

All Souls Annual Meeting, May 31, 2015

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Minister's Annual Report

2014-2015

Rev. Dr. Kendyl Gibbons

It has been truly inspiring to see the All Souls congregation come alive to the possibilities for our future, and for making our facilities even more welcoming and better adapted to our needs. In the spring of 2014, a number of dedicated people did intense research into the potential of a much larger nearby building as a change of location for our community. As we were coming to the conclusion that both the size and the expense of the project were likely beyond our capacity, another buyer forestalled our decision. Nevertheless, the work we did in terms of visioning for our future and analyzing what we need from a building has served us well, as we have turned to contemplating how our current facilities might be made more nearly what we need. This spring, a team of leaders began laying the groundwork for a major renovation project, and organized a Next Steps consultation visit from Barry Finkelstein, a UUA capital campaign consultant. His presence was helpful, and his report is very positive about our potential to proceed with the project. I look forward to establishing a steering committee to work with both a capital campaign fundraising effort, and an architectural planning team. How splendid it would be to have completed at least the first phase of our renovations in time for our 150th anniversary celebration in 2018!

None of this well-organized and forward-looking effort could have been accomplished without the wise and patient leadership of this year's board of trustees. Every member is thoughtful, and dedicated to the healthy future of All Souls; as it says in the board's covenant, they truly do treat service on the board of trustees as a spiritual practice, and it is a pleasure to work with them. Lamar Hicks has been a steady compass at the center as president, and it is good to know that his leadership will continue in various forms, even as he leaves the chair. Lead by his commitment, the board has this year instituted a practice of Mission Based Conversations, as a way of being in touch with all the teams and committees that do the work of our congregation. There can never be too much two-way communication about how the congregation can be well-served, and what our leadership needs to know.

This has been a year of very gratifying personal recognition for me. Meadville/Lombard Theological School, my alma mater seminary, awarded me an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree at its recent commencement. Next month, at the UUA General Assembly, the HUUmanist organization has decided to name me the Humanist of the Year, joining previous recipients such as Isaac Asimov, Carl Sagan, and Kurt Vonnegut. The hymnbook supplement of congregational readings, entitled *Lifting our Voices*, for which I have been one of the editors, is now off the presses and in our hands. And this month, I celebrate the 35th anniversary of my ordination to the ministry. Quite the year! I am now at work co-editing, with Dr. William Murry, a book of essays on Humanism, to be published by Skinner Press.

Another very exciting and inspirational event was our trip to Romania in September, to visit All Soul's partner congregation in Nayradgalfalva, accompanied by Dick and Ellie Dawson, Lee Ann Googe, and Ken Yager. We were welcomed with open arms by our hosts in the village, who fed and cared for us delightfully, and organized a variety of opportunities for us to see the Unitarian heritage sites in that part of the world. I was particularly moved to visit the tombs of Unitarian King John Sigismund, and his mother, Isabella Jageillon, as well as the fortress of Deva, where Francis David died imprisoned. I had the opportunity to preach to the congregation in Galfalva – as translated by their young English-speaking minister, Bela Jakabhazi – and to help serve communion during their harvest celebration. Since our return, All Souls has been able to make a substantial contribution to the church there in support of their renovation project to improve their capacity for hospitality and meeting space. It was a truly memorable journey, and I hope we can send another delegation to visit in just a few years.

One more event in this eventful year was the start of Jordinn Nelson Long's official presence as our student intern minister. Jordinn completed her first year of seminary, with its community service component, in 2014, and in September began her part-time parish placement with All Souls. It has been a great pleasure for me to work with her; her energy, intelligence, and commitment are all inspiring, and her curiosity and eagerness to learn are invigorating. Part of that learning includes a project specific to the congregation, and Jordinn is seeking to find out all she can about the history of All Souls, both from the distant and more recent past. I have encouraged her to explore these questions, because I think that they are helping us to learn from our own experience as well. Next year Jordinn will preach, and teach, and do other forms of hands-on ministry, and we will also continue that process of exploring the past through structured, small-group conversations. Many thanks are due to the members of Jordinn's lay advisory group, and to all those who have gone out of their way to make her welcome, and to support her education for ministry.

I continue my participation in the MORE2 Clergy Caucus, in the SCLC planning and hosting of MLK holiday events, and in the Greater Kansas City Interfaith Council. Together with Jordinn Nelson-Long, I represented Unitarian Universalism at this year's Table of Faith event. I am an invited participant at Third District Councilman Jermaine Reed's clergy breakfast gatherings. This spring I joined an all-clergy interfaith reading group of Michelle Alexander's The New Jim Crow, organized by our own Janet Moss. I continue to enjoy a supportive collegial relationship with Rabbi Doug Alpert, leader of Congregation Kol Ami, which worships in our building, and I am pleased to report that he will be preaching for All Souls one Sunday this summer. The project of establishing an endowment fund for the UU Ministers Association goes on, and I continue to serve as co-chair of that effort. I am also serving on the program team for Prairie Group, my ministerial continuing education study gathering, and I participate in the Non-Theistic UU Ministers international conference call when I have the opportunity.

Because of the unfolding legal environment for marriage equality in Missouri, I have had a prolific year of weddings; I will have officiated at seven weddings by the end of the year, and conducted an equal number of memorial services. We also have five baby dedications scheduled for early June, and we created two more 'shower quilts' for expected

new arrivals. I have again made a handful of gifts from the Minister's Discretionary Fund to members in need, and have received a sprinkling of gifts to the fund. It may be that we will find it helpful to organize a Sunday+ lunch sometime next year in order to replenish this fund. I continue to rely on the excellent work of Cheryl Westra and the pastoral care team to keep me abreast of needs for attention that crop up among our members. It is very moving to walk with folks through some of the deepest and sometimes scary passages. I also want to note how useful it was to have on file emergency contact information for one of our members, when we needed to reach her family about a sudden crisis. I would urge anyone who has not yet provided this information to the office to do so right away; it can save a lot of time and heartache.

My adult religious education offerings this year have been European Unitarian History in the fall, New Testament in the winter session, and Qualities of Spiritual Maturity is just now concluding. Coming up, I hope to offer a daytime session on Constructing a Personal Worldview next fall, as well as another opportunity for people to review and complete their end of life choices documentation.

As we reach the end of the list of members who have signed pledge cards, it becomes more and more difficult to schedule stewardship dinners with our remaining contributors. We need to find a more effective and efficient way of reaching out to these less connected supporters. Thanks to our new bookkeeper, David Towery, and his enthusiastic embrace of the Church Windows data base program, we are becoming much better at querying our accumulated data, and being able to watch trends and anomalies in our pledging and collections process.

A special thanks must go to Chuck Downing for making possible a substantial upgrade in our worship platform furniture. The facilities committee enabled the purchase of a long, tall console table last spring, which is perfect for memorial service displays, as well as use on Sundays. Chuck also reconfigures the table which holds the flaming chalice, so that it now has a drawer for supplies, a shelf for the offering basket when it is brought forward, and supports a wind chime. With this addition, we now invoke fire in the chalice, water in the fountain, earth in the plants, and air in the sound of the chime. I am also rejoicing in the addition of a new, outdoor-designed trash receptacle on the patio beside the front door – thanks for that too, Chuck!

Everything that I do here at All Souls rests upon the talented work and support of our dedicated staff. I simply could not function without the calm good sense of Diana Hughes, our administrator. Judith Cady makes it easy for me to know and interact with our children, through their participation in Sunday worship, including the Chalice Lighters program, and she is always ready to offer assistance with issues touching children and their families. The choir has outdone itself this year, particularly with the very moving performance of the Prayers for Bobby cantata; I was so pleased that we were able to offer an encore performance for those whose commitment to their own churches meant they could not attend the Sunday morning event. Thank you to Anthony Edwards for a great partnership! We wish Elsafi Ahmed well as he and his family travel to Sudan, for a two-month visit with his family there. During this time, we will rely on Charles Dickinson and Miho Komatsu to fill in the gaps of keeping our

buildings looking good. It has been a pleasure to welcome David Towery into our team as the new bookkeeper; he is a great addition. I so appreciate the work of our many assistants – Sherry Anspach, Melanie Jackel, Joel Francis, Sarah LaBarr, and Sue Trowbridge – without whom many more things would fall through the cracks. And of course Mark Gibbons is indispensable in keeping our computers up and running, as well as helping make our fundraising budget by creating monthly Sunday+ lunches, as well as stewardship dinners and other events.

I believe that the year now ending leaves us much to celebrate, and even more to anticipate. I look forward to the coming year, and our significant decisions, with great eagerness!

Religious Education for Children and Youth Annual Report, May 31, 2015

What a positive, enthusiastic group of religious education volunteers we have serving our children and youth at All Souls! I have attached a list of these teachers and their years of service. 13 teachers have taught continuously from 6 to 11 years. 6 teachers have taught from 3 to 4 years. And we welcomed 4 new teachers this year. These teachers have served two Sundays a month all year 'round. We are so grateful for their continuous service to our children and youth.

After eight years of service, our beloved Sharon Cassity retired from her position as administrative assistant. We were happy to welcome Melanie Jackal as the new assistant. She has been an invaluable asset to our religious education programs.

We started a new "Mystery Friends" program this year. Twenty four adults became mystery friends to twenty four children and youth. They exchanged letters and gifts for one month. At the end of the month they met each other by bringing matching food items for Harvesters. It was a wonderful multigenerational program that made positive connections between older adults and the children of our congregation.

With the help of Raegan Buatte, we formed a new google group for RE parents to share insights and ideas. 84 Board members, teachers, parents and children attended our appreciation picnic for our teachers at Franklin Park on April 26.

Our parents and children provided dinner for reStart in November and collected mittens for reStart in December. Our teen class collected needed items for the American Indian Center in May. Our children created cards for the Pastoral Care Committee to give to those who can no longer attend the church service.

Our "Exploring Values" summer camp was a huge success! We explored the values of truth, bravery, wisdom, kindness and selflessness. We were pleased by the large number of middle school and high school youth serving as prefects at the camp.

We celebrated the holidays with a UU twist this year with our Jack-o-Lantern parade, Easter egg hunt and gifts of flowers on Earth Day. Our children decorated valentines to give to our congregation in February.

Our Coming of Age program for seventh and eighth graders culminated in an eight day trip to Boston. Our youth learned so much about our UU history and the UUA by visiting UU churches and UUA organizations in Boston. Our middle school youth participated in the Our Whole Lives Sexuality program. We appreciate our OWLs teachers, Scott England and Matthew Westra. We offered the OWLs program for fourth to sixth graders for the first time this year, taught by Shawna Fortunato and Pete Allard. Martin Tomlinson from our teen class represented All Souls at the UUUNO Conference for teens in New York.

We are grateful to the Board of Trustees and to the members of our congregation who generously support our religious education programs for children and youth. I appreciate the dedication and support of the members of our RE team.

Submitted by: Judith Cady, Minister of Religious Education

RE Team members: Joe Robertson, chair, Bill Raney, Sara Barlow, Tracy VanQuaethem, Nelson Maurice, Jessica Mattingly and Raegan Buatte.

RE Teacher Length of Service as of May 2015

11 Years

- Tracy VanQuaethem
- Dan Mahala
- Kerri Duvanel
- Brenda Warren

10 Years

- Bill Raney
- Suzanne Raney
- Pete Allard
- Lee Ann Googe
- Kathleen Baker
- Joe Robertson

8 Years

- Sara Grier

6 Years

- Andrea Jonson
- Susan Stevens
- Dana DeMasters

4 Years

- Melanie Jackel
- Cynthia Butcher
- Judy Berenyi
- Joyce Emery

3 Years

- Shawna Fortunato
- Carrie Bader
- Tiffany Truster

New this year

- Becky Johnson
- August Johnson
- Ralph Tomlinson
- Barbara Tomlinson

These teachers have taught 2 Sundays a month all year 'round. 14 teachers have taught from 6 to 11 years. 7 teachers have taught from 3 to 4 years. And we welcomed 4 new teachers this year.

Explore, Ask, Imagine... *How You Can Live Our Unitarian Universalist Principles* *Religious Education Programs for Children and Youth* *2014-2015 School Year*

Preschool -Kindergarten: *Celebrating Me and My World:* Encourages natural religious development in celebrating the wonder of people and our world through stories, singing, dancing, painting and creative activities.

Gr. 1-3: *Free to Believe:* Explores our UU principles and values while examining some “big questions” through the perspective of our Unitarian Universalist sources.

Gr. 4-5: *Bibleodeon:* Introduces young UUs to stories of the Hebrew Bible and to the relevance of these stories to contemporary life, with opportunities to decide on their own what they think and believe about the Bible stories.

Gr. 6-8: *Traditions with a Wink:* Teaches an understanding of our Unitarian Universalist faith and traditions as our youth participate in the process of shaping their own faith.

Gr. 8-12: *Neighboring Faiths:* Teens choose to explore information about different faith communities and then visit the religious services of those communities.

Audit Committee
May 2015

Members: Schwab Major, Evelyn Maddox and Don Wakefield

Purpose: Our basic role is to help provide an oversight and advisory function, in connection with the safeguarding and prudent and effective utilization of the church's physical, financial and human assets, in support of the church's overall mission.

Some of the activities which the AC has/is conducted include the following:

- * Attendance at monthly board meetings to keep abreast of church budget and other topics bearing on the role of our committee, and provide input to the board if requested;
- * Reviewed contract, as requested by the Facilities Committee, for installation of solar panels, to ensure consistency with AC criteria and church policies and procedures;
- * Reviewed church governing documents and advised the Nominating Committee, in connection with an inquiry regarding the terms of service on the Board of Trustees;
- * Researched the governing documents, and provided guidance to the board, on a question pertaining to the drafting of a Letter of Intent (LOI) related to exploring acquisition of the Rockhill property;
- * Chaired, on behalf of the AC, the Exploratory Building Task Force, which considered acquisition of the Rockhill property;
- * Provided availability to congregants, committees, affiliated groups and others, for the purpose of examining any questions or concerns posed, which fall under the purview of the AC' s role;
- * Conducted a performance review of ASUUC's Human Resource policies, procedures and guidelines, and issued a report the board on same;
- * Performed a "snapshot" type of review of one month's worth of check clearings and reconciliations; and
- * Assisted at prior ASUUC annual meetings to monitor adherence to proper parliamentary procedures and count/validate voting results.

Submitted by Don Wakefield

Committee on Ministry 2014-2015 Report

The purpose of this committee is to strengthen the quality of ministry within the congregation.

Members of this committee currently include:

Kendyl Gibbons, Minister
Lee Ann Bergin, Chair
Jean Patterson, Assistant Chair
Barbara Griggs
Rodney Harsin
Chris Davis

The team meets on a monthly basis. We remain confidential in our activities and discussions, providing a forum for problem solving to staff and congregants.

The Committee on Ministry agrees to:

Place the mission of All Souls and the well-being of the congregation above personal perspectives.

Report to the Committee any potential, reported or observed situation, which might have a negative impact on the health, safety, ministry, or mission of the church or its members.

Provide a safe place for individuals or groups to resolve issues that impact the health of All Souls.

Model respectful behavior among ourselves by actively listening to each other, sharing our thoughts, and honoring commitments.

Maintain confidentiality of matters before us, sharing only information approved by the committee and the parties involved.

The committee will remain attentive to the health and welfare of everyone at All Souls. We will continue to use the system in place for rotation of members to keep the team attuned to different aspects of All Souls.

Lee Ann Bergin, Chair

Demeters Annual Report 2014-2015

Demeters, an affiliate of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Federation, is a social and service organization for the women of All Souls. It was established by a group of young church women, some of whom are active members today. Monthly meetings are held in Conover for dinner and planning of service projects. Currently, there are 42 members and friends. The officers for 2013-2014 are: Mary Louise Carver, president; Barbara Bemis, vice-president; Floy Williams, secretary; and Kass Wright, treasurer.

Activities for the 2013-2014 year:

- Participated in Leadership Information Workshop
- Contributed supplies and toys to Operation Breakthrough
- Provided a Sunday dinner for ReStart
- Worked with Facilities Committee to arrange new storage space and provide a secure cabinet in the kitchen
- Volunteered for the Un-Plaza Art Fair at the book sale, food concession, as cashiers, and donated cookies.
- Produced and staffed the annual Holiday Boutique for five Sundays
- Hosted a holiday dinner for members and guests
- Participated in the 30 Days of Love by preparing and serving a special luncheon for staff members
- Contributed supplies and toys to Operation Breakthrough
- Participated in the Baby Shower Quilt Project
- Contributed decorations and food to the COA Valentine Dance
- Participated in preparing and serving the March Sunday Plus Lunch
- Provided a farewell reception and gifts for Jean Dunlap, a past president of Demeters, who has moved to the Chicago area
- Prepared and hosted memorial receptions for the families of Charlotte Thayer, Gretchen Van Horn, Kathy Butterfield, Don Lyon, Eleanor Dunlop

Funds raised in 2013-2014:

- \$1,788.33 from Holiday Boutique sales and donations
- \$600.00 from Memorial Reception donations

Funds contributed to causes:

- Pledged and paid \$1,200 to the All Souls General Fund
- Gave monetary gifts of \$250.00 to Staff members in December

Continuing goals are to:

- Hold monthly meetings for fellowship and planning of projects and services
- Provide memorial receptions for members and friends of All Souls as requested
- Serve as a networking opportunity to promote church projects
- Increase membership to facilitate the continued work of the group
- Raise funds to support the work of the church, currently pledging \$1,200 annually to the general fund, plus smaller gifts to individual projects
- Support the work of the Unitarian Universalist Women's Foundation through annual dues

Submitted by Mary Louise Carver, president

Endowment Committee

May, 2015

The Endowment Trust was created by the Church in 1975 based on the belief of the Board that it would benefit the Church to keep funds from gifts and bequests separate from the general operating funds of the Church and to provide the Church with income earned on assets of the trust. It is specified that the Trustees shall invest and reinvest the funds of the Trust as the Trustees determine to be in the best interests of the Church in the exercise of their reasonable direction.

Funds are invested in a moderately conservative balanced portfolio. Results have been good this year and the balance as of December 31, 2014 was \$1,548,776.

A transfer of 4% of the average balance of the discretionary funds for the past 13 quarters is made to the Church every year. The transfer in 2012 was \$31,600, the transfer in 2013 was \$35,877 and the transfer in 2014 was \$41,050. The transfer for 2015 will be \$46,044. The Endowment Fund is also there for special opportunities that will benefit the Church and the presence of our liberal religion in the community.

The Endowment Committee is composed of five persons: Bill Wright, Bill Raney, Becky O'Connor, Diann Spencer and Bonnie Schwarzenholz. Members of the Endowment Committee serve with the approval of the Board.

Respectfully submitted by

Bonnie Schwarzenholz, Chairperson

Note: Endowment Assets and Liabilities Spreadsheet attached

Facilities Committee

2014-2015 Annual Report All Souls Facility, Grounds and Simpson House

The All Souls/Simpson House Campus is cared for by the Facilities Committee, which includes the Grounds Committee, and the Simpson House Committee.

Solar Panels have been installed on the roof over Conover Auditorium. They should generate an estimated 30 percent of the church electrical power needs. There was no upfront cost for the panels or their installation. The church will rent the panels from the company that installed them. The savings in utility costs should more than offset the rental cost.

Charles Dickenson's duties have expanded. He now serves as Simpson House manager and as manager of the church facilities. The committee appreciates the services of Jane Gilbreath, who had served as Simpson House manger and Bob Miller, who served as All Souls facilities manager after the resignation of Brock Ginger in 2013

Long time Facilities Committee volunteer, Bev Sheldrake, passed away this winter. For many years Bev kept the plants in the church lobby green and healthy and could be counted on to assist with workdays and projects. Bev was remarkable person we miss her kind presence and constant interest in our facilities and service to our community. Facilities volunteer James Warne is now taking care of the plants.

The Facilities Committee raised funds to purchase a 60-inch television, which was mounted on the wall in Conover Auditorium. The television has already been put to good use for meetings and presentations and on Sunday mornings.

A major renovation of the Bride's Room and adjoining bathroom on the second floor of Simpson House was completed. The drop ceiling with fluorescent lighting was removed and the ceiling repaired. The wallpaper was removed and the room painted. The antique sink was refinished and a new toilet installed. The furniture on the second floor was cleaned and new lighting installed. Lighting has been improved and painting completed on the main floor of Simpson House. The difference was remarkable and should have a very positive impact on wedding rentals. Many thanks to Chuck Downing and Bob Miller who generously donated their labor to make this long hoped for renovation a reality.

Storage: The committee purchased new more functional shelving for the first floor custodial closet and reorganized the space removing toxic chemicals that had been stored there. The shelving that had been in the custodial closet was reused in Room A in the lower level that has been converted to a storage space. Room B in the lower level was cleared of materials that had been stored so that it may be used as a classroom and/or meeting room.

Chuck Downing provided leadership for continued improvements to the grounds. The parking lot has been repaved and striped and the committee is working to secure a long-term rental agreement with Community Christian Church for repair and use of the parking lot across from Simpson House.

The Facilities Committee has sponsored multiple workdays for fall and spring-cleaning and to get ready for the holidays. The workdays were staffed by committee volunteers who were joined by a diverse group of volunteers from the All Souls Church Community.

Diane Cassity, Chair

Finance Committee Annual Report

Spring 2014 – Spring 2015

Members: Bob Miller (Chair & Asst. Treasurer), Chuck Downing (Treasurer), Jane Gilbreath, Diann Spencer, Barbara Bemis, John Maher.

The Finance Committee produces and reviews the Monthly Budget Report and assists with preparation of the Annual Budget. In reviewing the Monthly Budget Report, the committee monitors income and expenditures to ensure compliance with the budget. Concerns are brought to the board as needed. The Budget Report is reviewed monthly by email and the committee meets quarterly.

Since the last annual report, the Finance Committee reports the following significant accomplishments:

Prepared the carry-forward 2015-2016 Annual Budget that was then updated by Kendyl in consultation with staff and the board – March & April 2015.

Provided oversight as we transitioned to our new bookkeeper, David Towery, who replaced Jenny Bonawitz.

Helped develop and review updated building use fees.

Welcomed John Maher to the committee.

Respectfully submitted

Bob Miller, Finance Committee Chair

2015 Annual Report: All Souls Men's Group

The All Souls Men's Group is an open meeting of men normally held on the second Thursday of the month for the entire year. In the Spring of 2014 we transitioned to the current co-chairs Don Wakefield and Don Dickey from Nelson Maurice and Fred Newman.

Many members of the Men's Group are already very active in the church. Given that involvement, our focus is on building relationships. The format of our meetings is to have casual discussion, food, and a program. Members take turns preparing the meal or leading the program.

Participation is not limited to All Souls members. In the past there have been regular participants who were not church members.

Activities the Men's Group has engaged in include the following.

1. Co-sponsored the Annual Yulebock Bonfire.
2. Donated and prepared one dinner for the kids and teachers during the All Souls Summer camps for the past several years.
3. Contributed funds to the COA program for their trips.
4. Contributed funds to the Music and Religious Education programs.
5. Removed the stage from Conover Auditorium.
6. Assisted frequently at Memorial Services.
7. Participated in meal preparation for the ReStart Homeless Shelter.
8. Four members gave a group Odyssey on the Men's Group at Simpson House.

Don Wakefield, co-chair

Don Dickey, co-chair

MUSIC TEAM ANNUAL REPORT: 2014-2015

Members: Anthony Edwards, Dori Bader, Carolyn Connor, Rev. Kendyl Gibbons, Yvonne Jameson, Ginger Powers, Joe Robertson, Keely Schneider, Roma Lee Taunton, James Warne

Mission: The Music Team supports the mission of the church in nurturing personal spiritual growth and positive relationship building by serving as a bridge between the congregation and all musical programming.

The Team is a resource to the Music Director. Members assist and advise in the areas of music selection, guest artists, special programs, Adult Choir recruitment and Children's Choir development.

The Music Team supports Sunday services and other congregational music needs by reinforcing liturgical themes through appropriate music. Because our Church membership values diversity, selections are drawn from a variety of music genres. In addition to Unitarian Universalist music, songs from other religious traditions, and compositions relevant to specific social justice issues, we include classical, jazz, pop, soul, rhythm and blues, and show tunes.

Activities and impact: Currently, the Adult Choir consists of 27 members. Four full-time sections leaders are contracted to assist them. The Adult Choir sings approximately twice each month, except during summer months, and at holiday and other special services and events (20 services this year). The Music Director and other guest musicians cover the music during other weekly services.

Participation in the Children's Choir is increasing, with 7-10 children for practice each Sunday. The Children's choir has sung at 5 services this year.

The Music Team has shared a **fundraising** goal of \$10,000 with the Religious Education Team. The choirs provided themed music to lead the service and enhance the dedicated special offerings for the solstice celebration on Dec. 21, 2014 and for the Valentine/Love celebration on February 15, 2015.

Two complete Music Sunday services are presented annually by Music and Religious Education. On November 2, 2014, the Adult Choir sang Karl Jenkins *Requiem* to celebrate All Souls Day and Día de los Muertos (Day of the Dead). On May 3, 2015, the Adult Choir offered the cantata *Prayers for Bobby*, music by J. A. Kawarsky and words by Kendal J. Killpack. PerformOUT KC joined the event for a spoken word performance that comprised the offertory. For the first time a second performance of the spring Music Sunday Service was held for the community on Monday, May 4.

As of April 26, Music and Religious Education had raised \$10,834.24. The offerings taken with *Prayers for Bobby* were generous, so we surpassed our goal more noticeably with raising more than \$13,000 this year.

The Adult Choir donated wine baskets that generated ~ \$300 at the annual **All Souls auction.**

The Children's Choir **sang by request** for the residents at 333 Meyer West Condominiums in Brookside for the holidays on December 18th. On March 22, 2015, the Adult Choir provided **dinner at ReStart**, participating enthusiastically in that annual service project.

Goals for the future: Goals for the future will be set at the first meeting in the coming year. The Music Team is considering expanding the choir for the Sept. 12th service by inviting members of the congregation to join "no-fault" just for that day, with no further commitment. We also will be looking at the public performance of Prayers for Bobby on May 4 for direction about any future public performances.

Respectfully submitted,

Roma Lee Taunton, Chair

Anthony Edwards, Music Director

Social Responsibility Board Committee Reports

Green Sanctuary Committee 2015 Annual Report

The Green Sanctuary Committee at All Souls designs projects in the interest of maintaining the congregation's status as a Green Sanctuary. Green Sanctuary status is awarded through the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) to congregations that have successfully met, and continue to meet, guidelines specified in the UUA's Green Sanctuary Program.

Currently, there are 5 consistent attenders of Green Sanctuary meetings. Additionally, there are a couple of members who attend on a more occasional basis. Members include Eloise Weatherford, Sandy Stiner, Walt Wells, Rita Norton, Tracy Van Quaethem (Chair), Mike Hoey, and Patty Brown. Margaret Thomas has recently begun working with Green Sanctuary on a book club proposal.

Congregationally focused activities engaged by Green Sanctuary in the past year have included tabling events that encourage letter writing in support of conservation efforts to preserve the Monarch Butterfly's habitat, reinvigorating All Souls' engagement with Equal Exchange--a fair trade organization that works directly with family farmers who practice environmentally sustainable farming--and the process of Green Sanctuary Re-certification. Currently, in cooperation with the Religious Education Board and the Grounds Committee, Green Sanctuary is establishing a Monarch Waystation on the grounds of the congregation. Green Sanctuary has also been consulted on native plant varieties to include in a butterfly and hummingbird garden to be planted on the Children's playground. Green Sanctuary provided a basket for the All Souls Auction that included complimentary orders of Equal Exchange Coffee, Tea, and Chocolate, a copy of Rachel Snyder's *Gardening in Missouri*, and a one year membership to the Kansas City Food Circle (KCFC). The Kansas City Food Circle donated the membership in appreciation to All Souls for the meeting space.

Green Sanctuary has played a support role to organizations in the wider community through sponsorship of All Souls meeting space. The Kansas City Food Circle meets at All Souls through Green Sanctuary sponsorship. The Missouri Prairie Foundation recently held their board meeting and a conference at All Souls through Green Sanctuary sponsorship. In addition, it is the hope of the committee that the Butterfly Waystation will serve an educational and inspirational role to the wider community.

Green Sanctuary has not done fundraising for specific projects. Instead, Green Sanctuary assesses expenses of a project and measures out the costs against the committee's currently available funds. Our sole source for fundraising is the percentage of sales earned on Equal Exchange orders.

Upcoming Green Sanctuary goals and project proposals include progress on Green Sanctuary Re-certification, completion of the Monarch Waystation and the Children's Garden, and development of the book club proposed by Margaret Thomas.

Submitted by: Tracy Van Quaethem (Green Sanctuary Chair)

Transylvanian Partner Church -

Chairs: Dick Dawson, Ken Yager

MAY, 2015

In the autumn of 2014, five of us made a ten-day visit to Romania, where our Unitarian Partner Church is located in the village of Nyaradgalfalva. This was our fourth "official" Pilgrimage, since the first in 1991. That initial visit when 16 Americans went, was the year after the partnership was initiated through the UUA and the Transylvanian Unitarian Church, and less than 2 years after the fall of the Communist dictatorship of Nicolae Ceaucescu allowed open relationships between churches and members. Since 1991, a total of 35 people have traveled from Kansas City, and one has been on 3 of the pilgrimages and made two other individual visits. Three of our settled ministers, including Rev. Kendyl Gibbons this year, have been to Galfalva, and fourteen currently active All Souls members have been at least once. In the beginning our church made a commitment of sending \$1200 a year, half designated for the upkeep and renovations of the church, and half to be used at the discretion of their minister. There have also been additional contributions from All Souls and members during these years, including donation of a tractor in the early '90's, the help members reclaim farmland that had been confiscated by the Communist state. They have consistently stated how thankful they are for our financial contributions, but that the most appreciated and meaningful aspect of the partnership has been the actual visits of All Soulers and the opportunity to forge friendships among members of the two communities. This trip was organized by Ken Yager of our church, co-chair of the committee, along with Rev. Bela-Botond Jakabhazi, the third minister we have known there beginning with Rev. Elek (Lexie) Torok who had been minister during the trying days of Ceaucescu, and whom we brought to KC after the first pilgrimage, along with his wife Jolan, for medical attention. Ken and Bela tried to keep the cost as low as possible while allowing visiting of important Unitarian historic sites in Transylvania including the citadel where Francis David (seminal figure in Unitarianism) was imprisoned and died, and the tomb of King John Sigismund who issued the first edict of religious liberty, by not taking a more extensive and expensive tour. Costs per person were about \$3000 including air fare. Thanks to a major gift from one of their families, the church exterior probably looked better when we arrived than it had when it was built hundreds of years ago. And thanks to All Souls including our youth, the meeting room on the ground floor of the parsonage has new doors (as well as on the garage), leaks have been repaired, plumbing and a new room gas stove are already allowing after-church tea/coffee and refreshments and discussions, and soon the concrete floor will be tiled. Bela is happy his congregants now find that an important addition to their church life. Bela and Kendyl hope within 3-5 years we will take a larger group for another pilgrimage. Dick Dawson and Ken Yager (co-chairs); Lee Ann Googe, Joan Olsen, Claudine Thomas, Karin Winn, Roxanna Jones, David Black, Holly Miller

