Sunday, March 6  
“A Family Dose,” Rev. Danny Reed  
We kick off our 2016-17 Stewardship Campaign with a celebration and examination of the ways our church holds us in familial covenant. Is “family-hood” an accurate metaphor for a congregation? What are our obligations to one another and to our church?—Charleston’s two-hundred-year-old experiment in free religion. Steve Simon and the Kings of Jazz will enliven the service with their wonderful music.

Sunday, March 13  
“Practice Makes,” Rev. Danny Reed  
Ascetics and mystics speak of spiritual practice. Anything to it? What is it that one practices and what does practice make of one? Is spiritual maturation rewarded with belts or medals? Is the exam essay or multiple choice?

Sunday, March 20  
“Wrestling with Purity and Perfection,” William Epes, Intern Minister  
How faithful are we to our dreams and ideals? What theological ideas get in our way? We examine two perils and many possibilities for faith development in a liberal church.

Sunday, March 27  
Easter Services 9:00 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.  
“This Marble Fact,” Rev. Danny Reed  
Come to church as we celebrate again a blessed season in song and story. Special activities, including a savory breakfast, and our popular egg hunt, will take place between our TWO SERVICES, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m. More information inside this issue.

Forums at 10 a.m. in Gage Hall

Sunday, March 6  
“Parents Matter,” Samaria Vereen, Planned Parenthood  
Some enhancement tips for parents having THE talk with your children. A CofC grad from the Public Health program, Samaria Vereen has been with Planned Parenthood since September 2015. She has volunteered with many local organizations mentoring youth and helping them make healthy life decisions regarding nutrition, healthy relationships and preventive health.

Sunday, March 13  
“Star Power: Energy for the Next Two Billion People,” John Preston, Member  
This is the story of the other reactor built by the Manhattan Project that was discontinued because it wasn't useful for making bombs. This type of reactor was rediscovered by a NASA scientist looking for a way to power a moon base but it might be what we need to provide drinking water and enough power to pump out rising seas without polluting our environment.

Sunday, March 20  
“Could Depression or Anxiety be in Your Body?,” Dr. Caroline Smythe  
A functional medicine approach to mental health issues. Dr. Smythe will be discussing root causes of mental health issues, from the gut to the adrenals to what is in our environment. “I have a keen interest in helping my patients get well. What I mean is that I help them resolve the physiological imbalances that helped create the mental health symptoms to begin with. I like to educate, put the tools for healing in the patient's hands.”

Sunday, March 27  
No Forum, Easter Brunch
Minister’s Missive

It is not uncommon for someone to open or close our church meetings with a devotional reading. Our Vestry follows this practice faithfully and the opening and closing ritual helps ground work sessions in a larger context. However, I was recently surprised when one congregational leader closed an otherwise business-filled meeting with a love poem from the wonderful e.e. cummings. The closing was an inspired choice for the week of Valentine’s Day and it led me to the volume of cummings’ collected works that I’ve not opened, perhaps in years. My reading reunited me with a forgotten favorite. The poet preferred to number his poems instead of assigning titles. I refer to 271, commonly known by its first line, “love is a place.”

love is a place  |  & through this place of  |  love move  |  (with brightness of peace)
all places  |  yes is a world  |  & in this world of  |  yes live  |  (skilfully curled)
all worlds                                                            “Love is a Place” by e.e. cummings

Soon after the lyric reunion, I joined with other member leaders for a Stewardship meeting. As we discussed the upcoming campaign in the friendly home of devoted members, it occurred to me that, although we sat in a Mt. Pleasant dining room and not in our resplendent Sanctuary or in familiar Gage Hall, we were still the church. My identity assessment was correct because woven through comments about the bottom line and within the discussion of the funds needed to support our steady growth, there was love. The team, representing a nice mix of experience and life stage, each in his own way and with her own words, spoke of love for the historic institution on Archdale Street, without which none of us would likely have ever known one another.

The poet was right, “love is a place.” But the love I speak of is not a place in the sense of being contained in walls and bound by fences. Instead, the love that is the core of our church is one that we embody and carry through and within ourselves whenever, and wherever we gather in the name and spirit of the congregation. And in this world, the world both rooted in specific coordinates in Charleston and also rooted in our hearts and minds, we nurture and inhabit, live “skilfully curled” all worlds. In this world, live our dreams and passions, as have generations of other aspirations and questions—those of our forebears who sought the refuge and reflection of our church in their time just as we do in ours.

This is all as it should be, (but sadly, often isn’t), in families both given and chosen. A healthy family should be a source of love, a world of its own function and membership that challenges and protects, shelters and above all else, loves its members. Our stewardship theme, once again derived from a fun pop song, reminds us that “We Are Family.” And as a congregation, we are a family—not biologically nor ethnically, but a family of preference in which we willingly add our strength one to another, and cast our lot with others who freely gather beneath the love we attempt to be.

It is impossible to enumerate the value of any family, but in stewardship season we do try to communicate appreciation for our church with our financial support. All families require support and supplies, utilities and obligations, and our church certainly does as well. As you evaluate your role, and that of your immediate family, in the larger family of the Unitarian Church in Charleston, please consider all we receive from the church, and how its familial connections help us understand who we and what it is we are to do. Love is a place, thank you for your role in our place, and in our family. Thank you in advance for your generous support.
**Vestry Visions**

Your Vestry is still working hard to develop the right balance of additions and improvements to the 2016-17 Budget. We have much to contemplate: keeping our extraordinary staff as happy as they make us and perhaps adding more staff, negotiating extra expenses for a possible trial of two services for six months starting in September 2016, exploring audio improvements in the Sanctuary and acoustic dampening in Gage Hall, financing repairs to the Sanctuary and Gage Hall roofs and stabilization of the Sanctuary foundation, comparing options for security systems and monitoring as well as other security and safety items…

WHew! I need a nap after reviewing what I just wrote. Covered in that one previous paragraph is the present Vestry world, plus the worry that we will not be able to fund all of the projects that the Church needs and the Congregation deserves. Each project has its own importance and imperative. How to prioritize?

As you contemplate your pledge for next year, remember your exhausted Vestry members and their conundrum. Clearly, a stellar pledge campaign response will help all of us sleep more soundly at night and ease our stress as we pick and choose from the above projects.

We will report breaking news to you as it unfolds, not waiting for a monthly report when necessary.

*Submitted by Judy Manning, Vestry Chair*

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**Intern Insights**

After last month’s joyous Bowens Island Oyster Roast fundraiser, I have been thinking about bivalves and bipeds -- and the wonderful world we share. Congregations do not often think of themselves as animals in community. But like the humble oyster, we humans depend upon the quality of our environment to flourish. Truly we need each other.

Years ago, I taught Brooklyn elementary and high school students about oysters. History had it that Brooklyn’s filthy, 1.8-mile-long Gowanus Canal once supplied oysters the size of dinner plates -- to the world. While I was living nearby, that fact boggled the local imagination. Rainbows of pollutants were floating on the surface of the canal. Deep toxic sediments were known to be lying below. In 2010, the gritty, urban Gowanus was designated a Superfund site, with plans for a cleanup.

Who brought hope of restoring those waters? There were many voices. But among them was a local college biologist ready to try a tiny scientific study. He began seeding oyster spat on old shells in netted baskets, to see if they would grow again in the canal. They grew. They were absolutely inedible. They were also infinitely hopeful.

The church’s Oyster Roast brought me a personal first: I ate my first oyster. I do not blame the Gowanus Canal for my previous aversion, but my own fear of appearing a bit silly. But there you were Sunday, welcomed me lovingly to something new, showing me how to hold the towel, where to place the knife, how to tell raw from well-steamed. Not quite a dozen oysters later, I was thinking about our church community as an important part of our wider Lowcountry bounty. Nourishing hearts and possibilities.

My gratitude for this church community widens and deepens. Sometimes, even a humble bivalve, a creature that spends most of its life glued to the shells of its neighbors, can become a powerful symbol of the future to come.

Oysters are hope. (And delicious.)

Blessed be.

*Submitted by William Epes, internminister@charlestonuu.org*
With the smell of low tide still in our noses and the taste of myriad fabulous chilis still on our tongues, and the sound of amazing danceable music still playing in our heads, this year’s Oyster Roast must have been the best ever!! The weather gods smiled upon us and the crowd was happy, boisterous and huge! So many behind-the-scenes Church members went into its success that we are sure to miss some…so apologies now.

Henry Thomas once again made everything work from ticket sales to hot dog relish. He named the following as his loyal and hard-working crew: Cecil Bennett, Eddie Brunson, George Castaño, Helena Dilling, Nina Fair, Mark Farnham, Stan Goldberg, Mike Griffith, Kay Haun, Tommy Hughston, Jack Hurley, John Klintworth, Richard Moss, Gary and Liese Nichols, Carol Oates, Everett Pompe, John Preston, Fiona Reiter, Ray Setser, Steve Simon, Bernadette Victor and Sue Weller.

Erica Hattings-Brodeur and Kenny Morrison tended bar with a flair all afternoon and Ren Manning donated the excellent wines. Sam Cogdell, Mark Farnham, Sue Findlay, Mark Madden, and Tom Ross gave us great music (some of us even danced a few steps). There were too many chili crockpots to count and one mac and cheese…we wish we had everyone’s name but the only intel forthcoming was ingredients, though anecdotal information tells us that Tommy Hughston’s chili once again emptied out the fastest!!

Just give everyone in the Church a high-five on this one because almost every member either sold a ticket, brought a chili or dessert, or just completely enjoyed themselves at the event!!

And, as promised, we also wish to thank all of you who brought food to Coffee Hour. Certainly, some decided to remain anonymous but hopefully in the future all will agree to sign in when leaving a treat. Those for the last three Sundays of February were Amber Allen, Ovella Bonaparte, Cindy Cooksey, Lesly Davidson, Kevin Eakes, Nina Fair, Mary Jane Farren, Jee Youn Fickling, John Hyatt, Tom Iorizzo, Mark Madden, David and Karen Ruef, Priscilla Shumway and Gary Smith. All we have to say is “YUM, Y’all!” AND many thanks for taking the time to care for us each week.
Happily this month we have three more “first time” grandparents (all of boys). Congratulations to them all.

- Sue Findlay announced the birth of grandson Max (Maddox Conrad Kelly) born February 9th. On a recent Sunday we all enjoyed a lovely photograph of Max beside flowers in his honor.

- Lilless Shilling also reports grandchild number one born January 22nd. He is Sullivan Mackie Norman. Lilless reports he is the only one in the family getting any sleep. Sure does sound like a first baby!

- Rhoda Sterling reports the birth of her first grandchild on February 4th, a boy named Oscar Tannenbaum Spiro in San Francisco.

- It has been so very nice to see Jerry and Sue Prazak back in church after a few setbacks. They have appreciated the many cards and notes sent to them by the church community. Sue says their spirits have been raised by them and thanks you all. Sue says that our church is a very special place for them both.

- Nancy Pelligrini reported earlier this month that her mom Peggy Bird celebrated her 90th birthday. Happy Birthday Peggy! That is quite a milestone. Since recently moving to the Charleston area, Peggy has been attending church and watching Nancy in her ministerial role. Peggy is enrolled in the Spring Pathways course.

- Amy Mitchell’s mother died unexpectedly in January. Patricia “Diane” McCrady was 61 and was predeceased by Amy’s dad. She was a native West Virginian, RN for 30 years and is described as an active community volunteer. Her friends considered her a very giving person. Besides Amy, she left another daughter and a son, and 5 grandchildren. Amy joined the church last November and has 2 children in RE: Sophia and Eli. We extend our condolences to Amy.

While these events are shared, many more are not. Please remember others who may remain silent with their feelings.

Submitted by Judy Bruce
Stewardship Committee

WE ARE FAMILY is the logo of our stewardship campaign to raise funds for the operating budget for our church family for 2016-17. All members of the congregation pledge funds to support the social justice mission of our church, pay our wonderful staff, cover the utilities, repairs, etc. It is vitally important that our leaders can look with confidence at concrete figures in order to make plans for our programs.

When we join this church family we pledge our time, our talent and our treasure to sustain this sacred place where we renew our spirits and find ourselves surrounded in love by like-minded souls. Together we search for truth and nurture each other and our community with love, support and respect. It is our safe place. Please pledge generously so that we can sustain this wonderful church family and its proud tradition.

Submitted by Ellie Setser

Good News from Gilman Legacy Builders

Planned Giving is thrilled to announce that a recent commitment to a bequest has now funded the Religious Education Endowment. What does that mean to all of us?

Creation of each of our five restricted endowments begins with a commitment to a legacy gift of $50,000 or more. With this official funding, those who want to leave a gift via a will or a designated beneficiary can do so without a minimum amount being required. The RE endowment fund is open!

Setting aside restricted gifted funds provides the means to realize dreams. For RE, camps, trips to the Mountain, creative materials, more paid help for our Director and our Childcare providers—some of the dreams. You might ask Janet Watts about her hopes for our beloved children.

Call any one on the Planned Giving Committee to consider your own legacy gift and discuss the possibilities. In addition to the Restricted Endowments, the Unrestricted Endowment can also receive gifts at any time, of course.

Thanks to all of our membership for maintenance and furtherance of the UUC dream itself!

Submitted by Kay Haun, Planned Giving Committee Member
Hillary Hutchinson, Chair, Stuart Terry, Steve Wilson, Myrtle Staples Bennett, Ken Fickling
The Eden Keepers

“The Eden Keepers”

-- Amos Bronson Alcott

The secret to dressing for cold weather is layers. They are probably warmer than one heavy coat and, of course, you can shed one or more layers as the day warms up. The only problem comes when the wind is chilly and the sky is overcast. If the wind stops blowing and the sun comes out, you will probably peel a layer. Then the wind picks back up and sun goes in and Brrr, back into that discarded layer. That was the scenario for the February 6th work party.

Eden Keepers that day were Karen Ruef, Sally Preston, Tom Hartry, Ed Stephens, Emmy-Lou Dickinson, Sarah Cothran, Karen Del Porto, Stan Boyer and Fran Ennis.

Following the work party, we enjoyed a wonderful lunch of soup, sandwiches, fried chicken, bread, salad, and cookies. Yumm.

During the committee meeting, we decided that, since we are holding the monthly meetings of the Churchyard Committee after lunch on a trial basis, if it should rain, the work party, lunch, and meeting will be held the following Saturday. We don’t anticipate this happening often as it seldom rains on us. It might rain the day or night before or later that day, but rarely while we are working. If such a change is made, you will be notified by email. If it starts raining during the work party, we will go in, have an early lunch, and hold the meeting.

The next work party will be on March 5th, from 9 to noon, followed by our covered dish lunch and a meeting of the Churchyard Committee. Newcomers are always welcome. Bring garden tools if you have them, gloves, water to drink while working, and a dish to share for lunch. Hope we have a good turnout so we can get ahead of the spring growth surge.

Submitted by Fran Ennis
TWO-SERVICE SURVEY

Please allow us to hear your opinions and ideas as we move forward to offering 2 services next September. Please respond only once. If you have filled out the electronic survey we have captured your voice. You may return this survey by person or mail. Thank you.

According to the Unitarian Universalist Association, when a church reaches 75% occupancy during Sunday services it is time to move to 2 services. Our Sanctuary can legally hold 250 and over the past 2 years we have seen unprecedented growth. In order to accommodate the growth of our church community, the Vestry has charged the Worship Services Committee to create a task force of members of the following committees and staff to plan for moving to 2 services during the regular church year.

Music
Religious Education
Personnel
Hospitality
Membership
Worship Services

Please take 5 minutes to answer the following questions, which will help us make more informed decisions.

1: Demographic: Age range
   _____18-30
   _____31-40
   _____41-50
   ____51-60
   ____over 60

2: On a regular Sunday I (or my family): Click all that apply
   ___Use the RE Program / NURSERY
   ___Attend Forum
   ___Attend Worship Service
   ___Attend Coffee Hour
   ___Meditation
   ___Choir

3: Where do you park?
   ___Jacob’s Alley
   ___Charleston City Garage
   ___On the street
   ___Charleston Day School lot
   ___Ride my bike or walk
NOTE: Question 4 and 5 concern Religious Education. Please be sure that only one member of your household answers so that we do not duplicate results.

4: On a typical Sunday I (or my family) Pick all that apply:
   _____Use the services of the Nursery
   _____Use Sunday school classes for pre K- 5th grade
   _____Use Sunday school classes for 6-12 grade

5: Please choose one of the 3 scenarios for Religious Education that would work best for your family:

Scenario #1: _______Yes
9:00 a.m. 1st Service - Pre-K Nursery & Programming for K-3rd grades
10:00 Coffee Hour - Pre-K Nursery would continue.
11:15 2nd Service - Full RE Sunday School with Nursery.
12:15 2nd Coffee Hour - Pre-K Nursery would continue.

Scenario #2: _______Yes
9:00 a.m. 1st Service - Pre-K Nursery & Full RE Sunday School
10:00 Coffee Hour - Pre-K Nursery would continue.
11:15 2nd Service - Pre-K Nursery and Sunday School for K-3rd grade
12:15 2nd Coffee Hour - Pre-K Nursery would continue.

Scenario #3: _______Yes
9:00 a.m. 1st Service - Pre-K Nursery
10:00 Coffee Hour - Pre-K Nursery and full RE Sunday School for all ages
11:15 2nd Service – Pre-K Nursery.
12:15 2nd Coffee Hour - Pre-K Nursery would continue.

6: Given the following possible Sunday schedule for 2 services, at which service will you most often attend?
   9:00-10:00 Worship Service
   10:00 Forum at Charleston Day School
   11:15-12:15 Worship Service
   10:00-12:45 extended coffee hour

I would most often attend:
   ___9:00 service
   ___11:15 service
   ___ DON’T KNOW
6: If you have concerns about moving to 2 services, what alternatives can you suggest to alleviate the crowding at the services and in Gage Hall during coffee hour?

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7: Please share any comments or questions you have:

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Thank you for your time. During the remainder of the 2015-1016 church year we will keep you informed on our findings, solutions, and how this process will unfold in September 2016.
Martha Welch Music Award

Each year, the music committee gives a $500 Martha Welch Award to a young musician in our church. An outside judge will evaluate the contestants. This year, auditions will be held Thursday April 14 at 5:30 pm at the church.

Eligibility requirements:
- Currently enrolled in Charleston UU RE program
- Have studied music formally for a minimum of one year
- Submit an application consisting of a thoughtful statement by the student explaining why they are interested in music and for what they might use the prize (music lessons, camp, instruments, etc.).

Applications are due by April 7 to Johanna Evenson musicdirector@charlestonuu.org or dropped off in person to the church office. Applicants must audition in person. The most recent recipient of the award is not eligible to apply.

Submitted by Johanna Evenson, Director of Music

Red Tent

Sunday, March 6
5:00 p.m. upper Gage Hall, Room 2

Red Tent Temple of Charleston is a secular space where all women, from all walks of life and all stages of womanhood, can come and be supported by their community. The goal is to be able to reach into different communities and create a truly diverse and unique experience. Newcomers welcome.

Danica Todd - founding facilitator, danicaltodd@gmail.com, 843-826-0660

Marina Penna-Morrison - facilitator, 910-297-0392

https://www.facebook.com/RedTentTempleOfCharleston/events
http://www.danicatodd.com/red-tent-temple-of-charleston/

Submitted by Danica Todd

Adult Education Class

Discussion of the book Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson, facilitated by Rev. Nancy Pellegrini
Thursday March 10, Lower Gage Hall, one 90-minute session
Please come at either 1:00 pm or 7:00 pm

Rev. Nancy Pellegrini will lead two discussions of the book Just Mercy by Bryan Stevenson on March 10 in lower Gage Hall. Come at either 1:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. Sign up by emailing Janet Watts at dre@charlestonuu.org. You may purchase the book online at the UUA bookstore or on Amazon.

Submitted by Reverend Nancy Pellegrini
We are honored to have the talents of Rev. Pat Hoertdoerfer as we step into our journey towards elderhood. Registration and details of the event will be in be Thursday email blasts. The cost is $60 for an all-day class. Lunch is included. Contact Janet Watts for more information dre@charlestonuu.org.

Green Sanctuary & Religious Education Spring NEI Class
The Green Sanctuary committee is pleased to offer another class in the popular Northwest Earth Institute series. Sharon Strong will facilitate a 5-session adult RE class in the spring called “Change Is our Choice: Creating Climate Solutions.” The readings are available only by e-book, which costs $28. Class meeting dates are Sundays 12:30 – 2 pm, April 10, 17, 24, and May 1, 8. Please let Sharon (sharonstrong2000@yahoo.com, 843.853.3976) know if you are interested. You can order the book at Change Is Our Choice: Creating Climate Solutions | NWEI.

“Hope is a verb with its sleeves rolled up. In contrast to optimism or despair, hope requires that one actually do something to improve the world. Authentic hope comes with an imperative to act.” — David Orr

IN THIS FIVE-SESSION DISCUSSION COURSE YOU WILL:
• Explore climate change from scientific, psychological and social perspectives.
• Consider how you can take action to build resilience in your own community.
• Make and implement a plan of action to respond to climate change’s effects in your community.
Alliance Rummage Sale – Gage Hall

It’s time for the March Rummage Sale! Please bring any gently used clothing, toys, shoes, linens, books, games, household items, electronic equipment etc. to the **Rummage Sale Set-up**

**Friday, March 18, 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.**

We could use some volunteers to help with set-up and pricing that day. (Bring a lunch/snack if you like). **We will be offering child care for the Set-Up.**

Please let me know the number and ages of children no later than Wednesday, March 9th so that we can be prepared.

If you make a list of the items you contribute and their approximate resale value, any member of the Alliance can sign your list that can then be used for tax purposes. Then, do come to the

**Rummage Sale, Saturday, March 19, 9:00 – 11:30 a.m.**

We will have an amazing variety of items for sale like children’s clothes, games, puzzles, books and more at very attractive prices.

If you prefer to help on the day of the sale, please arrive by 8:45 a.m., as we are especially busy when we first open. If you are not a morning person, we could use some help from 11:30 until noon to take down what has not sold. Some nice, strong men are particularly welcome as boxes of books and bags of clothes are rather heavy. There’s no need to commit to the entire weekend. An hour here or there is greatly appreciated. Please join the Alliance members for some great buys, fun and fellowship.

*Submitted by Susan Hartry*
Back by popular demand on Saturday, March 19 at 7:30 pm, the Gage Hall Coffeehouse series will feature an evening of great music by guitarists Lee Barbour and Barrett Smith. Frequently mistaken for brothers, Lee and Barrett formed a musical kinship that has ebbed and flowed over the years as each pursued their own unique musical paths. Barrett has toured the world playing a mix of Bluegrass, Folk and Alt-Country with a variety of artists, while Lee has found his voice in several jazz idioms, recording with Miles Davis’s first guitar player, Joe Beck, and teaching jazz guitar at the College of Charleston and the NYC Guitar School. When they play together, it's a mix of their favorite songs and genres and a reunion of two friends, making music the way they always have. Also appearing with Lee and Barrett on March 19 will be Vikki Matsis, a local singer-songwriter who released her first EP of original music this past December titled “When Dusk Meets Dawn.” Vikki has been singing locally in bars, restaurants and listening rooms all over Charleston for the past several years. A College of Charleston graduate, she took a long break after getting a science degree and is now back in school to learn the amazingly confounding art of jazz piano. Lee and Vikki started Ohm radio 96.3 last August - Charleston's first local nonprofit non-commercial radio station. Be prepared for some great music on March 19. Don’t miss it!

Home-baked desserts, coffee and sodas will be available. Parking available across the street and behind Gage Hall.

Profits from Gage Hall Coffeehouses support enrichment activities in Charleston-area elementary schools. We are currently sponsoring science-oriented field trips for all students at Mitchell Elementary School.

Gage Hall is located at 4 Archdale Street.

Suggested donation of $15 for Adults; $5 for Students.

Call 224-4472 or 367-9663 for more information.

Submitted by Richard Hayes
**Easter Schedule of Events**

**Sunday, March 27**

9:00 a.m. Early Service
9:30-11:00 a.m. Easter Brunch, Gage Hall
10:00-11:00 a.m. Religious Education Events (including egg hunt, petting zoo, balloon sculpture, cupcake and cookie decorating, and crafts)
11:00 a.m. Second Service

**Easter Brunch**
There is still time to volunteer to help with our popular Easter Sunday brunch. We always look forward to delicious egg casseroles, fruit, and baked goods. We need volunteers to help set up, bring food and clean. Look for the Easter Brunch sign-up sheet on the easel by the Welcome Table in Gage Hall. Contact Judy Manning, jpfm@bellsouth.net.

**Religious Education**
There will be no Religious Education classes or choir rehearsal on Easter Sunday. Children are expected to join us for either service with their parents and to be under parental supervision between services and during Easter activities.

The nursery will be open from 9:00 - 12:45 for our youngest members.

**Please have your children bring a basket for the over 3,000 eggs in our egg hunt!**

If you are able to bring in simple sugar cookies or un-iced cupcakes for the event, please let Janet know.

*Submitted by Janet Watts*
Another Successful Oyster Roast

“Thank you” seems inadequate to recognize and appreciate the many volunteers who made the Religious Education Scholarship Oyster Roast such a success on February 21. Henry Thomas organized ticket sales. Henry, Jack Hurley, and others cheerfully sold tickets for weeks. Ren Manning generously donated wine. Kenny Morrison and Erica Hatting-Brodeur staffed beverage sales. Our talented house band: Sam Cogdell, Mark Farnham, Susan Findlay, Mark Madden, and Tom Ross provided tunes. They are amazing musicians and are so supportive of our RE program. Many others also helped out, too many to name. Chili-makers, cleaners, heavy-lifters, organizers, runners, and shoppers worked to create a wonderful day of community, food, fun, and music. Everyone’s contribution is appreciated.

Adults who volunteer in RE have the privilege of seeing our young people grow in the church regularly. The Annual Oyster Roast has become a special event because it brings us all together—children, teens, parents, grandparents, and other adult supporters, in celebration and fellowship. So much good will and cooperation fills me with humble joy. Again, it’s hardly adequate, but thank you all!

Empty Bowls Fundraiser, Sunday, March 6

Immediately after the Stewardship Sunday service, the children and teens will host an Empty Bowls meal to raise funds for One80 Place, our local homeless shelter. One-of-a-kind bowls and mugs, each hand-painted by our students, will be available for sale to be filled with your choice from dozens of wonderful soups. Bowls and mugs are only $5 apiece and the lunch is free with purchase. This instructive project helps our students understand that not everyone’s bowls are full. Please support our children in both their creativity and social justice work. You’ll leave with a functional, original work of art, and the satisfaction of nurturing our children and serving our neighbors in need.

Family Game Night, Saturday, March 26

Families of all ages are welcome to meet in the Annex, 6-9 p.m., for an evening of games, beverages and pizza. Games to entice toddlers through adults will be available. Gamers of all descriptions are encouraged to attend. Bring a favorite game and bring a friend.

Easter Celebration, Sunday March 27

Our church is known for our family-friendly Easter observance. We will have breakfast in Gage Hall, worship in the Sanctuary at 9 a.m. and 11:00 a.m., with the famous Egg Hunt on the grounds taking place between the two services. Children who are able, will remain with their parents during the services and will be rewarded with crafts, balloon creations, a petting zoo and sweets afterward. Please join us for the fun and joy that is Easter at the Unitarian Church in Charleston. Consult forthcoming Weekly Updates for more information and for opportunities to help.

Janet Watts, Director of Religious Education
dre@charlestonuu.org
Membership Happenings

Classes

Next Pathfinders for Newcomers: March 13, 12:30 – 1:30, Upstairs in Gage Hall
This is a class geared toward those new to our congregation who would like to receive basic information about Unitarian Universalism and the Unitarian Church in Charleston. Bring your questions! Childcare available. Contact Carol Oates, Membership Coordinator, membership@charlestonuu.org.

Next Pathways to Membership: April 10, 17, 12:15 – 2:30, Charleston Day School
Pathways is a 2-session class for people who are ready to explore what it means to be a Member of the Unitarian Church in Charleston. Lunch served, childcare provided. The Winter Class (Jan.31, Feb. 7) is full. You may put your name on the waiting list for this class, or sign up for the Spring Class (April 10, 17). Sign up at the Membership Table in Gage Hall, or contact Carol Oates, Membership Coordinator, membership@charlestonuu.org.

Submitted by Carol Oates, Membership Coordinator

Thanks to everyone who made our last Pathways class on January 31 and February 7 a positive experience for the 16 prospective members who attended. Sue Hartry, Ren Manning, Rhoda Sterling and Karen Ruef provided lunch for everyone while Abby Himmelein, Ellie Stetser, Karen Ruef, Janet Watts, Judy Manning and others shared their experiences with the UU community and encouraged new members to get involved. Our mentors -- Stan Boyer, Tony Brown, Nancy Groh, Diane Narkunas, and John Narkunas-- continue to be an outstanding resource for our new members. And a special thank you to Reverend Reed for spending time sharing his perspective and insights and to Carol Oates for making it all happen!

And please welcome our newest members: Wendell Belden, Tamara Eberlein, Robbie Furtwangler, Reta Hampton, Thomas Iorizzo, Lisa Lindahl, Jack Muscarella, Michele Namenek, Joyce Ohl, Shirley Pearson and Judy Warren.

Submitted by Karen Ruef

Docent Doings

Big News! On Sunday, March 6th, Paul Garberini, our resident Church Historian, will share some of our history with our new and seasoned Docents from 12:30 to 1:30 in the Sanctuary as part of our continuing education program. Anyone who is interested in our history and/or interested in the Docent program is more than welcome to attend. Paul’s presentation will last 30 minutes and then we’ll discuss recent events and changes in the Docent program.

The church doors have been open every Friday for tours in February and it’s been exciting working with new Docents. Some Fridays had very few visitors and others were more robust. The numbers will grow over time once we publicize our availability for tours. In April, we plan to be open on two Sundays after services with a goal of complete weekend coverage by late Fall. On April 22nd and 24th, we’ll be open for the Historic Charleston Tours from 2:00 to 5:00. We are currently revising our Docent Handbook and, with the technical expertise of John Preston, our Snowbird Docent from Michigan, creating an online training program. Please join us on March 6th to learn, laugh and get involved in our program. The program only requires three hours of your time once a month for regular Docents and periodic coverage for substitutes.

Submitted by Abby Himmelein
Caring Committee Needs You!

Caring Committee Area Leaders work quietly with network volunteers reaching out to our UUC community throughout 3 counties: Charleston, Berkeley, and Dorchester. We discover needs through simple word of mouth concerns. Rev. Danny and Sandra always tell us when we can help, and Carol Oates and Rev Bill Epes meet with us each month too. New network members are warmly welcome, as well.

We have lost members this past year, all valuable to our community. Network members have taken casseroles, sent cards, visited, helped with services, and made phone calls.

And we are keeping tabs on others who have lost loved ones, had surgeries, become less able as years pass, needed rides, entered Hospice services and nursing homes, left our community to be closer to family, or who may be alone. Our committee also organizes the church-wide cards sent almost every Sunday.

We like celebrating, too: babies arriving to parents and grandparents, weddings occurring, birthdays, graduations and degrees, honors earned. Life has many happy moments and our mission calls for outreach then, as well.

Your input is invaluable. Please let us know about a situation where we can help. Call any one of us with a concern or joy. Don’t let anybody slip through our caring arms.

Who are we? Kay Haun, Chair; Mary Ann Terry, Co-Chair; Mary Ann Hughston; Marcia Castano; Mela Khedouri; Barbara Goldberg; Myrtle Staples-Bennett; Sandra Selvitelli; Bill Epes; Rev. Danny; Carol Oates. Check your Directory to reach any one of us.

Submitted by Kay Haun

Important CAJM Information and Dates

CAJM members are working fast and furiously as we count down the final weeks to the Nehemiah Action Assembly on April 18! The issue of Racial Discrimination, which was selected at this year’s Community Problems Assembly, has been narrowed to Racial Discrimination in Police Pretext/Investigatory Stops—those stops without just cause that disproportionately target people of color. At times those stops escalate with tragic results. North Charleston leads the state in Pretext/Investigatory Stops, with the city of Charleston second. In the time period between 2010 and 2014 in North Charleston, 146,000 people were stopped but not issued a citation, and the number was 126,000 in Charleston. To give some perspective, in Columbia, the largest city in the state, there were only 35,000 such stops during the same period. Research is continuing about solutions to this problem and the appropriate public officials who can implement that solution. An additional problem that arose out of work during a previous year on high rates of school suspensions is that of School-Based Arrests. During the 2014-15 school year, 584 students, some of them as young as nine and 85 % of them minority students, were arrested at school, some for relatively minor infractions. CAJM is researching this problem and possible solutions, which will also be presented to the appropriate public officials at the Nehemiah Action Assembly.

DATES TO PUT IN YOUR CALENDAR NOW

Rally to prepare for the Nehemiah: March 14, 7 pm at Mount Moriah Baptist Chapel, 7396 Rivers Ave, North Charleston.

Nehemiah Action Assembly: April 18, Registration starting at 6:30 pm, Mount Moriah Baptist Church, 7396 Rivers Ave, North Charleston

Celebration: May 23, 6:30 pm (location TBA)

The goal for our church at the Nehemiah Action is 300. We need your help to keep the momentum going as CAJM works to achieve social justice in Charleston!

Submitted by Diane Boyer
Let’s Do Lunch!
Tuesday, March 8 at 12:30 p.m.

Let’s do lunch is a monthly luncheon that is open to women and men in our church. It’s a time for socializing and catching up with our fellow members. Lunch will be at the Bluerose Café, 652 St. Andrews Blvd., (Hwy 61), Charleston (843-225-2583). Please let me know if you are going to join us no later than Thursday, March 3rd so I can make our reservation.

Susan Hartry 843-225-1439 or hartry.susan@gmail.com

Submitted by Susan Hartry

Men’s Group
Tuesday, March 1 at 6:30 p.m.
Upper Gage Hall, Room 4

John Preston will lead the discussion based on a TED talk by Stewart Brown on the importance of play. The talk will revolve around Memories of Playing With Our Father. Newcomers Welcome.

Submitted by John Preston

Art on Our Walls
Barbara Lang’s photography show in Gage Hall will remain on display until March 18. Contact Barbara at lang.barb@yahoo.com for purchases. To view more of her work, visit www.blangphotos.com.

The Fine Arts committee is requesting art work from members and friends for the Members’ Art Show, on display March 18-April 29. Please contact Joanna Innes at innesjoanna@yahoo.com by March 7.

Submitted by Joanna Innes

Books & Coffee
The UU Books & Coffee group is currently reading Between the World and Me, by Ta Nehisi-Coates. Claire Bush will lead the discussion at 5:30 p.m., Sunday, March 13, in the home of Stan and Barbara Goldberg, 624 Cain Dr., Mount Pleasant. For directions or RSVP, their phone number is 843-884-7896.

Submitted by Jo Anne Simson

Dinners for Fun
Our last dinner party for the year will be on Saturday, March 26th. I hope you will join us as a Host or Guest to get to know fellow UU’s, engage in stimulating conversation, and share delicious food. You may sign up for a dinner party at the Information Desk in Gage Hall during Coffee Hour or email me at abbyhimmelein@comcast.net.

Submitted by Abby Himmelein

Social Justice: Save the Date
Social Justice Committee Open Meeting, Monday, May 2, Gage Hall at 6:30 p.m.

Submitted by Diane Narkunas
Backpack Buddies
at Lowcountry Food Bank

3rd Saturday of each month (March 19)
9:00 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.

We will pack food for low-income elementary school children. The bags we pack are put into the children’s backpacks on Friday afternoon so they’ll have food to eat over the weekend.

Lowcountry Food Bank, 2864 Azalea Drive, North Charleston 29405; meet in the lobby.

We need at least 20 volunteers to get the job done.

New volunteers welcome – no experience needed. Bring a friend!

With question or to RSVP, please contact Kris Rife: 843-884-8808 work / 843-822-0597 cell

Remember the dress code: Closed-toe shoes and no tank tops.

Minimum age suggested: 14 with parental supervision but a bit younger have been very successful.

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You’ve Been Flocked

The teens have struck again! This time they went to Johns Island to flock the home of Ron and Claudia Updike. All the funds raised will go towards renting a van, hotel costs, meals, and registration for all our teens to attend the 2017 General Assembly. A donation/bribe can be paid to the Youth Group for the flamingos’ removal and for an additional fee you can nominate the next yard that the flamingos should flock to.

Submitted by Marina Penna-Morrison
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S-Sanctuary; GH-lower Gage Hall (ground floor Gage Hall); GH #1-4-individual classrooms upstairs in GH; A-Annex; AU-Annex upstairs; C-Churchyard; CDS-Charleston Day School
Minister, Rev. Danny Reed
minister@charlestonuu.org
Intern Minister, William Epes
internminister@charlestonuu.org
Affiliated Community Minister, Rev. Nancy Bird Pellegrini
communityminister@charlestonuu.org
Office Administrator, Sandra Selvitelli
office@charlestonuu.org
Religious Education Director, Janet Watts
dre@charlestonuu.org
Music Director, Johanna Evenson
musicdirector@charlestonuu.org
Sexton, Joe McCormack
Vestry: vestry@charlestonuu.org
Vestry Chair, Judy Manning ('16)
1st Vice Chair, Maureen Porter ('17)
2nd Vice Chair, Sue Weller ('18)
Secretary, Frank Hardie('17)
Vestry Members
Nina Fair ('16) Jonathan Lamb ('18)
Erica Hatting-Brodeur ('18) Steve Simon ('16)
John Klintworth ('17)
Treasurer, Nolan Prestwood
Office Hours: Monday - Thursday 8 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Friday 9 a.m - 12:00 pm
Sunday 8 am - 1:00 pm
Phone: (843) 723-4617
Email: office@charlestonuu.org

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Unitarian Universalism—open faith, open hearts, open minds.

A Green Sanctuary Congregation

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