee@comcast.net).

Do you enjoy planning parties and events? The Fellowship Team is always looking for new members. Please contact Ann Harris (aharris0407@comcast.net) or Heather Ashbee (heatherashbee@comcast.net).

Coffee Hour at High Plains:

The Fellowship Team will be suspending the HiP Host (High Plains Host) program for the summer months of June, July and August. However, if anyone would like to bring snacks to share on a Sunday morning, they will most definitely be appreciated and enjoyed by all!

Thanks to all of our wonderful HiP Hosts for providing coffee hour snacks this year. You are all terrific! This popular (and delicious!) program will be back in September - stay tuned!





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