



38651 Woodward Avenue
Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304
Phone: 248.647.2380 Fax: 248.647.8007
Email: buc@bucmi.org Website: www.bucmi.org

2013 Annual Report



Birmingham Unitarian Church

38651 Woodward Avenue
 Bloomfield Hills, Michigan 48304
 Phone: 248.647.2380 Fax: 248.647.8007
 Email: buc@bucmi.org Website: www.bucmi.org

Board of Trustees

Eric Sargent – President
 Lisa Demian – Vice President
 Marilyn Mast – Secretary
 Dick Cantley – Treasurer

Mary Cay Dietz
 Dave Graham
 John Hammer
 Sylvia Whitmer
 Barbara Woolf

Program Council

Bret Bergeron – Membership
 Ed Sharples & Kathy Ransome -- Music
 Carol Lee – Fellowship
 Karen Stankye – Green Sanctuary
 Carey Wendell – Learning
 Mary Jo Ebert & Ilene Beninson – Service/Justice
 Penny Hackett-Evans - Worship

Committees of the Board

Budget and Finance
 Ron Fredrick – Planned Giving
 Keith Ensroth & Mary Gawel-Ensroth – Stewardship
 Kimery Campbell & Walli Andersen – Rummage Contacts

Committee of the Congregation

Leadership Development – Judy Amir & Cheryl Shettel

Program Staff

Senior Minister: Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt
 Director of Religious Education for Children: Eleanor McGuire
 Director of Religious Education for Youth: Kimery Campbell
 Director of Performing Arts: Pamela McAlpin
 RE Assistant & Nursery: Elizabeth Lorey
 Co-Directors of Music: Abha & Steven Dearing
 Pianist: Rudolfs Ozolins

Operations Staff

Office Administrator: Jim Shettel
 Media & Communication Manager: Lisa Crawford
 Finance Administrator/Preschool Director: Kim Ruiz
 Office Assistant: Joanne Copeland
 Custodian: Jason MacDonald
 Housekeeper: Kitty Ayers
 Handyman: Jim Dean
 Night Custodian: Lynn Stephenson

Birmingham Unitarian Church 2013 Annual Report

Table of Contents

Minister

Senior Minister	5
-----------------	---

President

President's Report	7
--------------------	---

Staff

Church Administrator	9
Media & Communication Manager	11
Preschool	15

Committees of the Board

Campus Development & Prioritization	17
Planned Giving (formerly Endowment)	18
Stewardship	19
Memorial Glen	21
Membership Committee	22
Remembering Members & Friends	25

Program Council

Serving the Community	26
Fellowship	28
Learning	34
Performing Arts	37
Service and Social Justice	40
Worship and Music (and Hodas Recognition)	44
Rummage	48
Green Sanctuary	49

Annual Meeting Business

Treasurer's Report	50
Agenda	52
Minutes of 2012 Congregational Meeting	53
Slate of Candidates	57

Senior Minister: Report to the Congregation



Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt

Unitarian Universalist minister Ralph Helverson is credited (though others may well share in the authorship) with writing an observation about playing it safe and taking risks: “A ship is safe in a harbor—but that is not what ships are for.” In the church year now ending, the good ship BUC began moving out of the harbor where it had been resting for a time, still settling into a new ministry, becoming comfortable with policy governance, and generally regrouping after years of transition, and sailing into new waters, new programs, new ways of worshipping, new avenues of outreach. While

the harbor has not yet vanished from view, we spent these last months leaving it farther and farther behind as we leaned into our future.

After ruminating about whether and when to launch a capital campaign, the Board pressed us into the conversation by first having a task force lead a visioning process, then appointing another task force to update the previous strategic plan, then appointing still another group to gather ideas for potential capital projects and order them according to priority for completion, and this fall asking the different program groups in the congregation to lead a series of town halls at which each could pitch its respective ideas for capital projects. Concomitant with the capital campaign conversation, the Stewardship Committee ran an 18-month pledge campaign in order to clear the decks for an upcoming decision and potential launching of a capital fund drive. All these activities have pushed BUC well away from the harbor docks and set it on a course towards the future, though that future is still very much in the stages of being imagined.

An oft-expressed desire to find ways for BUC to be a supportive neighbor in Pontiac resulted in a summer camp-style offering in August, with staff members and volunteers heading to the Baldwin Center each day for a week to lead activities in music, theater, crafts, video and photography, and culminating in a performance for parents at week’s end. Conversations about next steps to build our new outreach relationship with the Baldwin Center are ongoing, as we test the waters to determine what gifts we can offer the Pontiac community and what it most needs from us.

The use of projection technology in the sanctuary continued to be an experiment that generated much discussion among congregants, with people loving it, hating it, and all positions in between. To better incorporate the technology into our services, regular staffing is now in place for each Sunday service as well as for special services such as memorials and weddings, to ensure the equipment is properly used and cared for.

Beginning in September, the Worship Team and I embarked on an experiment of offering two different styles of worship services, one more reflective in tone and style, the other more energetic and informal. The contemplative service has a slower pacing and includes times of

silence; the celebratory service moves faster and includes music from a house band, The Sound Messengers. Having more worship choices on Sunday mornings would seem to be a positive development—yet whether the congregation wants the different choices is yet to be determined. Should we choose to head deeper into the waters of different services, then more changes would come in order to give each service a more distinct identity.

While those are only the most noticeable of new initiatives that emerged during the church year now ending, the fact is that innovation and experiment began to show up everywhere around the church, from committees trying out new ways of doing their usual work to staff members trying out new roles to individual congregants showing a new eagerness to make suggestions for new programming, new music, new worship topics, new ways of doing church. At times the multiple emerging of new things could become overwhelming, tracking all of them, figuring out which to support and which to gently let subside. But to have a congregation come alive, filled with energy and showing signs of being ready to take on risks, is a gift that is not to be wasted, however overwhelming it might seem at times. Congregations are known to be risk-averse, preferring the status quo above all else and sometimes being harsh with those seeking to initiate changes. BUC represents a decidedly different approach to change, with a willingness to sample something new and give it a chance to blossom that is remarkable.

On a personal note, the fall brought the death of my father after a short time in hospice care. I have been deeply touched by the kindness and support congregants extended to me as I made my own journey of grief. Again and again I found myself comforted by the same people I serve, given wonderful pastoral care. As another church year concludes, I am filled with gratitude to be the minister of this beautiful, rambunctious, creative community that we call BUC. And I look forward to seeing where we will next be sailing together.

--Respectfully submitted by Kathy Hurt

President's Report for 2013

Eric Sargent, Board and Congregation President

Serving BUC as President of the Board of Trustees has been a rewarding experience made enjoyable by the camaraderie and leadership of my fellow Board members. At every meeting we have been motivated to support the ambitious agenda of our Senior Minister, Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt, to challenge the congregation to grow in spirit and service. It has been a year of experimentation that has ruffled feathers and stretched the concept of what Sunday worship means and how it should be conducted. Church life remains, and in my view should always remain, a work in progress.

One aspect of the role that I didn't anticipate was the perspective Board membership has given me on the ecology of church life. Like the succession of trees in a forest, this year, as in every year, we have observed the passing or departure of some of the people that have been 'the mighty oaks' of the church either from its founding or growth through the years. As an example, the Hodas family has been generous with their resources over many years: They donated the Steinway, funded development of the BUC website, and have donated funds for building projects and maintenance, to name just three areas of their generosity. Ernie Hodas and his family gave generously and from the heart to BUC to support the institution and its mission. There are *many* among the congregation past and present who have been proportionally as generous. Who among us today will continue this generosity?

Milestones:

Parking. We began the year by meeting with Edward Rose and Sons about use of their parking lot on Sundays. This followed a brief but effective charm offensive involving the delivery of cookies to Edward Rose from Board of Trustees at Christmas. Edward Rose now generously allows BUC to use the row of parking spaces in their lot that face our driveway on Sunday mornings.

Petitions. Responding to issues that arose during social hour, a BUC Petition Policy was drafted and approved by the Board. The essentials of the policy include: 1) a petition must be sponsored by a BUC member; 2) a request to circulate a petition during social hour must be made to the minister by the sponsoring BUC member; 3) acceptance of the petition for circulation does not employ endorsement of the stated position by BUC; 4) the petition should be displayed and discussed at a table in the social hall set up by the sponsoring member; 5) persons presenting the petition must wear a name tag and non-BUC members should have a brief title that indicates their affiliation with the petition; 6) petitioners may not accost persons on church property but can discuss their petition and present their position to visitors and members who approach their table.

Basement Flooding. Heavy downpours in the summer flooded the basement of the church addition. We learned that minor incursions of water had been occurring for a long time, but the damage caused by the inundations brought the need to investigate and do something about the problem to the fore. The problem of the level of basement being below the level of BUC's drive

and Woodward Avenue is aggravated by a storm drain that feeds to the Oakland drain apparently running in reverse when the Oakland County drain exceeds capacity. The church recently also found that the conduit that links our roof drainage to the pond had been crushed, probably by truck traffic, thus causing all the roof drainage to pool near the north side of the addition. The conduit has now been replaced. A site survey was commissioned from WadeTrim civil engineering and advice will be solicited on how to reduce our risk of future flooding. Part of the solution will almost certainly be to enlarge the pond.

Campus Development. A large part of Board effort this year was spent engaging the church in discussion about our facility's need for repair and upgrade to enhance our program and achieve our mission. A variety of focus groups are working to define these needs and aspirations. The *Campus Development and Prioritization Committee*, led by Treasurer Dick Cantley, is working to compose a program that states these needs and aspirations to guide a design firm. Programs that have presented or will present in Town Hall forum include the Green Sanctuary Committee (Sept. 15), RE (Oct. 27), Music and Worship (Nov. 24), and Social Justice (Dec. 15).

Shift of Fiscal Year. At this year's Annual Meeting we'll vote on a shift of the Church's fiscal year from January 1 - December 31 to July 1 - June 30. The Board of Trustees feel this will better fit the rhythm of the church year and make financial planning easier.

Preserving BUC History. This summer, Reverend Hurt and the Board of Trustees invited Carol Lee to take on the role of Church Archivist. She will perform the vital role of consolidating, preserving and indexing documents for future generations of BUC members. Thank You, Carol!

Service Projects. As part of BUC's expanded Social Justice program this year, the Social Justice Committee linked BUC to the Baldwin Center in Pontiac to give a week-long music enrichment program to the children attending summer camp. Coordinated by the BUC music staff, Steven and Abha Dearing and Rudolfs Ozolins, along with other staff and BUC volunteers, the team gave group lessons and rehearsed the kids for performances on the final day of the week. Other service projects, such as SOS and WHRC volunteers, continue BUC's tradition of giving to the community.

Honored Volunteers. The Board of Trustees honored the following members as Volunteers of the Month in 2013: Walter Dean, Amy Smalley, Barbara Eschner, Fred Straky, Roger Marshall, Max Kort, Grace Rising, Sylvia Whitmer, and Dorothy Prier. Their service to the church and community is exemplary.

The future. Nothing stays the same. Change is inevitable and necessary. People, relationships, churches: all change. The Unitarian church that my great-grandfather helped found in 19th century New Jersey would be unrecognizable to him now. Modern Unitarian-Universalist belief and practice would be foreign to Judith Sargent Murray, early American feminist and partner of a founder of American Universalism, John Murray. I only speak for myself when I say that my BUC connection is to the service that BUC gives to SE Michigan, its congregation and to the world, and I think it gives a lot. It is a shared endeavor in our evolving free faith. The sum of our parts is far greater than our individual contributions to this project. All the other stuff - music, video, appearance of the sanctuary - is important, but secondary. Let us rededicate our efforts to building a community where all who search for their true selves are welcomed and encouraged to grow and give to the world.

Church Administrator Report

Jim Shettel



I am pleased to report to the congregation on another challenging yet very satisfying year sitting in the “hot seat” that is your Church Administrator. The bulk of my work days revolve around providing a professional “front-door” to BUC for congregants, visitors and customers. Hopefully you find the front desk running smoothly, between phone calls, email, mail, informational requests and walk-in inquiries. Another significant amount of my time is spent managing the church facility scheduling, for both BUC activities and meetings and for rental customer events, and for day-to-day maintenance and up-keep.

One change in responsibilities was the hand-off to Joanne Copeland of the preparation of the Order of Service.

It has been another busy year as well with a continued high level of use of our facilities. Projected 2013 rental income is estimated to be 5% higher over 2012. A caution to anyone coming to BUC over the noon hour most weekdays – the parking lot is typically overflowing due to our Bridge gamers and the AA meeting. With all this use, Custodian Jason McDonald and Housekeeper Kitty Ayers have their hands full keeping up, Handyman Jim Dean has been very busy with minor maintenance, and Lynn Stephenson has been used for not only night/weekend custodial/security duties but also allows us to run multiple weekend events by resetting and refreshing rooms.

Thanks to a holiday cookie basket from the Board, a friendly word, and on-going diligence, Edward Rose and Sons finally allowed us to use their parking lot on Sundays. They also left open our use of the lot for special events requested in advance (e.g., Rummage worker parking, Saturday evening events, etc.).

We have maintained and continued pretty much all of our regular renters, many of whom also provide referral business to BUC. And we’ve added several new renters, including Springfield Arts, the Armenian Cultural Society’s concert and a Diwali celebration. Much of our new activity came from numerous birthday, anniversary and wedding celebrations.

Update on Facilities

One of the largest impacts to our facility this year was the “Great Flood of 2013” that hit our lower level June 28th. The result of a tremendous, sustained downpour was almost an inch of water in our lower level (below the Sanctuary). So far a total of \$14,000 has been spent in remediation and replacement, and another \$3800 targeted for replacement carpet tiles planned for 1st quarter 2014, for a total of about \$18,000.

The main thrust of our remaining work is to attempt to make corrections such that this does not happen again. To help guide our future overall water management planning, we have contracted for a topographical survey of our entire campus (\$4800 cost, completed in November). Jim Dean discovered a damaged drain pipe that blocked outflow of most of the

water that drained off the Sanctuary roof; this was repair was also completed in November. We have reason to believe that there are additional blockages and drain pipe problems that will be investigated and repaired as soon as conditions allow. Modification or enlargement of the water retention pond that itself drains into the Woodward storm drain system is under consideration with the Master Landscaping planning and capital budgeting. One overhanging concern is to what extent our drainage problems are tied to the overall peak-load drain capacity of the Woodward infrastructure.

Numerous facilities projects were completed in 2013 that addressed physical and safety issues, as well as comfort and visual enhancements. Those projects included:

Major repair (patching) of the parking lot was completed in September at a cost of just over \$14,000. A full replacement was postponed for several years so we can evaluate various alternatives.

Continued execution of the Planned Maintenance Agreement on BUC's numerous heat and A/C appliances; this year we added the water heaters near the classrooms. The annual cost is about \$3300 – and we did not have any major repairs in 2103.

Minor repairs to the roofs were performed by our handyman, Jim Dean.

New horizontal shades were installed in the Commons to replace the deteriorating verticals.

The block wall on the west edge of the property facing the playground was painted, with mostly volunteer effort. This was a certification requirement for our Preschool.

A new office phone system was implemented mid-year, and has especially improved our after-hours informational messaging and voice-mail access (funded by Alliance – thank you!).

Quotes are being compiled for sidewalk repairs at the main entrance drive (both replacement and “mud jacking” of certain sections).

General upkeep of the Capek Woods and Memorial Glen grounds, including dead tree removal, was handled on a fairly regular basis by Lynn Stephenson. We brought in PlantWise to do targeted work on invasives in the Capek Woods once this year, and back twice next year.

We received a proposal for a roof-top PV solar generating system as part of a MiIPL project; we also had an energy audit performed by DTE (who also replaced 50-some light bulbs with CFLs).

Several large projects remain in need of attention next year – both funding and execution. As we look closely at our facility and programs we must consider choices that attract current generations to BUC and carry BUC to the next generation. The Board in 2012 prioritized these and included such items as: repairing the Foyer dome, replacing the Commons “breezeway,” upgrading exterior lighting, and a total redo of the parking lot. In the fall of 2013 we expanded this development and prioritization process in the hopeful context of a potential capital campaign to consider facility enhancements, as well as building additions and renovations.

I am (hopefully) looking forward to an exciting (and flood free!) facilities year in 2014!

Media & Communications Manager

Lisa Crawford



Next year's Annual Report will come at the end of the 2014/15 church year as we transition into a fiscal year at BUC. It will be easier to track, and more relevant to report on a church "year" as opposed to the spring of last year, and the first half of the current church year.

This past year has seen an increase in the variety of ways things are communicated to the email list serve, and changes in the way we communicate who we are as a community to those not familiar with BUC or Unitarian Universalism, through our website, Facebook page, and YouTube channel.

In addition to the monthly newsletter, I now create a PowerPoint slideshow of the month's events, played prior to services on Sunday mornings as visual announcements. These slides are converted into pictures, used in weekly communications to the list serve, and are also used on the landing page of our website to showcase upcoming services and events taking place at BUC.

The goal for our public image, as presented on our website, our Facebook page, and our YouTube channel, is to show BUC living out our mission statement -- to show us living out lives of integrity, learning, service and joy. Assessing how well we achieve that goal, and how it translates to visitors, new members, and positive engagement with the wider community isn't always a clear. Each of these platforms offers a variety of helpful analytics which inform decisions regarding content and postings.

Website

The website landing page is updated weekly, and is a one-stop source for upcoming service information, events and times, links to our church/rental calendar, and all the Religious Ed calendars. From the landing page, visitors can sign up to be added to our email list serve. To date in 2013, ninety-seven people have signed *themselves* up to receive

Website Google Analytics for www.bucmi.org Nov 5-Dec 5, 2013:

Base Stats (hide)	
1,503 Visits	43.25% Bounce Rate
4,348 Pageviews	00:02:43 Avg. Time on Site
2.89 Pages/Visit	39.19% % New Visits
Extended Stats (hide)	
Top Posts	
Birmingham Unitarian Church	625 (not provided)
1211 views	86 birmingham unitarian church
Newsletter Archives - Birmingham Unitarian Church	
375 views	
About Us - Birmingham Unitarian Church	790 google
368 views	414 (direct)
Calendar - Birmingham Unitarian Church	49 yahoo
305 views	44 bucmi.org
Music & Worship - Birmingham Unitarian Church	40 bing
176 views	26 uua.org
Connect - Birmingham Unitarian Church	21 us-mg6.mail.yahoo.com
153 views	
Posts - Birmingham Unitarian Church	
140 views	
Learn - Birmingham Unitarian Church	
123 views	
Give - Birmingham Unitarian Church	
99 views	
Serve - Birmingham Unitarian Church	
94 views	
Rental - Birmingham Unitarian Church	
78 views	

our email newsletter link and weekly communications. Several who signed up to receive our emails, became members in 2013. The website also serves as an online archive of Kathy's sermons, our monthly newsletters, our Annual Reports, and the yearly financials of the church.

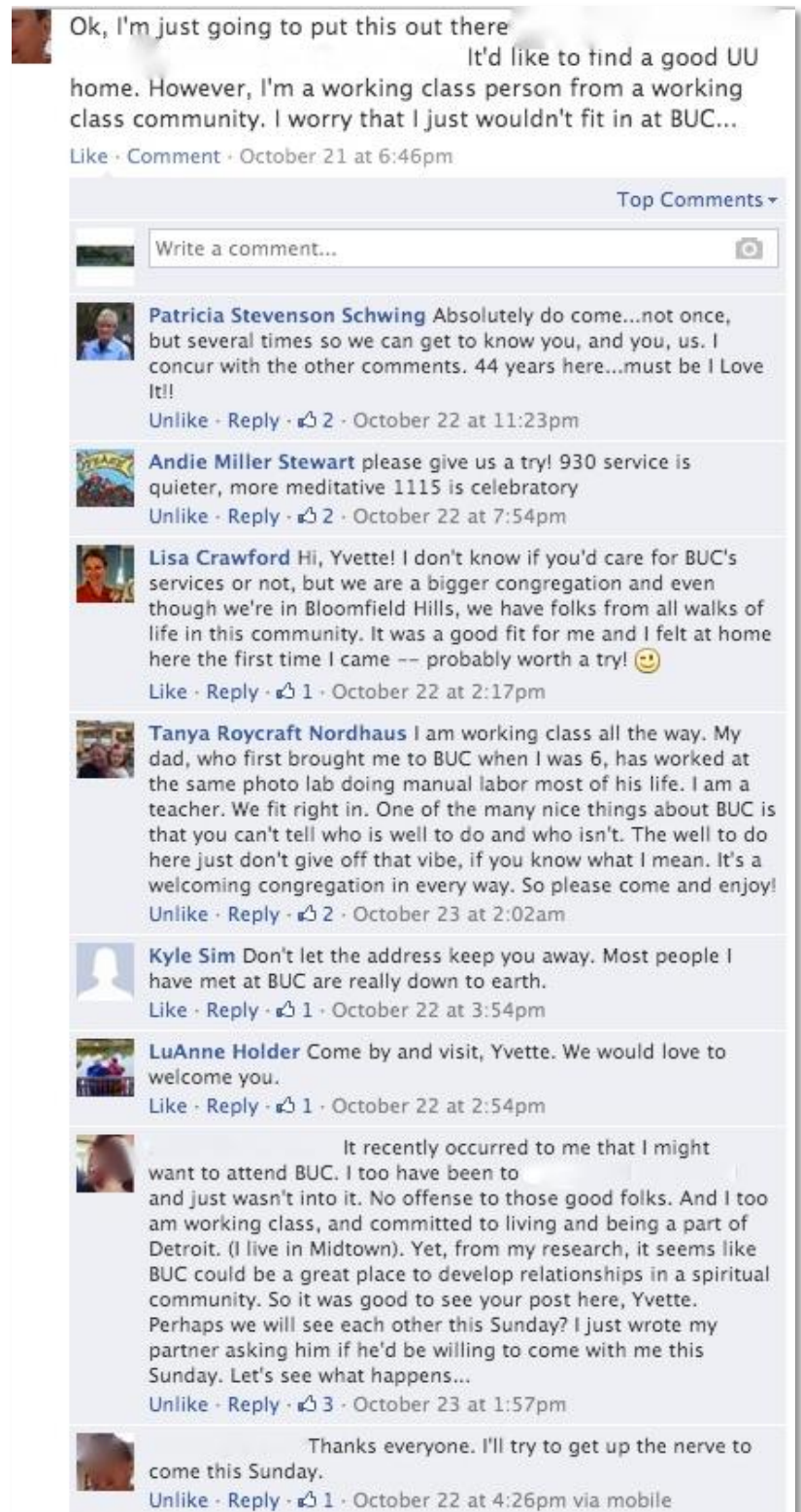
Facebook: Birmingham Unitarian Church

BUC's Facebook page involvement has grown in 2013. While adding only 135 new followers, activity, post view, general traffic and engagement have increased. We now have 596 followers on our Facebook page.

BUC now has several satellite pages on Facebook. Explorations Preschool, BUC Music, Green Sanctuary, and the Young Adults now have their own pages allowing them to communicate directly from the Facebook platform. A great way to help promote awareness of BUC's events, pictures, videos, and sermons shared on those pages, is to "like" a post or "share" it. Help BUC spread the word and let people see us living out our mission.

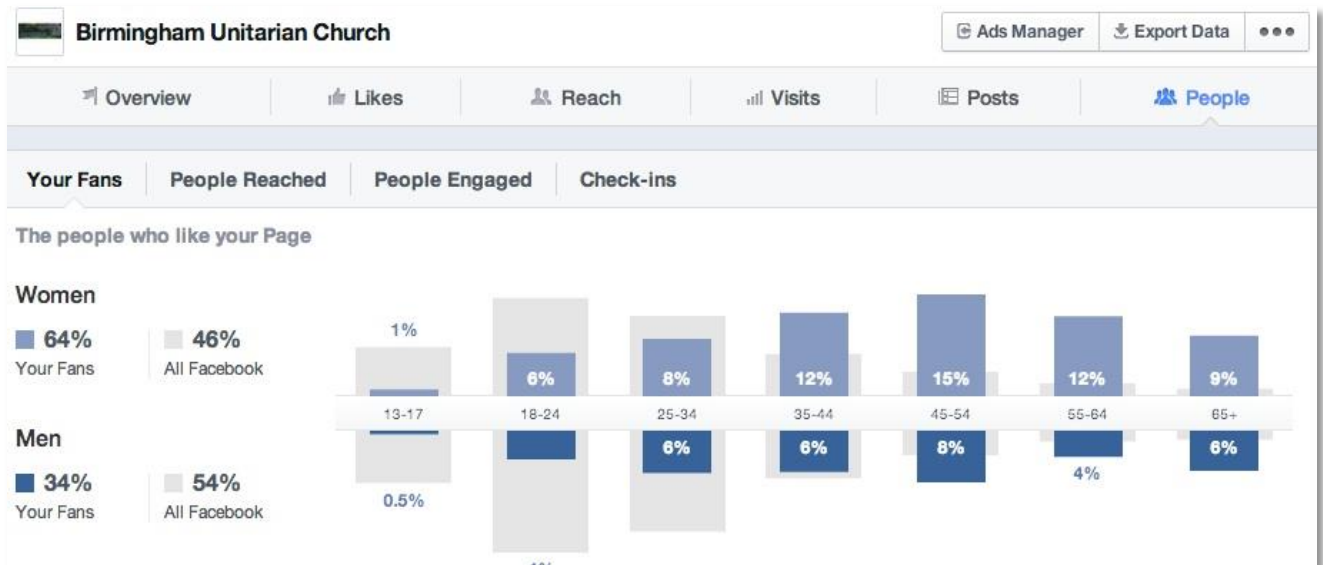
I am learning ways to help folks at BUC initiate conversations about BUC with their family and friends. Tagging people in posts and pictures causes that post or picture to be shown on the wall of the person tagged. This leads to the friends/family of that person seeing it, and has resulted in a growing awareness of BUC, providing opportunities to organically discuss our church. A post on October 22 turned into something beautiful -- an example of cyber community and outreach. (see image to the right)

Facebook is a digital "Town Square" where people gather to share articles, books, videos, pictures, thoughts and ideas. I feel it is vitally



important for BUC to have a social media presence, and want to work to make us even more accessible to those seeking a liberal religious community.

Here's some interesting FB data, compared with BUC's FB page user data:



YouTube: Birmingham Unitarian

BUC has a dedicated YouTube channel. I have been working to create content that will showcase what BUC has to offer, and allow people to see us in the wider community. This year began with the creation of a series of Town Hall videos, posted in June, regarding our Campus Development project – this foray into using YouTube to showcase detailed information, netted an additional 16 views overall.

With the debut of BUC's house band, The Sound Messengers at our September Homecoming Sunday & Water Communion celebrations, I began to see how I might incorporate pictures of the service, and those submitted by BUC family and friends with the music from the service to create a unique digital offering. This video was shared on our FB page, and is also embedded on our website under the "About" tab. This video has been viewed 259 times since it was uploaded on September 13, 2013.

The video of our band singing "Heal the World" included images of BUC staff and BUC volunteers at the Baldwin Center in August, is embedded on the "Serve" page of our website since it not only shares our UU world view, but shows us living out our UU values and principles. It has been viewed 120 times. The video of the Kids Choir, uploaded on November 4, singing Katy Perry's "Roar" has been our most viewed (and shared) video to date, with over 250 views.

The video series for Stewardship Sunday 2014+: "Straight Talk Music", "Membership & Fellowship" and "Service & Justice" have a combined viewing of 114 views. This increases our reach and scope, providing us with the opportunity to communicate in clearer, more precise

ways, what it is we are trying to accomplish as a community at BUC and what it takes financially for us to achieve our goals.

The Board of Trustees conceived the idea of having four Town Hall after-service-presentations, by the Green Sanctuary Committee, the Religious Education Council, the Music & Worship Teams, and coming in December, the Service & Justice Committee. These Town Halls have been recorded and uploaded to our website and Facebook pages to have greater reach and input into the ideas being suggested as potential improvements/innovations for a Capital Campaign. As of this publication, the videos from September 16 and November 11 had a combined total viewing of 114.

One of the many things I am learning from the analytics on YouTube, is how to edit and create videos that make people want to watch. Taking a static video shot and uploading it to YouTube, does not create a viewing experience that lends itself to longer view times. With the use of “B” roll, additional video, pictures, sounds, and key framing to pan in and out of a shot, we increase the watch time of viewers – giving us more time to communicate who we are, and what we are about. Creating video, not simply uploading video, takes a considerable amount of time. If we were “outsourcing” our video production, the market cost would be in the neighborhood of \$1,000 per minute of video.

Media in Worship

I am now creating slides for all the hymns we sing at our worship services, building a library of PowerPoint Hymn slides, that I hope to make available to other UU congregations in the near future. Several requests have been made to include the music with the words. At this time, there is no way to do this quickly as each note needs to be added with notations -- it is a very labor intensive process. Scanning and uploading from the hymnal is frowned upon and the resulting image wouldn't be large enough to make viewing practical. I shall keep looking at new tools as they emerge, to see if this will become a viable option for us in the future.

I am enjoying communicating through our website and social media the wonderfulness of BUC. I appreciate your feedback, and have been pleased that so many of you have embraced these technologies as a way to promote BUC in the wider community. I look forward to discovering new ways to get the word out (and to help all of you get the word out) in the coming year.

BUC's Preschool - Explorations School for Young Learners

Licensing Director, Kim Ruiz and Program Director/Lead Teacher, Geri Ruggles

Earlier this year on September 16th BUC opened the doors of its very own preschool to the community. Explorations School for Young Learners is a program offered and owned by BUC and is licensed as a Child Care Center by the State of Michigan Department of Human Services. The preschool is governed by the minister, Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt and the BUC Board, and is operated by the Licensing Director and Program Director who meet the qualifications required by the rules of the State of Michigan. This inclusive preschool was created to expand BUC's outreach into the community to families with children from 18 months – 5 years old and the tuition-based, half-day programs are also meant to provide an additional income stream for BUC's general operating budget. All net proceeds generated by the preschool go directly to the general operating fund of BUC.

The preschool is located in the three lower level classrooms of BUC. The classrooms were cleaned, painted and readied for the five state required inspections by the preschool staff, their families, volunteers and members of the North Woodward Equality Group, who rent the large lower level classroom from BUC. Three days before the final state inspection the lower level flooded and these groups along with generous BUC volunteers again got the rooms cleaned and readied for our last inspection. We are proud to say that we passed all five inspections with flying colors. Our current preschool license includes the three lower level classrooms, and at this time, the preschool is licensed for a maximum of 34 children at any given time. So our full capacity limit is 68 children, 34 in the morning programs and 34 in the afternoon programs.

The goal for the preschool is that its programs will grow and be profitable within 3 years and that the programs will be filled to capacity within 5 – 7 years. The long term goal of the preschool program is to have the preschool expand into an all-day childcare program. BUC's location on Woodward Avenue would lend itself very nicely to this type of Childcare Center. With this expansion to the preschool program, the hope is that the programs would generate enough income so that the preschool program could be duplicated in Pontiac as a scholarship program. The Pontiac program would also include a breakfast and a lunch component. This type of preschool scholarship program will help promote BUC's commitment to social justice.

Explorations opened on September 16th with two – 2 year old students filling two of the slots of the 18 month – 34 month old program. As of December 3rd, through word of mouth recommendations, we now have 5 children filling 10 slots in the 18 – 34 month old program. We also have three new children starting in the spring session, filling 6 more slots of the 18 – 34 month old program. Currently we have families attending that live in Bloomfield Hills, Birmingham and Berkeley. We continue to have families come for tours of the facility each month. The preschool is working on a marketing plan with church member Barb Eschner, which will be rolled out in January 2014. This marketing plan is aimed at creating a brand for BUC's preschool and increasing enrollment for all programs for the fall of 2014.

Currently the preschool staff consists of: Program Director/Lead Teacher, Geri Ruggles; BUC staff member Kim Ruiz, who serves as Licensing Director/Office Manager; and BUC staff member Joanne Copeland who serves as the Billing Assistant. Also on the preschool staff are

BUC members Ann Landen and Mae Rooney, Teacher Assistants; BUC member Sharon Kirchner, Substitute Teacher; BUC member Kaye Rittinger, Teacher and Consultant; and Lead Teacher Carol O'Brien.

The curriculum of Explorations is based on the UU Principles and the State of Michigan recommended preschool curriculum. Explorations provides a nurturing and secure educational setting for young children which emphasizes character education and the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Through the preschool's play-based, thematic curriculum and creative exploration activities we are able to support each child's cognitive, physical, emotional and social growth. Our program incorporates high academics and character education as well as social and environmental awareness, while emphasizing earth-friendly practices and other healthy choices. In this learning environment children are able to learn, explore, discover and meet their full potential as they experience the world around them.

Explorations School for Young Learners shares BUC's policy that no person shall, on the basis of sex, race, color, creed, age, marital status, sexual orientation, national origin, weight, height, or handicap, be excluded from participation in, be denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination in employment or any of its programs or activities.

To learn more about BUC's preschool please go to our website: Explorationspreschool.com or visit us on Facebook at: Explorations School for Young Learners.

Committees of the Board

Campus Development & Prioritization Committee

The Campus Development & Prioritization Committee was formed in 2013 for the purposes of:

- a) Identifying and monetizing campus development capital expenditure needs and requests with input from Program Committees and BUC staff,
- b) Prioritizing the development projects that are identified, and
- c) Managing the implementation process provided a Capital Campaign is approved to fund the projects.

Six committee members are primarily focused on project design, cost estimation, and implementation; three committee members are primarily focused on collecting input from interest groups and project prioritization.

Campus Development projects undertaken in 2013 include temporary patching of the parking lot and a detailed survey of BUC property which is necessary both for future construction projects as well as for determining how best to control water run-off.

Members of the committee obtained needs input from Town Hall presentations and other discussions with representatives from Religious Education, Music, Worship, Service & Justice, Fellowship, Membership, Green Sanctuary and BUC staff. Town Hall presentations were videotaped and are accessible for the congregation to review on the BUC website, and we thank everyone who presented and taped these sessions.

The committee now is in the process of putting together rough estimates of the dollars necessary to meet the various needs that have been expressed, as well as tentative design approaches, which will be put forth for discussion in January 2014.

I'd like to thank and recognize the members of this committee:

- | | |
|-------------------|-----------------|
| • Jim Clark | • Steve Lorey |
| • Inta Davis | • Jim Shettel |
| • Pam Graham | • Karen Stankye |
| • Sharon Kirchner | • Craig Stroup |

Respectfully submitted,
Dick Cantley, Chair

Planned Giving Committee (formerly Endowment)

The Committee name was changed in 2012 to reflect its primary mission which is to encourage church members and friends to include BUC in their estate plans via will, trust, charitable gift annuity or other conveyance. The Committee retains oversight responsibility for BUC's various Endowment Funds: General, Music and Memorial Glen.

Though most bequests to BUC are unrestricted, our policy for the past thirty years has been to funnel these funds into the General Endowment Fund to help it grow. Now, however, the Committee has recommended that future unrestricted gifts be placed in a new account, the Legacy Fund, to be administered by the Board. The reason is that a separate Endowment Fund administered for us by the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan (CFSEM) has grown as large as our own General Endowment and promises to become our principal Endowment Fund. It grew during the years that Michigan gave a tax credit for donations to the fund and is expected to grow even faster with CFSEM's sale of Charitable Gift Annuities that pay tax-advantaged income to donors during their lifetime.

Since their inception, our Endowment Funds have been held by the Raymond James brokerage firm and managed by BUC members employed by the Center for Financial Planning with the advice and consent of the Planned Giving Committee.

As a way of recognizing BUC'ers who include the church in their estate planning, they automatically become members of the honorary Hallock Heritage Society, named for Clark and Nan Hallock whose 1989 bequest inspired establishment of our General Endowment Fund.

The Planned Giving Committee consists of five members who serve for staggered five year terms. Members for 2013 were Ron Fredrick (Chair), Judy Amir, Libby Harris, Dick Rappleye and Rich Schreck. Gregg Bloomfield will be joining the Committee in 2014. Matt Chope is our investment consultant representing the Center for Financial Planning.

Stewardship

“Members shall participate in the maintenance of the society by participating in the Annual Pledge Drive or Canvass and express through their annual written pledge of financial support the willingness to support the fiscal needs of the church as well as the spirit of the society. A written pledge (or confidential statement to the minister of financial hardship) as part of the Annual Pledge drive or Canvass shall be required to maintain membership under Article IV, section 4.”

– *Birmingham Unitarian Church Constitution*

This year’s Stewardship Campaign started with an interesting challenge, when the Board decided (pending a vote at the Annual Meeting) to change the church fiscal year from January-December to July-June. In order to accommodate the operating budget needed to accomplish this, the pledge period for the campaign was set at January 2014 – June 2015, requiring an 18-month commitment.

To increase the congregation’s understanding of the BUC operating budget, the Stewardship Committee decided to focus all pledge commitments on the monthly income the church needs to run. Working with the Board President, Treasurer and our Senior Minister, the Committee was tasked with leading a campaign to increase the church’s pledge income to \$51,000/month, a 27% increase over prior-year pledge income of \$39,000/month. This increase was determined to be essential to growth of BUC programs.

	Average per Adult	Total Pledge	% Increa
2013 Actual	\$ 87	\$ 39,000	0%
To Maintain	\$ 98	\$ 45,000	15%
To Grow	\$ 110	\$ 51,000	27%

We chose to focus our messages in the following way:

Straight Talk Stewardship: Our approach would be fact-based, tell it like it is, no gimmicks.

Program Based: Continuing the straight-talk theme, we focused on “what you get for your money” by clearly explaining what the major program areas of the church deliver for the money the congregation contributes.

Targeted Messages by Pledge Level: We knew that the requested average pledge per adult would be new information for most to consider against their household budgets. To provide a more detailed picture of current pledge income, we shared a graph of the range of pledges (from 0 to \$10,000+) in 2013. Again using straight talk, we targeted messages in the pledge packets to challenge those who had been giving less than the average pledge to give much more if they could afford it; those who have been solid contributors to increase by the growth percentage (27%) and the top givers to increase by the maintenance percentage (15%).

The campaign for 2014+ was launched on Stewardship Sunday, October 13, 2013. After a half-hour service, all attendees were invited to one of five program interest groups led by the committee chairs and staff for each of the following programs of the church.

Religious Education

Committee Chair: Carey Wendell; Staff: Eleanor McGuire and Kimery Campbell

Membership and Fellowship

Committee Chairs: Bret Bergeron and Carol Lee; Staff: Lisa Crawford and Pam McAlpin

Music

Committee Chair: Ed Sharples; Staff: Abha Dearing and Steven Dearing

Worship

Committee Chair: Penny Hackett-Evans; Staff: Rev. Kathy Hurt

Social Justice

Committee Chairs: Mary Jo Ebert and Ilene Beninson; Staff: Rev. Kathy Hurt

November 3, three weeks into the campaign – the due date requested for pledge forms to be returned – saw us at \$13,397/month in pledge commitments. Those that had pledged had increased their pledge by 17%. But only 29% of the congregation had responded. Since Ed Sharples's focused message for the Music program had only been heard by a relatively small subset of the congregation on Stewardship Sunday, Ed was asked to make the same plea to the entire congregation. There was a slight bump in pledge returns, but still had a long way to go.

November 10: it was time to gear up the phone follow-up portion of the campaign, but not without one more plea from the chancel, this time by Keith Ensroth:

"We now are about to enter into having dozens of people make hundreds of phone calls to try to find out whether you intend to pledge or not. I believe there are a lot better things that these fine volunteers and staff members could be spending their time doing for the church. Please, please, please turn in your pledge now."

Based on sound advice and best practices of the UUA, as well as other successful non-profit organizations, we have focused the follow-up phone calls by aligning as best as possible with people's connection with the church; e.g., someone in RE connecting with a parent of a child in RE, or someone in Music connecting with a choir member. This has meant that program chairs and staff members have continued their initial messaging to target audiences through their Stewardship Sunday presentations, and are joining members of the Stewardship Committee in making these follow-up calls.

As of the end of week five of the campaign, we have achieved \$29,293/month. We are pleased to see the trend continue: those that have pledged have increased their pledge on average 17%. However, only 56% of the congregation (180 households) has responded. This is significantly behind the 218 households who had responded by this time last year. The potential up-side, though, is that this year's 180 households pledged the same total as the 218 who had pledged by this time last year. Follow-up phone calls are the most important activity now!

A final tally will be taken on December 1 from which the Board and Senior Minister can propose the actual 18-month church budget. Updated campaign results will be presented to the congregation at the December 8 annual meeting.

Our thanks to the members of the extended Stewardship Committee mentioned above, as well as the core committee comprised of the following members: Dick Cantley, Walter Dean, Barb Eschner, Bruce Lipka, Marcia Mahood, Kim Ruiz, Eric Sargent and Frances Williams

Respectfully submitted,

Mary Gowel-Ensroth & Keith Ensroth, Co-Chairs
BUC Stewardship Committee 2014+

Memorial Glen



The Memorial Glen Committee maintains the BUC Memorial Glen as a tranquil, sacred place of remembrance. The committee supports the annual Memorial Day Glen service, when those whose names have been newly engraved are dedicated. We work all year to keep the Glen properly maintained, but we make a special effort in preparation for this service. We coordinate with the minister and families to make sure the names of their loved ones appear according to their wishes. This entails obtaining the proper paperwork and fees and coordinating with the engraver and calligrapher.

Forms and records, both electronic and on paper are maintained and we continue to work on our Book of Living Memories (a compilation of biographies and photos of those whose names are engraved in the Glen). The committee manages its own funds, including operating funds and a Memorial Glen endowment to assure perpetual care of the Glen.

Names engraved in 2013

Angie Fitzpatrick, Cynthia J. Lachowski, Helen K. Ohno, Joyce von Drehle

At the request of the Minister and the Board of Trustees \$20,000 was transferred to the Church General Endowment. These were operating funds accumulated over the years in excess of the \$50,000 in the Memorial Glen Endowment needed to generate operating funds to maintain the Glen. The responsibility for the actual maintenance of the glen was transferred to the Church Administrator who has the authority to hire contract workers to perform the maintenance work under the direction of the Memorial Glen committee and reimbursed with Memorial Glen funds. A major maintenance project this year was control of new invasive weeds in the Memorial Glen and Capek Woods and improvement of the path through the playground.

We continue to develop a long range plan to address the future needs in the Glen. The plan is being developed by Johnson Hill Land Ethics, a landscape architectural firm. Keith Brown is coordinating the project for BUC. The preliminary estimate of the cost of this project is approximately \$25,000.

Memorial Glen committee members:

Fred Straky (chair), Judy Amir, Keith Brown and Dick Halsted.

Membership Committee

Bret Bergeron

Living Our Mission:

Our committee's mission is to create a welcoming environment, build connections, nurture a sense of belonging, and encourage development of friendly relationships throughout our church community. We warmly integrate new members into our congregational life and provide ongoing opportunities for affiliation and meaningful engagement among members and potential members.

Membership Growth:

We are excited to share the good news of our continued membership growth over this past year. The following people have enjoyed making their commitment to BUC as new members since our most recent BUC Annual Congregational meeting held last year on 12-02-2012.

Signature Date	Name of Member
12-02-2012	Susan Darlington
12-19-2012	Charles Smith
01-06-2013	Merry Hoffmeyer
01-06-2013	James Roddy
02-24-2013	Jim Williams
02-24-2013	Meg Baker
02-24-2013	Shawn Rooney
03-17-2013	Clavis Janes
03-17-2013	Stephanie Bair
03-23-2013	Iris McNitt
03-26-2013	Joanne Schouten
04-24-2013	Sharon Kirchner
05-05-2013	Hannah Scott (formerly Scott Hartley)
05-12-2013	Debbv Igleheart
05-12-2013	Addison Igleheart
07-14-2013	Cindy Raffel
08-11-2013	Dawn Kulongowski
08-11-2013	Jason Kulongowski
09-01-2013	Dennis Henderson
09-01-2013	Ann Henderson
10-13-2013	Laura Kubit
10-20-2013	David Rosenberg
10-20-2013	Jennifer Rosenberg
11-03-2013	Stefan Eberhard
11-03-2013	Kerstin Goldschmidt
11-03-2013	Donna Larkin-Mohr
11-03-2013	Robert Mohr
11-03-2013	Bradley Erickson
11-03-2013	Fiona Erickson
11-10-2013	Andrea Zellner
11-17-2013	Diane Slon
11-17-2013	Christopher Slon
11-17-2013	Jay Labban
11-17-2013	Ginna Labban

We continue our practice of meeting with potential members to review our comprehensive "Membership Path" booklet with them before they take their important step of greater commitment by signing our BUC

Membership Book. During these informal conversations, we discuss the meaning and expectations of membership as well as the wide variety of opportunities available to them for active participation and service. New members enjoy sharing a casual meal with our committee after select Sunday services when we host them at one of our many “New Member Welcome” luncheons.

Membership Outreach:

As part of our ongoing series of engagement events, our committee hosted a large “Welcome Tent” on BUC’s front lawn during the 2013 Woodward Dream Cruise in August. Through “popcorn proselytization” we drew hundreds of people from the larger community to get to know BUC. We also joined two other UU congregations to staff an interactive booth at Ferndale Pride in July.

Membership Inreach:

Four times throughout every year, our committee hosts “Getting to Know UU” events where everyone – potential members, new members and established members – have the opportunity to learn more about BUC and UU while mingling with each other in a relaxed setting.

Hospitality:

During this past year, our committee continued to enhance the overall hospitality experience enjoyed by our congregation members and visitors on Sunday mornings. We appreciate the many people in our church community who took the initiative to serve as Sunday morning hosts throughout the year. They greeted people arriving for services, ushered before and during services, and provided refreshments after services. We are particularly grateful for the tireless efforts of our Hospitality Coordinators whose leadership provided guidance and support to our many volunteers throughout this past year. These Hospitality Coordinators included Lisa Crawford and Stephanie Bair (coordination of Greeters), Larry Freedman (coordination of Ushers), and the dynamic team of Roger Marshall and Carole Wiseman (coordination of Coffee Servers). While there are too many volunteers to name individually here, we thank everyone who continues to help make our Sunday morning hospitality so successful. From the moment people first walk in our doors, throughout each service, then gathering in our Social Hall to enjoy camaraderie and refreshments after services, our hospitality volunteers create a welcoming environment. There continues to be ongoing opportunities for people in our church community to give back and serve on Sunday mornings as Greeters, Ushers and Coffee Servers. We encourage everyone to take part in these important activities, regardless of where they are on their individual membership path. We hope to see more new and experienced volunteers participate in 2014. Many hands make light work in this important service to our congregation.

BUC Membership Committee:

1. Stephanie Bair
2. Bret Bergeron (chairperson)
3. Keith Ensroth
4. Barbara Eschner
5. Larry Freedman
6. Benjamin Gabel
7. Merry Hoffmeyer
8. Reverend Doctor Kathy Hurt (Senior Minister, Ex Officio)
9. Clavis Janes
10. Pam McAlpin (staff liaison)
11. Karen Stankye

After Service Hospitality

Carole Wiseman, Coordinator

Our committee provides a warm and pleasant experience in the Social Hall after each Sunday service. If you haven't volunteered, please join us! It's a chance to meet people after services through service and fellowship and to get a great learning experience which comes in handy serving on other committees, which use the kitchen and Social Hall.

All of this is possible due to 3 volunteers after each service – setting the serving tables, refreshing and keeping the tables stocked with coffee, hot water, juice, tea, hot chocolate, cider, ice water, bagels and donuts and accoutrements, and then breaking it all down, washing mugs and air pots, running the dishwasher, taking tablecloths and towels home to launder, counting and collecting donations.

A special thanks to Roger Marshall who was our 3rd person each service for several years but who has moved to Ypsilanti. After Roger's move, Carole and Kimery Campbell Fox divided Carole and Roger's duties. Thanks to Kimery for her help. Thanks also to Jason MacDonald our custodian who makes the first four pots of coffee; to Joanne Copland who acknowledges our volunteers in the Sunday Order of Service; and thanks to Bruce Lipka who maintains the airpots.

Special Thanks to the following who served this calendar year through November 24th:

Adah, Alex	Hancock, Gary	Plante, Mary Jo
Adah, Rose Marie	Hancock, Marissa	Plante, Paul
Arvan, Frank	Harris, Alvin	Powell, Joy
Baker, Megan	Herbst, Dick	Robinson, Barbara
Bernard, J.B.	Hoffrichter, Glen	Ross, Andy
Bredenburg, Dave	Hoffrichter, Nancy	Sargent, Annette
Brockett, Grace	Honnold, Theresa	Sargent, Eric
Brown, Janet	Hunter, Mary Ann	Schreck, Karen
Brown, Keith	Igleheart, Debbie	Schreck, Richard
Calomeni, Anne	Igleheart, Addison	Schwing, Dick
Campbell, Kimery	Kaplan, Yvette	Seaver, Sheila
Cobb, Gary	Kirshner, Sharon	Sesostri, Sylvia
Dean, Lillian	Lake, Diane	Sickles, Caitlin
Dean, Walter	Lake, John	Simms, Bonnie
Demian, Lisa	Lipka, Bruce	Simms, Gene
Dietz, Mary Cay	Lytle, Harriet	Smith, Bob
Evans, Penny Hackett	Marshall, Roger	Stavroe, Richard
Evans, Tom	MacFarlane, Jane	Stroup, Craig
Ferreira, Eliana	McNally, Chris	Throop, Ann
Fitzpatrick, Terry	McNally, Ray	Webster, Marilyn
Fox, Bill	McNitt, Matthew	Winslow, Carol
Fredrick, Ron	Molnar, Andy	Wiseman, Carole
Greer, David	Molnar, Sonia	Wiseman, Dick
Greer, Stephanie	Patil, Stephanie	Wisniewski, Larry
Hammer, Pat	Pfaff, Martha	

Remembering BUC Members & Friends

Constance Koenig (former member) -- February 22

Jim Hunter -- May 7

Phyllis Wilkinson, (former member) -- May

Jean Holzman (BUC member & mother-in-law of Margot LeRoy)-- June 5

Carolyn Black Roberson (long time BUC member) – June

Ernie Hodas (long time BUC member, founder) – July 17

Shelley Jackson Denham –(long time friend of BUC) August 31

Eve Boicourt – October

Shirley Schlorff (former BUC member) – October

Kip Coates – October 30

Serving the Community: Home and at Large

Knitting Ministry: Rola Broid, Chair

The Knitting Ministry is an informal group of BUC members and friends who create handmade gifts such as shawls, lap robes, scarves and similar items. Our gifts express care and concern to members and friends of our community who are either in need of comfort and support, or who are celebrating an important event. You do not need to be an experienced knitter to join this group, and everyone is welcome. Knitting patterns and lessons are available. Members provide their own materials and use donated supplies. This year we have given out many lap robes, peace shawls and similar items to our community. Our knitted gifts are an expression of love and friendship.

Memorial Service Support Committee

Alison Rule, Chair

There is no time in our lives when we, as human beings, need loving care more than when we are grieving the loss of our loved ones.

The BUC Memorial Service Support Committee is pleased to provide a loving hand to assist with memorial services and receptions for our church members who have suffered a loss of a family member. We assist with planning a reception and we support the service by greeting, ushering, etc., as requested.

Our committee consists of 16 key contact members and 12 on-call members. Some of the members are serving the committee because they have been the recipients of the loving services of this committee.

BUC's appreciation goes to the following:

Committee members:

On-call members:



	Neb Duric
Joanne Copeland	Lillian Dean
Judy Amir	Julie Gragg
Gary Hancock	Susie Sherman Hall
Marissa Hancock	Barb Richards
Tony Hardesty	Sheila Seaver

Teresa Honnold	Ken Kaufman
Nancy Jones	Andie Stewart
Marcia Mahood	Joanne Wentworth
Margot LeRoy	Sylvia Whitmer
Marie Miller	Laura Lee
Alison Rule	Paul Miller
Kim Schultes	
Pat Schwing	
Ann Throop	
Marilyn Webster	
Carole Wiseman	



Pastoral Care Associates

Caring for one another during times of concern, sadness or joy is a valued component of our BUC community. The BUC Pastoral Care Associates work directly with our Senior Minister, Rev. Kathy Hurt, to provide support to our congregation.

The BUC Pastoral Care Associates provide services in several areas. We reach out to those going through difficult or celebratory times through personal contact, phone calls or notes and cards signed by the congregation on Sunday mornings at the Pastoral Care table. We visit homes, hospitals and rehab facilities and can be advocates during important personal and medical decisions. When needed, we coordinate transportation to medical appointments, church services and errands and can make and/or deliver food to families on a short term basis. We maintain the Emergency Information Forms our members complete which allow us to contact designated others should an emergency arise. Congregational members may volunteer to become “Helping Hand” volunteers thereby increasing BUC’s ability to assist with visiting, transportation and meals.

During the past year, Pastoral Care has sponsored two new initiatives. In February, money was donated by the congregation to purchase two Automatic External Defibrillators (AEDs). They were installed by the Pavilion lavatory and in the hallway by the Small Conference Room in late summer. An orientation to explain use was held for the congregation in September. Secondly, a need was identified to hold one time workshops addressing some of Life’s Transitions. Pat Kridler led a workshop titled “End

of Life Decisions” in October. Lynn Bell led another titled “Adult Caregivers of Aging Parents” in November. Further transitions workshops are planned in 2014.

There are currently ten trained Pastoral Care Associates working alongside our minister:

Lynn Bell
Joanne Copeland
Nancy Johnson
Don Johnson

Marie Miller
Dorothy Prier
Grace Rising

Alison Rule
Ed Sharples
Andie Stewart

Fellowship: Carol Lee, Chair

Alliance

Since 1954, the Alliance has provided learning opportunities and fellowship for members and friends. A luncheon speaker series is offered monthly from September to June.

Alliance programs in 2013 included:

January 16. Director Cheryl Rossman and staff from Common Ground described their efforts helping people in need, for more than 40 years. They serve about 40,000 people per year.

February 20. Robert Sadler from the Detroit Historical Society spoke on “Alfred Kahn’s Architectural Legacy: The Ubiquitous Mr. Kahn”.

March 20. Randy Block, Director of Michigan UU Social Justice Network described “Potential Changes in the Affordable Care Act (“Obamacare”) and Medicare.

April 17. Tour of CARE House. The Care House Vision: All children are free from abuse and neglect. They work with children referred to them by the court system.

June 5. The Alliance annual meeting and the election of officers was held after a luncheon catered by the Inspired Chef, Donna Hollis.

October 15. Kickoff meeting with Board catered luncheon, followed by BUC’s senior minister, the Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt bringing us up to date on activities and plans for BUC.

November 20. Laurie Solotarow, Director of Operations, discussed the activities at Baldwin House and BUC’s possible support of the different programs.

December 11. Annual Holiday Luncheon at the Radisson-Kingsley Hotel. Contributions support WHRC (Whitmer Human Resource Center) through Communities United for Children (CUFC). It is a festive gathering for Alliance members and guests.

The Alliance Board for the program year 2012 - 2013

President
Treasurer

Diane Sasaki
Priscilla Hildum

Membership	Tony Hardesty and Helen Spangler
Secretary	Mary Gawel-Ensroth, Camille Harris
Financial Advisor	Ann Throop
Historian	Sharon Hunter
Denominational Affairs	Dorothy Prier
Nominating Committee	Margot LeRoy and Maurice Lefford

Diane Sasaki had to resign from the Presidency, and the remaining Board members took on that responsibility.

The Alliance membership continues to be about 40 members, with about 15 of those members also being members of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation.

The Alliance offered to provide the funding for the new telephone system the minister and staff are now enjoying. About \$6,000 was provided for the installation of the new system, which has many new capabilities.

The Alliance has had some difficulty filling Board positions, and over the summer considered various possibilities for continuing our operation. A Committee was formed, which agreed to do the work of the Board. They agreed to have a Committee catered opening meeting in October, the annual traditional Holiday Luncheon at the Radisson Kingsley, and a catered annual meeting in June. Four program meetings would be planned, in October, November, February and April. These would all be "brown bag."

The Committee consists of Catherine Baldwin, Betty Blair, Tony Hardesty, Camille Harris, Priscilla Hildum, Sharon Hunter, Margot LeRoy, Dorothy Prier, Rosemary Robinson, Diane Sasaki, Helen Spangler, Ann Throop.

Ann Throop, for the Committee

Avids Book Club

Drieka DeGraff, Coordinator

Avids Book Club: We eight members meet the third Friday at 10:30 –12:00 a.m. at leader Drieka DeGraff's home. Afterward we lunch at an area restaurant. In May we vote on one of each members' choices. They may be fiction, non-fiction, or biography. From September through April we discuss one member's book. In December we enjoy a pot luck party.

Contemporary Book Club

Karen Stankye, Coordinator

The Contemporary Fiction Book Club met this past year on the 2nd Monday of the month from September through June to discuss novels written since the 1950's. We meet at a member's house for our Holiday get together in December and in June for a party to

select books for the following year. Otherwise, we meet in the Red Door room at BUC. There are currently 12 members. We would consider adding 1 or 2 more members as some members spend a few months away from the area. But, we require that each member attend at least 5 meetings. The discussions are lively with a variety of interests and backgrounds adding depth to an assortment of viewpoints. Rarely do we all agree on the merits of a book but that's what makes for the lively discussion! Some of the novels we've read in the past year are:

The Lacuna by Barbara Kingsolver
 The Untouchable by John Banville
 Blue Flower by Penelope Fitzgerald
 The Birth of Venus by Sarah Durant
 Blooms of Darkness by Aharon Appelfeld
 Capital by John Lancaster
 The Orphan master's Son by Adam Johnson
 Hope: A Tragedy by Shalom Auslander

Pot Pourri Book Club

Lynn Arbor, Coordinator

The Potpourri Book Club's goal is to invigorate and challenge members with a wide variety of books – books they may not have known about or considered without their book club friends' suggestions. Selections have included fiction, biography, memoir, history, current issues, and mystery. As a group of 11 women, we read 11 book selections each year. Meetings are held monthly in members' homes on a rotating basis, where we enjoy delicious refreshments. In 2013 books discussed were *Einstein: His Life and Universe* by Walter Isaacson, *Fall From Grace* by Richard North Patterson, *The Orchardist* by Amanda Coplin, *Paris Wife* by Paula McLain, *Runaway* by Alice Munro, *Cleopatra* by Stacy Schiff, *The Sense of an Ending* by Julian Barnes, *Transit of Venus* by Shirley Hazzard, *The Satanic Verses* by Salman Rushdie, *The Scarlet Letter* by Nathaniel Hawthorne, *The Hare With Amber Eyes: A Family's Century of Art and Loss* by Edmund DeWaal.

In October each member recommends three books. A vote is taken in November for the following year. The member will facilitate the discussion when her selection is read. We've celebrated our December meetings in 2012 and 2013 with a holiday dinner at the Heathers.

Drop-In Book Club

Lisa Crawford, Coordinator

The Drop-In book club, is loosely structured. Folks travel, work, etc. and sometimes they aren't interested in a particular book. I select the books for it, though if someone suggests a book I'm happy to oblige. I like to include a mix, to appeal to as many different styles, genres and tastes as possible. Here's what we read this year:

January: *Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell

February: *The Invention of Air* by Steven Johnson

March: *The Calligrapher's Daughter* by Eugenia Kim

April: *The Tower, the Zoo, and the Tortoise* by Julia Stuart

May: *Out of the Flames* by Lawrence & Nancy Goldstone

September: *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer

October: *An Abundance of Katherines* by John Green

November: *Four Ways to Forgiveness* by Ursula K. LeGuin

If the book of the month ever looks interesting, or if you've read it already and would welcome the opportunity to discuss it, join us at the specified date and time.

Film Buffs

Larry Wisniewski, Coordinator

The BUC Film Buffs generally meet the third Friday of the month at 7 PM in the Commons from September to June. Everyone is welcome. Each month's film is announced with a short description in that month's newsletter. The group provides the opportunity to watch and discuss both current films that were not widely distributed in the Metro Detroit area and classic films. Foreign as well as independent US films are shown.

Holiday Dinners

Carol Winslow, Coordinator

BUC has had a long tradition of offering a Thanksgiving and Christmas potluck dinner for members and friends of the church on each holiday. This offers an option for people who would like to celebrate the holiday but for one reason or another do not have plans with extended family or friends. Carol Winslow coordinates both dinners.

Thanksgiving is celebrated at BUC. Carol Winslow provides the turkey, fixings, and decorations while the group brings the remainder of the meal. We have a wonderful

meal, good fellowship, and everyone participates in making it a festive occasion to give thanks. 16 people participated last year.

For Christmas, the dinner is traditionally hosted at a BUC member's home. Camille Harris hosted again last year with everyone providing a wonderful dish for the meal. Margaret Marsh provides the Cornish Hens. Each person also brings an edible gift to exchange via a lottery game. The food is wonderful with stimulating conversation and interactions. Belgian chocolates and MI cherry jam were the favorites re-exchanged multiple times during the gift exchange game. Almost 20 people participated last year.

BUC Opera Goers

Larry Freedman, Coordinator

During the past year, twenty-five BUC Opera Goers attended one or more of the magnificent Saturday afternoon performances of operas transmitted live from the stage of the Metropolitan Opera in New York to movie theaters around the world. The operas we attended were: *Aida*, *Rigoletto*, *Francesca da Rimini*, *Julius Caesar*, *Eugene Onegin* and *Tosca*.

During the remainder of the Met 2013 – 2014 season the group will be enjoying *Falstaff*, *Rusalka*, *La Boheme* and *Così fan tutte*.

Features of the live transmissions include HD sound, close up views of all the action on stage, between act interviews with leading cast members and on screen English translations.

After each opera, several member of the group meet at a nearby restaurant for discussion and fellowship.

For more information regarding the Opera Goers contact Larry Freedman at: lawrenceman@sbcglobal.net Tel. 248-370-8227.

Sharing Dinners

Carol Lee, Coordinator

Sharing Dinners are a great way to get to know fellow BUCers in a comfortable setting over good food and lively conversation. On the second Saturday of the month about six individuals or couples open their homes for a potluck dinner for about 8 people. Each month there's a new group of hosts and different combinations of guests, affording the opportunity for participants to get to know as many of each other as possible. In February Carol Winslow coordinates a combined dinner for all participants at the church. This year we have 64 regulars and 14 alternates, 18 of them first-time participants. It is not too late to sign up for the remaining dinners of 2013-14. Contact carolallmanlee@yahoo.com.



MAMA's Coffeehouse

Jim Bizer, Booking Coordinator and Emcee

MAMA's Coffeehouse has turned 20!

The first MAMA's Coffeehouse concert was held in May of 1993. On May 18 of this year, we celebrated the 20th anniversary of that historic occasion with a benefit concert featuring a bevy of fine Michigan acoustic/roots performers. Five separate acts donated their performances and all proceeds went to support Forgotten Harvest.

Another season of MAMA's musical performances is already underway, with an impressive lineup of regional, national and international touring artists. Our roster of recent acts includes award winners of every stripe, including Grammy and Emmy recipients. These artists are anxious to perform here because of the supportive and appreciative audiences that MAMA's attracts.

We're happy to report that MAMA's is on sound financial footing. It can take a few years for a concert series of this type to find its audience, but at age 20, the Coffeehouse is a well-established musical venue. Surplus funds generated by MAMA's will help fund technical upgrades to audio and lighting systems in the church, which will benefit both MAMA's and BUC (including making BUC more attractive as a rental facility!)

MAMA's core staff includes BUC members Larry Wisniewski, Jan Wheelock, Kathy Ransome, Cindy Gunnip, Kathy DuHame and Jim Bizer; sound tech Dennis Kingsbury and social media/publicity manager Sarah Kosel are also integral parts of the group. Numerous other folks help out on a regular or occasional basis - we can use you, too! Our biggest needs are simple ones - a few bodies to help with setup and teardown before and after each show and/or some donated baked goods (brownies and such) for our concession sales. It's light work, you get to hang out with fun and friendly people and you can see the shows for free! No committees or long-term commitments - pick a show you'd like to see and sign up on our volunteer forms at the shows or in the social hall on Sunday mornings.

Too busy to volunteer? You can support MAMA's Coffeehouse simply by coming to the concerts! If you haven't attended before, join the growing number of folks who have (re)discovered the magic of real live music played by talented human beings - there's nothing quite like it.

Directors of Religious Education

Eleanor McGuire & Kimery Campbell

DRE for Youth Kimery Campbell and Children's DRE Eleanor McGuire work in partnership to maintain a cohesive and professional RE program. In association with the Religious Education Council, they identify long-term goals for children and youth participating in the Religious Education program at BUC; clarify procedures and policies for the RE program and for the church; and enhance program fundamentals. Nursery Caregiver/RE Assistant Beth Lorey provides classroom and clerical support as well as fresh ideas and insights to RE planning. Together, Eleanor, Kimery and Beth strive to meet the needs and expectations of BUC as well as to continually create an innovative UU Nursery – 12th grade RE program.

This year approximately 150 children and youth are enrolled in the RE program with about 100 volunteer teachers, advisors, Council leaders, chaperones and presenters support classes and youth groups. Our Religious Education program includes a wide range of curricula which provides the children and youth with grounding in:

- The beliefs and practices of religions throughout the world and history
- Embracing the values of the UU principles and purposes, and
- How our life experiences shape our personal religious beliefs and how our religious beliefs alter our life choices.

Eleanor McGuire continues with her work as DRE for Children, further refining the Workshop Rotation program, now a complete four-year program for elementary-aged children. She is also busy writing the third year of what will ultimately be four years of curricula for the Sunday morning high school class. Finally, she continues to refine the elements of BUC's 5th grade "graduation" tradition. This new tradition offers the 5th graders a transitional month (and a celebration) at the end of their 5th grade church year in order to better acclimate themselves to the upcoming middle school programming.

Eleanor also undertook several tasks beyond her Sunday mornings responsibilities. She conducted 3 separate congregant surveys on a variety of topics. She oversaw the RE contributions to the Stewardship, Strategic Plan and Capital Campaign efforts. She met with the Bloomfield Hills police and fire departments to formalize the church's safety procedures. And finally, Eleanor painted and polished the Green Door classrooms.

Kimery Campbell continues to provide and update curricular materials for the 6 & 7 and ROPE classes, recruit and train teachers, and coordinate fundraising for the 8th grade UU Heritage trip to Boston. She again served as registrar and organizer for the MidAmerica (Michigan Cluster) Junior High fall retreat at Mystic Lake. She also attended her first Renaissance Module training session: Ministry with Youth, at DuPage UU Church in Naperville IL.

Our youth groups – The Unitarian Friendship Organization (UFO – 6th/7th Grades), Rite of Passage Experience (ROPE – 8th Grade) and Great Unitarian Universalist Senior High (GUUSH-High School) were active with community service and fun events. The high school youth wanted to increase their connections to both the adults in our congregation and to the greater UU and local communities. With this goal in mind, in December they adopted a family as part of the WHRC Christmas gift program and helped run the Friday night Food, Faith and Fun event. High

school youth musicians, led by junior Jaden Eller, generously put together a concert in March to benefit the ROPE Boston trip. In April, they expanded the previous year's art-themed cluster event into a full-fledged art conference ("con") which attracted high school youth from as far away as Peoria IL. They also planned monthly fun events, kept up with their usual social action projects, and were well-represented at cons hosted by other churches. In the summer of 2013, BUC was proud to say that two of our high school youth participated in the recreation of the Freedom Ride and three others attended the UU College of Social Justice's three week National Youth Justice Training (NYJT) in Boston.

Meanwhile, the 8th grade coming-of-age program was, as always, busy first with the September-December OWL program (in 2012, delivered jointly with Northwest UU of Southfield) and then the actual ROPE program (January to June). Fundraising for Boston included the traditional poinsettia sale and pancake breakfast, plus the joint youth group Bakeoff fundraiser. ROPE 2013 was the first group to benefit from inclusion of the ROPE trip in the annual budget. In exchange, the church received all profits from the weekly Scrip fundraising program. This change was a boon to the ROPE program because it relieved the fundraiser stress experienced by both families and DRE. And BUC also benefited, because the income from Scrip far exceeded the church share of trip costs. It is worth mentioning that the 2013 Boston trip was memorable in another respect: it took place during the citywide lockdown that followed the Marathon bombing. Thanks to intrepid adult leaders Mike Gabel, Pam McAlpin, and Emilia Askari plus the kind hosts at the UU Church of Malden, the trip went forward and the youth returned safely with new insights into social issues, turmoil, and hope.

Events in which the high school and/or middle school youth participated included the annual Bake-off auction, food preparation for BUC's South Oakland Shelter guests, the semi-annual Rummage sales, Candy Cane Sunday, the pancake breakfast, Gleaners in Pontiac, to the benefit of their own groups, the greater church, and the community. They participated in a pilot social justice weekend with the UU Church of Flint, including volunteer work at the North End Soup Kitchen and contributed items to the March Service Auction. In addition to projects, both the BUC Board of Trustees and the Religious Education Council boast youth members. Youth Sunday and ROPE Sunday 2013 were points of pride for our program and preparations are underway for the 2014 services.

One innovation in the Youth Sunday program this year was that a new fund was created for the plate collection. The money received in May of this year was designated for youth-chosen social justice projects. The youth were then able to select recipients based on their own involvements. Through this fund, BUC became a day sponsor for the North End Soup Kitchen in Flint (where our youth and adults volunteered in April). The remaining funds were divided equally between SOS, Gleaners, Greening of Detroit, Communities United for Children, and Freedom House.

Plans for 2013-14 include exploration of options for increased social action and fun opportunities for middle school youth and increased connections between youth, children, and the greater church community. Plans are also underway to establish a tradition of consistent connections between the minister & BUC's youth beyond those experiences already shared in the 8th grade and senior years.

Volunteers who teach or help in other ways in the Religious Education program are the backbone of our program, and this year we had awesome people give their heart and soul to our congregation. Without them the program would not exist. Please take the time to thank them for their efforts this year.

It is a pleasure to serve as your Children's and Youth DREs in our BUC Family.

Religious Education Volunteers 2012-13 Church School Year

Lisa Alfelt	Josie Gabel	Amy Music
Kathy Arnold	Mike Gabel	Joel Newman
Emily Arnold	Kim Geis	Viola Newman
Ian Arnold	Dave Graham	Paul Plante
Emilia Askari	Maria Graham	Lisa Rhoads
Lynn Bell	Pam Graham	Eric Sargent
Ilene Beninson	Laura Hamrick	Andrew Schreck
Hilary Bishop	Gary Hancock	Peter Schreck
Terry Blankenship	Erika Hansinger	Sheila Seaver
George Borszcz	Melinda Henderson	Sylvia Sesostris
Jennifer Bostek	Glenn Hoffrichter	Kyle Sim
Laura Burleigh	Maryl Kacir-Huntington	Bob Smith
Gaelan Campbell-Fox	Jennifer Karteczka	Sandi Spencer
Wendie Carter	Claudia Kocher	Julie Stitt (NWUU)
Michelle Chapman-Anderson	Lisa Kort	Sue Stoll
Aletha Craig	Max Kort	Craig Stroup
Tom Cranston	Michelle Lakocy	Debbie Stroup
Cameron Crawford	Ann Landen	Julie Still
Lisa Crawford	Rob Lawrence	Kelly Taylor
Walter Dean	Steve Lorey	Jennifer Weallans
Ann Duncan	Stuart McAlpin	Bruce Webber
Mary Jo Ebert	Dave McGuire	Carey Wendell
Fiona Erickson	Kateri McMullen	Liz Wendell
Scott Farrar	Iris McNitt	Sylvia Whitmer
Debbie Fordree	Matthew McNitt	Brad Williams
Bill Fox	Iris McNitt	

A Sampling of Youth Activities in 2012-13

6th & 7th grade UFO

Fall Retreat at Mystic Lake
 UFO Kick-off
 SOS Baking Project at BUC
 Ropes course
 Air Time
 Junior High cons (two!)
 Swimming!

8th Grade OWL/ROPE

Junior High cons (two!)
 ROPE BOSTON TRIP (April 18-21)
 ROPE Sunday
 OWL & ROPE Sleepovers
 ROPE Fundraising: Poinsettias, Pancake
 Breakfast, and Scrip program

9th-12th GUUSH

HS Retreat at Mystic Lake
 SOS Dinner at BUC

Rummage Consolidation x2

Youth Holiday Dinner at BUC
 CON Artist High School art conference
 Pump It Up
 Movie nights and bonfires
 WHRC Adopt-a-Family
 Five offsite youth conferences
 Greening of Detroit
 Sewing for Kenya
 GUUSH/ROPE Picnic
 Candy Cane Sunday
 Baldwin Center Summer Camp

All Youth

Youth Sunday Service
 Bake-Off
 Multigenerational Services
 Flint Social Justice Tour and
 North End Soup Kitchen service project
 Gleaners

Performing Arts

Pamela McAlpin-Performing Arts Dir./Lifespan Team/Fellowship and Membership Facilitator

The No Fault Orchestra played a sing-a-long Sunday in December. The congregation sang with this 43 piece BUC Orchestra. Our wonderful players were:

<u>Flutes</u> Julie Fream Jennie Spenner	<u>Oboe</u> Austen Campbell-Fox Jessa Webber
<u>Clarinets</u> Debbie Fordree Kelsey Hamrick Kimmie Hamrick Max Kort Reed McAlpin Natalie McGuire Molly Ryan Debbie Stroup	<u>Trumpet</u> Kathy DuHame Michael Duric Alex Farrar Burr Huntington Jorah Huntington Blake McAlpin Dave McGuire Rosie McGuire
<u>Horn</u> Brian Campbell Laura Kubit Olivia Ruiz Karl Stroup	<u>Trombone</u> Alex Duric Andrew Lakocy Chuck Stavoe Ross Stavoe Craig Stroup
<u>Tuba</u> Randy Safford	<u>Bass</u> Ryan Lawrence
<u>Percussion</u> Soo Choe Nathan Farrar Stuart McAlpin Brian Schandevell	<u>Violin</u> Ben Ensroth
<u>Piano and percussion</u> Barbara Woolf	<u>Cello</u> Bob Clement Josie Gabel

Another part of my job is to put together once a month multi-gen services. Wanting to put together a service that would have significance for both children and adults was my aim. January: As part of a giving month, I organized three of our church members to talk about their experience in the Peace Corp. Kimery Campbell, Yvette Kaplan and Laura Kubit shared their stories.

In January I also began a month long collection of food to help some of the children in Pontiac who are in need. Thanks to all who contributed as we raised more food than would fit in my car.

February: I read two Stories by Mark Twain and adapted them into one. I entitled it "Excerpts from the Garden of Adam and Eve." This was performed by Emily Arnold and Jaden Eller, with Bruce Lapinski as the voice of God. Stuart McAlpin was guest pianist.

March: I aided in the "Youth Sunday" by training the youth on the use of the microphone and practicing slower speech and eye contact.

April: Easter Sunday I wrote an Easter skit on how we came to dye Easter eggs. Kimery Campbell played the chicken and I played the bunny.

May: I wrote a mother's day play involving 5 different diary inputs from young (Amelia Pierce), teen years (Jillian Lawrence), college (Bridget Sadley), new parent (Cheryl Courage), middle age (Pam McAlpin), and older adult (Barbara Woolf) views of their mother.

August: I led the music for our outdoor service in the courtyard. It was fun singing with no accompaniment and

I was pleased when we signed one of the songs and later found out a guest that attended BUC that day was deaf and hard of hearing and could understand what we were singing.

September: I came into church carrying as much luggage as possible to do a baggage skit with Sarah Constantakis. The skit was about how everyone has baggage and this is a good church to just be who you are.

October: I helped put together the "Day of the Dead" service with a Mariachi band and Barbara Woolf on piano.

November: I wrote a forgiveness skit to fit the theme of the month "Forgiveness".

Demonstrating how some people blame others instead of just saying "I'm sorry." (And, no my cats didn't have hair balls...it was a skit). That same month I rewrote a UU church of San Diego script on the true meaning of Thanksgiving. Performers were: Matthew and Lisa Baker, Mike and Gabby Gabel, Emma and Debbie Fordree, and Pamela McAlpin.

Memorial Day: I became obsessed with Memorial Day and the months theme of coming home. I read books, on line stories, and asked many who participated in wars questions about coming home. Thanks to Kathy Hurt for allowing me to share these stories in a service on Memorial Sunday and the congregants who read them. They are: WWII-Larry Larson and Paul Vachon, Korean Conflict-Dick Cantley, Vietnam-Bruce Webber, Gulf War/Desert Storm-Brad Williams, Afghanistan-John Crissman with his poem "Soldier's Thank You". A special thanks also to Elson Spangler for sharing his own story of his time in the Air force during WWII and Lisa Crawford for finding the perfect pictures. I also got to belt out my favorite Accapella song "Penny Evens" written about a woman left without a husband with two young children to raise.

Another part of my job is the monthly FFFF (Food, Faith, and Fun Fridays). Thanks go to Ed Sharples and Grace Rising for leading one of these services and Barbara Woolf for playing piano. We had fun game nights, a travelogue exploring Hawaii. The High School youth did the December service and afterwards we all sang Christmas carols. In February, we had a Contra Dance with live musicians from Ann Arbor. It was lively and fun and I quote Annis Pratt "We need more dancing".

I was the staff chaperone for our ROPE youth group going to Boston during the week of the Boston Marathon bombings. The kids were real troopers and adapted to needed changes in our plans. As a thank you to our host church we sang and signed "There's a River" at their potluck dinner. I also helped the kids prepare for ROPE Sunday. Letting them practice using the microphone and training them to talk slowing to be sure your story is heard.

In July I wrote two skits for the Baldwin summer camp. Both stories took place in the forest and involved a windy tornado. What a blast. Teresa Honnold and Jules DeWard both helped me direct these plays to different aged group children. The laughter and hugs were wonderful. Hopefully it will be longer next year.

I learned a lot by attending the RE monthly meetings at various UU churches. I led one of the meetings in a discussion on special needs children in the classroom. Bringing books and things I've learned throughout the years with my own child. I also went to the May RE retreat. A wonderful bunch of ladies relaxing and sharing stories, ideas, things that have worked or not in their churches. Okay, we never totally relax, but it was great being in a room of like-minded people.

In July I went to the UUMN Conference in Dallas, Texas. Our conferences have expanded so much that even church member can benefit from attending. I attended classes on using technology in services, chanting, membership, and church growth to name a few. Singing and seeing UU friends from the U.S. and Canada is always rejuvenating for the upcoming year.

In July, I took on the role of Membership and Fellowship Coordinator. From July-November, we have added many new members to our congregation. Look for the 2013 new member wall in January. I'd like to thank Ed Sharples and Barbara Woolf for co-leading one of the "Getting to know UU" sessions in November. At monthly membership meetings we spend a lot of time pondering ways to let congregants know that volunteers are always needed for greeting, ushering, and making coffee. Carol Lee is ahead of Fellowship and in January we will gather a group to form the new Fellowship Committee.

It's been a busy and delightful year.

Service and Social Justice Cluster

Mary Jo Ebert & Ilene Beninson, Council Representatives

Through our Service & Justice program, BUC ministers to the needs of our communities, promotes social and economic justice, and serves as an agent of systemic social change.

The Service & Justice program encompasses a variety of projects whose accomplishments are summarized below, beginning with our service projects and concluding with our social justice advocacy work. We salute the hundreds of BUC members and friends who participated in one or more of these projects during 2013.

Communities United for Children / WHRC Elementary School

We continue to make a difference in the lives of students and their families at the WHRC Elementary School in Pontiac through the leadership and work of volunteers from BUC and other organizations. After a spike in enrollment to 900 students in 2012, the 2013 school year brought a reduction in enrollment due to the start-up of a new public charter school in Pontiac. This resulted in mid-term changes in teachers and staff and classroom assignments. Class sizes increased to about 40 students this year. Despite the challenges, students are eager to learn, and volunteers continue to provide a vital service to them and their teachers.

BUC members George Lentz and Ilene Beninson serve as Co-Chairs of the CUFC Board, and Ron Fredrick is a long-time member. CUFC serves as the interface with school officials and staff, coordinates the volunteer and donor activities, and obtains grants.

Volunteers contribute in a variety of ways:

- Tutors meet weekly with students identified by their teachers to help with reading readiness skills, shared reading, and selecting books for home use and after-school enrichment activities.
- Classroom assistants perform a variety of tasks to help teachers.
- WHRC students are served breakfast and lunch daily. In Fall 2013, classroom monitors were introduced to help facilitate the movement of students to and from the cafeteria and ensure that students complete their meals and return to their classrooms in the scheduled time.
- Volunteers purchased and prepped school supplies for all students at the start of the school year and stocked extra supplies to be used during the school year.
- With plate collection donations in November, Thanksgiving food baskets were stocked and delivered for WHRC families.
- BUC members once again sponsored families through our holiday program, providing clothing, toys, games, books and holiday decorations for families identified by teachers and staff.

- A book trolley serves as a mobile library in the school, which is a crucial service since there is no budget to staff the library. Volunteers sort books and do other work to operate the trolley.
- Emergency medical care, an emergency food pantry, and clothing closet continue to provide much needed assistance, including medications, food, and warm clothing (winter coats, hats, mittens, shoes and boots) for needy WHRC students.

Baldwin Center – The Start of a Partnership

In response to input from the congregation indicating a desire to direct more of our service work to the needs of our neighbors in Pontiac, we initiated a partnership with the Baldwin Center, a 32-year-old institution that provides over 25 programs and services to Pontiac residents. In August, BUC staff and volunteers offered art, music, video, and theater segments for one week of the Baldwin Center summer camp. Our inaugural program was well-received by the participants. We look forward to expanding our partnership with the Baldwin Center in 2014.

Needs Network

Through community outreach projects sponsored by the BUC Needs Network, we demonstrate our commitment to living our UU principles. The mission of the Needs Network is:

- to provide opportunities for BUCers to put values into action through hands-on participation in community service projects in the metropolitan Detroit region
- to sponsor projects which address human needs such as food, shelter, and mentoring
- to promote projects that engage the BUC community in understanding and acting on the reality of poverty and distressed urban neighborhoods in the larger community of which we are a part.

Needs Network operates through decentralized project leadership and community networking. More than 200 BUC members and friends have contributed their time and donations of goods to these projects. The 2013 Needs Network projects and their leaders are listed below, followed by a summary of each project.

- Greening of Detroit – Paul Plante
- Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County – Paul Plante
- Lighthouse Food Pantry and Christmas donations – Margaret Marsh
- St. Mary's Warming Center, Royal Oak – Margaret Marsh
- South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless Welcome Inn – Annis Pratt
- South Oakland Shelter (SOS) – Paul Plante and Grace Rising

Greening of Detroit

2013 Project leader: Paul Plante

Tree planting projects with The Greening of Detroit were a success again in 2013! Seventy BUCers and friends assisted neighborhood groups in planting mixed variety trees in Detroit on two Saturdays in May. We also donated planting tools.

Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County

2013 Project leader: Paul Plante

For many years, BUC has joined with other congregations to sponsor and build simple, decent, and affordable housing in Oakland County in partnership with Habitat for Humanity. HfH houses are built with the help of donated money, materials, and volunteer labor, sold at cost, and financed with a zero interest mortgage. Habitat homeowners are working people needing a helping hand. Homeowners put 250 hours of "sweat equity" into the construction of their own home and the homes of others in the HfH community. Habitat for Humanity of Oakland County is committed to refurbishing existing homes bought by HfH in many communities in Oakland County. Volunteers range in experience from none to professional contractors. Training is provided on-the-job as required. There are also many hospitality/support services opportunities available to keep the construction crews well fed and supplied with water, snacks, and sun-screen. All ages 16 and up are welcome. Slow build houses were completed over the entire 2013 calendar year. Due to the availability of many used empty homes in Pontiac, Habitat has chosen to refurbish rather than build homes new. Slow builds and refurbish may be more appealing to some BUC volunteers. www.habitatoakland.org.

Lighthouse of Oakland County Food Pantry Donations

2013 Project leader: Margaret Marsh

BUC continues to collect food and toiletries in a trunk in the foyer, which get transported to the Lighthouse emergency food pantry in Pontiac. The Lighthouse appreciates our efforts and counts on our donations to assist them in providing the Pontiac community, especially the working poor, with needed food and toiletries.

Lighthouse of Oakland County Christmas Donations

2013 Project leader: Margaret Marsh

BUC donors contributed toys, clothes, toiletries, and household goods for holiday gifts for families selected by the Lighthouse. These families are grateful for all the assistance BUC provides.

St. Mary's Warming Center, Royal Oak

2013 Project leader: Margaret Marsh

For more than ten years a group from BUC has shared in the laundry responsibilities for St. Mary's shelter. Early on a Sunday morning in January, 16 volunteers invaded two laundromats to launder more than 100 loads of linen.

South Oakland Citizens for the Homeless Welcome Inn

2013 Project leader: Annis Pratt

"Those wonderful Unitarians!" This statement was heard at The Welcome Inn, the daytime warming shelter for the homeless in Royal Oak where our volunteers once again did a wonderful job in all sorts of ways during the winter months. Volunteer duties included covering four-hour shifts with the guests, purchasing needed items such as work boots, underwear, garbage bags, coffee and office supplies, delivering medical supplies, and providing food for the guests, including many homemade casseroles. Every small act of kindness contributes a spark to light this world. Our volunteers lit a whole row of candles to shine in the darkness!

South Oakland Shelter (SOS)

2013 Project leaders: Paul Plante and Grace Rising

Our congregation has been a host site for the South Oakland Shelter for one week each year since 1989. This is an all-church service activity involving many hours and much coordination----and, has succeeded because so many adults and youth help. The older children baked and packaged cookies for lunches for our guests. High school youth and GUUSH members helped with set up and tear down and prepared and served dinner on Saturday night. The Young Adults group prepared and served dinner on Friday night. Other adults contributed in a wide variety of roles. Another key to our success is the dedicated team leaders who help recruit other volunteers and are on site to make sure their area/activity is completed well.

The SOS organization and the 30-34 guests offered their appreciation for our graciousness and welcoming behaviors and the good food throughout the week. Several guests commented that they are both pleased and amazed that so many of us do so much to help them. This year's volunteer recruitment went particularly well, and we hope to repeat the enthusiastic response when we host SOS guests next year.

Plate Collection Donations to Community Service Organizations

Throughout the year, our congregation contributed 50% of the plate collection to organizations that serve the wider community. This is facilitated by the Plate Collection Committee, who review applications from the congregation and select recipients for 4-6 week collection periods. We can all be proud to have donated plate proceeds to the following organizations in 2013:

\$1,569.00	Welcome Inn
\$1,459.00	South Oakland Shelter (SOS)
\$2,448.20	BUC Emerging Needs Fund
\$1,649.50	313 Project, Detroit
\$1,542.00	GUUSH Social Action Projects
\$1,656.84	Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN)
\$1,387.85	Emergency Services program of Lighthouse of Oakland County
\$2,260.53	School supplies for WHRC Elementary School
\$1,796.93	The Pink Fund
TBD-Nov	Holiday food baskets for WHRC and Baldwin Center families
TBD-Dec	The Sanctuary program of Common Ground

Social Justice Advocacy

In addition to the service projects described above, our program focused on social justice advocacy, which aims to influence public policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions. During 2013, BUCers advocated for change in the areas of public transportation, reproductive justice, LGBT rights, Medicaid expansion, minimum wage increase, and immigration reform. We carry out some of this work in partnership with Michigan UU Social Justice Network (MUUSJN), Metropolitan Organizing Strategy Enabling Strength (MOSES), and Transportation Riders United (TRU). We also partnered with Congregational Church of

Birmingham on public transit advocacy and hope to expand that partnership for other social justice work in 2014.

Our program authored and gained Board approval for a BUC petition policy, which provides guidelines for members to collect signatures from congregants after Sunday services in a way that does not intrude on our church members and visitors. Several groups used the petition policy successfully this year, including advocates for policy changes to protect and preserve the earth's resources.

Worship

Penny Hackett-Evans, Chairperson

This year we have fully transitioned into using monthly worship themes throughout the year. Themes this year have been; coming home, forgiveness, abundance, emptiness, time, love and fear, and others. Guest speakers as well as the minister are asked to preach on these general themes. In addition, we have begun developing a small booklet of quotes about the monthly theme to be given out to the congregation. In an effort to include as many possible people thinking about and contributing to the themes, quotes and questions on the theme of the worship are also being disseminated to other groups in the church.

The biggest change we have undertaken this year is to offer two different types of worship each Sunday. The early service has a more contemplative feel to it; more classical music, more silence, more time for reflection, more inwardness, time for people who wish to light candles during joys and concerns, readings that reflect personal stories, etc. The later service offers a more celebratory format; people talking with each other instead of a prelude, a lively house band offering more contemporary music, more interaction during the service, more use of video and photography during the service, etc. The worship team recognizes that there are many factors that determine which service any individual might attend – but offering this variety seems important even if everyone can't take advantage of the choices offered.

We are still learning our way into the use of visual elements in the service; video clips, still photos, visual meditations etc. We recognize that these changes are challenging to some members and are striving to make the visual offerings a quality integral piece of the Sunday worship experience.

The worship team will be providing some experimental worship services that will be held at another time than Sunday morning. Our first foray into this will be a Winter Solstice Celebration. Our hope is to provide services that might include such things as; walking the labyrinth, chanting, meditation, drumming, etc.

We have welcomed one new worship associate this year, Paul Vachon and also Karen Schreck who has joined the team bringing her ability to find quotes for use in and around the themes of the service. Other continuing worship associates are; Ben Gabel, Camille Harris, Dan Kosuth, Frank Arvan, Ed Sharples, Grace Rising, Gregg Bloomfield, Judy Amir, Kristi Fielder, Peggy Woehrlén, Sara Constantakis, Lisa Demian, Emily Arnold and Liz Wendell.

Flower Donations for Our Chancel

For many years people have donated flowers for Sunday mornings to enhance our worship services by adding the beauty of flowers to the chancel table. The following people donated an arrangement in honor of someone or in memory of a loved one or just for the congregation to enjoy.

Ed Sharples	Mary Jo & Paul Plante	Betty Blair	Gil Maxwell
Grace Rising	Libby Harris	Ann Throop	Carole Wiseman
Kristi Fielder	Jeanne Perkins	Nancy Jones	Joanne Copeland
Marilyn Kelly	Carol Lee	Nancy Norling	Barbara Robinson
Diane Lake	Inta Davis	Tony Hardesty	Pat & Dick Schwing
Judy Amir	Grace Kachaturoff	Bunny Hodas	Eleanor McGuire
Nancy & Bill Duffy	Larry Larson	Craig Spangler & Theresa Honnold	
Ed Brouhard & Yvonne Verschueren		Dorothy Prier, Maureen Scott & Ann Throop	

Music Directors Report

Abha and Steven Dearing, Co-Directors of Music

The year 2013 was an exciting, fruitful one for music at BUC. Co-Directors of Music Abha and Steven Dearing enthusiastically prepared music for various services and events, knowing that the congregation expected and deserved high quality music which spoke to their varying sensibilities.

In January, we welcomed pianist Rudolfs Ozolins to the BUC music family. His technically excellent playing, his instincts for teamwork and his sense of humor have quickly won over many congregants. Steve and Abha were able to rely on him as excellent accompaniment to the choir and soloists, plus he became more confident leading hymns in varying styles. Rudolfs seems to be more comfortable than ever juggling his roles as solo pianist, accompanist, house-band keyboard-player and contributing member of the BUC staff.

The Dearings led a Hymn-Sing Sunday in April where they shared their journeys of finding themselves as they found music. The congregation enjoyed singing many hymns that day and learned about their music-leaders in a more intimate way.

The Chalice Choir took music to new heights. The Winter was full of music preparation for services and Choir Sunday. The theme this past May was “The Joys of Childhood” where the choir and soloists celebrated memories from their own youth and sang numerous songs which highlighted universal themes from that time. It went over well enough that the choir attracted many new members for the Fall season. During the summer of 2013, Abha attended the Michigan School Vocal Music Association conference in Lansing and came away with lots of new

choral works, repertoire choices and inspiring rehearsal techniques. She implemented many new ideas at the start of the new church year in September and the choir seems to be responding well to challenges she sets. The group performed many high-level choral pieces to compliment the themes of services, all the while preparing for the performance of Schubert's "Mass in G", accompanied by a chamber orchestra. The soloists and all choral parts were covered by our own choir members, and many of the orchestra members are BUCers as well. It is wonderful to be able to invite so many people from our spiritual community to be a part of this major endeavor. The collaboration was fun and divine.

The Kids Choir sang twice this Fall. Their rehearsals were spirited and fun—lots of kids joined to make music and learn some basics about reading notes and rhythms. We played games, had healthy competitions and snacks, and sang together lots. The Kids Choir worked hard to sing in church and accomplished what they set out to do: learn new music in rehearsal and perform well in church. They sang Katy Perry's "Roar" complete with choreography, then treated us to a holiday song at the Christmas Eve service.

The House Band found a name for itself: the Sound Messengers. The group, led by Steven Dearing on guitar, formed with Rudolfs Ozolins on Keyboard, Brian Schandavel on drums, Chuck Bartels on bass and Abha Dearing on vocals. Back-up singers Mike Auchter, Kelly Taylor and Andrea Zellner completed the personnel of the band. They performed a variety of songs this Fall and Winter: ballads and up-tempo songs which reflected the themes of the services well. Many people have been affected by the band's presence in the services and as a result, the Sound Messengers will be a regular presence in 2014.

SoundBites continues to grow, thanks to the countless volunteers who help with presentation, baking, and outside promotion. Many thanks go out to all who helped in this endeavor:

Gloria Abrams	Martha Hale	Shawn Rooney
Judy Amir	Carol Hayford	Rich Schreck
Mark Bruening	Addison Igleheart	Pat Schwing
Mike Auchter	Debby Igleheart	Ed Sharples
Catherine Baldwin	John Lake	Chirs Slon
Jim Bizer	Mary Jo Larson	Diane Slon
Ann Braid	Carol Lee	Amy Smalley
John Brus	Terry Love	Peter Spencer
Joanne Copeland	Robert Mohr	Chris Stoddard
Susan Darlington	Janet Patterson	Kelly Taylor
Steven Dearing	Eric Pierce	Sylvia Whitmer
Mary Dunn	Tom Raffel	Barbara Woolf
Sue Filbin	Kathy Ransome	Andrea Zellner
Larry Freedman	Bill Rittinger	
Carol Forrester	Kaye Rittinger	

Music Committee: Ed Sharples and Kathy Ransome, Co-Chairs

The Music Committee met monthly in 2013 to hear reports from professional staff members and to advise (but not supervise) them on future initiatives.

Both the December 2102 presentation of portions of "The Messiah" and the selections for choir Sunday were highly acclaimed. Additional singers have joined the choir since September 2103 and we look forward to even more growth in the near future.

The major change in music for worship has been the installation of the House Band in second service. Technology for the band was purchased with assistance of the Music Endowment and from a special gift from a committee member. The performances of the Band have made a dramatic impact on the tone of the service, making it a celebration of life. The first service remains traditional for BUC, primarily reflective and meditative in its approach to worship.

Ernie Hodas and the Steinway

In 1989, the 65-year-old Steinway that had been given to BUC many years earlier, could no longer be repaired. It was time to find a replacement. The Music Committee undertook a campaign to raise funds for a new piano, and Barbara Woolf and Sheila Devlin set out to find an excellent grand piano that was a less expensive alternative to a Steinway. Ernie Hodas learned of the campaign and the search, and, behind the scenes, asked how much a Steinway would cost. When he learned that the 1989 price for a seven-foot Steinway B would be close to \$35,000, he said he and Shirley would contribute that amount. What an unexpected and generous gift that was!

The search then narrowed to selecting the best Steinway B that the dealer had, because each piano is different from another, even if of the same make and model. Barbara Woolf narrowed it to two, equally fine instruments. She asked to consider the choice overnight, and the next morning got a call from the Steinway dealer, saying another Model B had just come in that we should hear. She hurried over and found the incredibly responsive, beautiful sounding Steinway that we now enjoy in our Sanctuary. It was far superior to either of the others. It could gently accompany the young voices of the children and also support the most robust choral and congregational singing. We were most fortunate to be in the right place at the right time. The Hodas Steinway was delivered that fall, and still maintains a fine reputation as a particularly excellent instrument among pianists in the Detroit metro area.

The fund-raising drive for the new piano? It was converted and became the Music Endowment Fund, which has been used to buy other instruments and to fund special performances requiring an instrumental ensemble. Ernie and Shirley Hodas' generosity has had a wide ripple effect.

Rummage

Kimery Campbell, Coordinator

The semi-annual Rummage sale seems to have a changing set of challenges with every sale. Some, such as weather issues, are beyond our control. Others seem to cycle in and out of importance. Last year's parking challenge, for example, was resolved this year when BUC Administrator Jim Shettel negotiated an arrangement with our new neighbors, Edward Rose, that allowed volunteers to park in their lot.

This year, the challenge of recruiting new volunteers reached epic heights. After a particularly dismal turnout at the Spring sale, at the end of which two volunteers remained until 9 p.m. on the final Saturday, taking care of all the remaining cleanup details, the committee sought the help of the Board. With the help of the church leadership, volunteer numbers were up considerably for the fall sale. At the Board's suggestion, the committee hired 4 college-age BUC youth to help during the always-problematic Saturday teardown and it has never gone better.

The receipts from the spring sale totaled about \$18,500. Once expenses (seed money, table rental, supplies, truck rental, security, custodial help, babysitting, food, advertising, Dumpster rental, carpet cleaning) were deducted, the net profits were around \$14,500. In the fall, gross income was about \$15,500 and net was about \$11,400 (including payment to our youthful helpers).

As a ministry, Rummage 2013 supported Nolan Elementary/Middle School in Detroit, the Baldwin Center, WHRC and the Furniture Bank of Pontiac; Common Ground's Sanctuary for runaway teens in Royal Oak; the Humane Society; the Salvation Army and the hundreds of shoppers who rely on us for quality gently-used goods. Increased recycling continues to bring in small amounts of cash and to make us all feel better about reducing waste. We were again the recipients of generous food donations from the Russell Street Deli in Detroit and from our old friend, retired Bloomfield Hills Police Sergeant Art Wargo.

The old saying, "many hands make light work," is in no place truer than it is at BUC Rummage. Perhaps it is an exaggeration to call it "light work," but the massive undertaking that is Rummage is made possible by the people who come back sale after sale, to set up, organize, shop, record, count, cook, tear down, and keep us going. Without them, there would be no sale. Individuals and groups (such as the high school youth) make this possible, but above all thanks are due to the BUC Board of Trustees and to our wonderful Rummage Committee: Walli and Soren Andersen, Hillary Bishop, Scott Cameron, John Crissman, Walter Dean, Mary Dunn, Carol Lee, Laura Lee, Margaret Marsh, Eleanor McGuire, Pat Schwing, Debbie Stroup, Ann Throop, and Brad Williams. Thank you one and all!

Green Sanctuary

Karen Stankye, Chair

Since achieving official Green Sanctuary status from the UUA earth ministry in 2012, the committee has been busy figuring out how we can best meet our mission of “Bringing all of BUC’s activities and policies into alignment with the UU 7th Principle”. We have broken this into various areas of congregational life; over all advisory function, sustainable church facilities, creating worship & celebratory events, supporting environmental justice activities internal & external to the church, serve as an educational resource for our congregants and the greater community and maintain our Green Sanctuary Certification. An increase in membership of the committee has energized us.

We have taken our cue on prioritizing tasks from the exercise we asked the congregation to do during the Earth Day celebration. There were approximately 85 responses as to what “You’d do to help the Earth”. These were then broken into 7 basic categories. The top 2 were about Clean Energy and Energy Conservation. We began investigating the plans for a geothermal heat pump for the social hall and kitchen and solar energy to replace some of our current electrical usage. The timing for this was good as it fit into the Board’s plan to have a Capital project in 2014. The committee did a town hall informational presentation in September on this and continues to fine tune costs and distribute information. Other categories were Recycling, Garden & Grounds, Car Pooling and Walking Our Talk. Stay tuned for activities in these areas in the upcoming months. The last category was Better Communication which the committee has made advances in by creating a Green Sanctuary Face Book page, our own tab on the bucni.org website and sending out emails to a dedicated list of people expressing interest.

Treasurer's Report

BUC ANNUAL MEETING

2013 Actuals

Birmingham Unitarian Church entered 2013 with cash on hand of \$123,000, and annual budgeted expenditures of \$846,000.

Historically, any cash surplus has been kept on hand in BUC's checking and investment accounts as a cushion to be able to meet emergency needs. When 2013 pledges fell significantly short of 2013 budget plans, the Board of Trustees made the decision to spend from our cash surplus in order to maintain or build valued programs and to grow our church. Our budgeted income shortfall was equal to the entire \$123,000 on hand.

At the same time the Board asked our executive Rev. Dr. Kathy Hurt and staff to minimize the shortfall through expense management, which they did. In addition, as a congregation we sought to add to our income through such fund-raising efforts as Rummage, the Talent & Services Auction and SCRIP, as well as through growth in membership.

On the plus side, 2013 income gains over their forecasts totaled over \$50,000. This included:

Pledges from new members	+\$18,000
Talent & Services Auction	+\$13,000
Bequest from Joyce Von Drehle	+\$10,000
Rental income	+\$10,000

A significant positive 2013 financial event was the retirement of our endowment loan, which had \$74,000 outstanding. This was made possible through a very kind \$60,000 bequest from the Hodas family, with the \$14,000 balance coming from cash on hand.

On the negative side, a large emergency expenditure of \$18,000 was required to repair damage from the flood. \$9,000 of this was offset by contributions from some generous members.

2014 Forecast

Cash on hand at year-end 2013 is projected to be approximately \$50,000. The intent is to hold this cash cushion for the inevitable emergencies that arise. Thus, the budget currently in

development for the 18-month period starting January 2014 will be, by necessity, a balanced budget. Our budgeted expenditures will not exceed projected income.

Pledges for 2014+, at this juncture, are projected to end up at \$41-45,000 per month. While this is an increase over the 2013 pledge amount of \$39,000 per month, it puts us on the low side of our “maintenance” budget vs. growth going forward.

Respectfully submitted,

Dick Cantley

Agenda

Annual Meeting of the Membership

Sunday, December 8, 2013 11:45 a.m.

Welcome and Call To Order

Eric Sargent

Congregational Covenant:

As part of this beloved BUC community, I promise to:
...strive to be my best self in all my interactions
...assume the best intentions of everyone's actions
...be mindful of our shared humanity in my communications
...pause, reflect and be a part of the solution when things go awry
Thus do we covenant with one another

Quorum Count

Eric Sargent

Minutes from December 2, 2012 Meeting

Marilyn Mast

LDC Report and Vote

Cheryl Shettel & Judy Amir

Membership Report

Bret Bergeron

President's Remarks and Volunteer Recognition

Eric Sargent

Senior Minister's Remarks

Rev. Dr. Kathy Fuson Hurt

Change of Financial Year to July 1 – June 30

Board of Trustees

Treasurer's Report and Draft Budget Presentation

Dick Cantley

Result of Election

Cheryl Shettel & Judy Amir

Issues Arising for the Good of the Congregation

Eric Sargent

Adjournment

Birmingham Unitarian Church

Annual Meeting of the Congregation - Minutes

Sunday, December 2, 2012, 12:30 pm

Welcome and Call to Order Sheila Seaver

The meeting was called to order at 12:40 p.m.

A quorum was present.

A congregational covenant was read aloud by members.

Minutes from December 4, 2011 Annual Meeting – Claudia Kocher

The minutes from the 2011 annual meeting were approved on a motion from Ed Sharples (seconded by Marilyn Mast) and passed unanimously.

Leadership Development Committee Report & Vote – Scott Farrar and Debbie Fordree, Co-Chairs

Scott and Debbie presented the candidates and invited members who had not yet voted to cast their ballots. The votes were tallied while the meeting progressed. Outgoing board members were thanked.

Incoming board officers and members introduced. Incoming Program Council leaders introduced.

Candidates for Leadership Development Committee were introduced.

President's Remarks and Volunteer Recognition – Sheila Seaver

The president's report is available in the 2012 Annual Report. A summarized version was presented by Sheila.

Sheila thanked ushers, coffee servers, greeters, and RE teachers. She thanked Kathy for her leadership and support.

Kathy's remarks – Additional staff hours allowed Kathy and the staff to work more as a team than was possible previously. Kathy thanked the board for their work.

Special Recognitions:

Volunteers were asked to stand for recognition by the various ministries:

Worship Program, Rummage, SOS, Needs Network, Social Justice, Plate Collection,

Fellowship, Education, Committees related to building and administrative affairs,

Congregational Development Committee, Program Council

Senior Minister Remarks

Rev. Dr Kathy Hurt

See page 5 of the 2012 Annual Report for the senior minister remarks.

Recognition of Outgoing Board of Trustee President

Sheila Seaver was thanked for her service in 2012 as Board of Trustee President.

Planned Giving Committee (formerly Endowment Committee) Report

(Ron Fredrick, 2012 Chair)

See page 14 of the Annual Report.

Treasurer's Report and 2012 Budget

Priscilla Hildum and Chris Music

Presented by Priscilla Hildum, Treasurer,

Priscilla noted that revenue is up. Jim has worked very hard and been very effective with respect to rentals. If revenue for Nov. and Dec. are similar to Sept. and Oct., we may not have any deficit for 2012. The board is looking for additional revenue sources. Pre-school is being considered. There are many improvements or repairs needed to physical facility. Also, the landscape plan is very tempting.

The Board is looking at a capital campaign over the next several years. Also the board is looking at reaching more into the community.

Goldsmith scholarship – Mr. Goldsmith left BUC \$200,000 and specified that it was to be used to help people who could otherwise not get an education. After exploring organizations to handle the endowment left to BUC, an agreement was reached with the Community Foundation of Southeast Michigan establishing a scholarship fund for students in Pontiac.

Congregational Covenant – Marilyn Mast and Ed Sharples

Tim Mast made a motion to accept the congregational covenant (Karen Schrek seconded). The covenant was shown on the overhead projector.

If the congregation votes to approve the motion, we are stating that we are willing to live by the words in the covenant. Dave Graham suggested we vote on the covenant as currently worded. Motion to accept the covenant was approved by the congregation.

Constitutional amendment to membership requirement (Article IV.1 on Membership)

The proposed revision was displayed on the projector. The change is an addition to the original wording. Motion to accept – Barbara Wolfe, Anne Calamari

Keith Brown – made a motion to amend by striking the word only from first paragraph. Second from Anne Calamari. Support for the motion from Annis Pratt.

Vote on amendment to the motion – “These shall be the criteria for membership.” Approved.

Vote on proposed addition - approved. See article IV.1 at end of these minutes.

Result of Elections**LDC Co-Chairs**

Debbie Fordree and Scott Farrar, LDC Co-Chairs, announced the results of election.

Craig Stroup

Cathy Arnold

Ben Gabel

Annette Sargent

Sheila Seaver

Judy Amir and Cheryl Shettel are co-chairs for next year.

Members of the BUC Board of Trustees

Officers for 2013 are as follows:

President – Eric Sargent

Vice President – Lisa Demian

Secretary – Marilyn Mast

Treasurer – Dick Cantley

The other newly elected trustees are Sylvia Whitmer and Barbara Woolf. Dave Graham, John Hammer are continuing board members. Emily Arnold and Ian Arnold are youth liaisons to the board.

Adjournment 1:17 pm

Motion – Ed Sharples, Colleen Cavanaugh

ARTICLE IV. MEMBERSHIP AND VOTING

1. The membership of the society shall consist of all members in good standing of the Birmingham Unitarian Church at the time of the adoption of this constitution, April 9, 1962, and of any person sixteen years of age or older or any BUC "Rites of Passage Experience" graduate who expresses agreement with the purpose of the society by signing the membership book in the presence of the minister or trustee of the society. As has been implicit throughout the history of this church, these shall be the only criteria for membership, which shall otherwise be open to all persons without regard to gender, race, ethnic background, physical challenge, affectional orientation, citizenship, economic or social status, or creedal tests.

To this Proposed Addition to Article IV, Section 1:

Members shall participate in the maintenance of the society by participating in the Annual Pledge Drive or Canvass and express through their annual written pledge of financial support the willingness to support the fiscal needs of the church as well as the spirit of the society. A written pledge (or confidential statement to the minister of financial hardship) as part of the Annual Pledge Drive or Canvass shall be required to maintain membership under Article IV, Section 4.

Birmingham Unitarian Church

2014 Slate of Candidates

Annual Meeting - December 8, 2013

The Leadership Development Committee is comprised of 10 members – each serving a 2 year term so that 5 members are replaced each year. The LDC is charged with identifying and nominating church members for leadership on the Board of Trustees, Program Council and LDC; as well as to provide leadership training and support for potential and current church leaders. The LDC spent most of the year identifying candidates for the leadership slate presented at the December 8th Annual Meeting and then began planning for leadership training opportunities for early in 2014.

Judy Amir and Cheryl Shettel (co-chairs), Kathy Arnold, Kathy DuHame, Larry Friedman, Ben Gabel, Annette Sargent, Sheila Seaver, Craig Stroup and Ann Throop

Board of Trustees and Program Council Slate for 2014

President- Lisa Demian

Vice President- Barbara Woolf

Secretary- Marilyn Mast

Treasurer- Dick Cantley

Trustee- 3 year- Eric Sargent

Trustee- 3 year- Bruce Webber

Trustee- 2 year- Marilyn Kelly

Green Sanctuary- Karen Stankye

Learning- Carey Wendell

Music- Ed Sharples

Service and Social Justice- Mary Jo Ebert & Sharon Kirchner

LDC Nominees – 5 will be confirmed at the Annual Meeting and will be joining Kathy Arnold, Ben Gabel, Annette Sargent, Sheila Seaver and Craig Stroup. Ben Gabel and Craig Stroup will serve as 2014 co-chairs.

Colleen Cavanagh

Walter Dean

Mary Gawel-Ensroth

David Greer

Gary Hancock

Max Kort

Steve Lorey

Rosemary Robinson

Peggy Woehrlen