

**Two Rivers Unitarian Universalist
Minister's Board Report - December 2011
Submitted by Gretchen Haley**

I continue to be amazed and inspired by the pace of progress we are making in critical areas.

Worship: November's worship exploration of Ultimacy brought us into some risky territory, and the congregation responded with openness and enthusiasm. The biggest progress in worship in November came with our new system for tracking attendance and visitors, as well as by identifying a new person to oversee Sunday greeters. You'll find a chart of worship attendance on the following page.

Community Events/Outreach: Solstice looks to be a great event - December 18th, 5:00 pm. See attached information below from Alyssa Reindel for more detail.

Leadership and Organizational Development: We had a great celebration and visioning party at the Palmers on November 19th. Thelma and I will present a basic schedule for next steps based on feedback from Deb during the Board Meeting. Significant progress this month in developing the COLMM, as well as some work with Pastoral Care Team. Will work this month with Leadership Development and begin conversations for identifying people to continue TRUU's leadership into coming year. Also will be talking with Covenant Groups, Worship, Pastoral Care and Social Justice about a Small Group Ministry model to meet community and social change goals being voiced in visioning process.

Membership: I held the first Path to Membership class for the year and had 3 people in attendance. I had others express interest but were unable to attend. We will hold our New Members ceremony December 18th. I will be working with the COLMM to increase attendance for our next class, which we will hold early in the new year. Many of the things we are implementing now are aimed at increasing our "regular" guests understanding of membership and connecting more fully with visitors so that they become members.

Denominational Connections: We need to identify a team to send to the Building Beloved Community workshop, January 20th 22nd. I would like to see us send at least 3 members of our community, particularly those who have not yet attended a District event. The flyer is attached in your Board Packet.

Religious Exploration: Bright and Spirited Path continues to have about 20 adults engaged. I look forward to our conversation about family ministry and religious exploration for children.

Pastoral Care: There continues to be an active list of people who are in need of pastoral care and I am coordinating regularly with Sean and the PC Team.

Ordination update: The congregation in Boulder will be voting on December 11th about my ordination, so the official invitation will go out shortly thereafter. In the meantime, I do hope

as many of the congregation as possible will try to attend the service - likely to be at 2:00 pm on Sunday January 29th. I will also host a dinner at First Universalist for those in the service, close friends and family, and anyone from TRUU who is in town. More information soon!

TRUU Worship Attendance - 2011

Date	Minister/ Speaker	Topic	Adults	Children	Visitors (included in other #s)
2/27/11	Gretchen Haley	Call	39	14	
3/13/11	Gretchen Haley	Hospitality and Strangers (with TRTC)	48	6	
3/27/11	Gretchen Haley	Interdependence/Unity	37	14	
4/10/11	Robert Latham		38	9	
4/24/11	Gretchen Haley	Immortality (Easter)	51	15	
5/8/11	Robert Latham		32	9	
5/22/11	Gretchen Haley	Receptivity/Flexibility/Will			
8/28/11	Gretchen Haley	Individual impulse to transformation	65	9	
9/11/11	Gretchen Haley and Peace Corps volunteers	Peace Corps and 9/11	60	12	
9/18/11	Sarah Oglesby	Tools of Community Transformation	25	0	
10/2/11	Gretchen Haley	Belonging and Forgiveness	40	6	
10/9/11	Barbara Palmer and Nicolette Toussaint	Fellowship Sunday	18	3	
10/16/11	Gretchen Haley and Deborah Holder	Belonging in Community	38	8	
10/23/11	Barbara Palmer and Lisa Dancing-Light	Stories and Songs on Belonging	38	3	7
11/6/11	Gretchen Haley	Concept of God	47	12	6
11/13/11	Facilitated by John and Barbara Palmer	Fellowship Sunday	17	1	4
11/20/11	Gretchen Haley	Worship	34	3	3

Information on Solstice Event (from Alyssa Reindel)

Date: Sunday, December 18th, 2011

Time: 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Location: Calaway Room at Third Street Center in Carbondale

Sponsors: Two Rivers Unitarian Universalists (TRUU) and Third Street Center (TSC)

Mission of the event: Offering a celebration & reason for the community to come together; creating an environment of hope and light during a time of long nights and indoor, isolated activities.

Pre-event preparations:

Advertising: As a group we decide to use our limited advertising for advertisements in the Sopris Sun and El Montanes. Our goal is to maximize free advertising opportunities by contributing Letter to the Editor announcements to various newspapers, radio and print public service announcements (psa), community calendar listings, community forums (Moms for Moms), sending emails to our members and asking them to forward them to family & friends, partnering with other groups and their email lists, hanging posters throughout the Valley, hanging a banner at Main Street & Hwy 133...

Decorations: Heather Rydell and the TRUU children will be asked to provide some decorations for the event such as paper lanterns to line the walkway to the TSC front doors. Alyssa would like to purchase some star tinsel and create crowns for attendees and sun decorations to hang from the ceiling. Amy Barr is loaning strands of holiday lights to decorate the room. Jody is looking through the TSC back stock to see if there are tablecloths to put over a few of the Calaway room circular tables. Everyone is invited to bring other light-themed/Solstice decorations such as candles and lanterns.

Food: Bread will be provided from the new community oven along with spreads, hot cocoa and apple cider. For serving these items, we will utilize reusable plates, napkins and utensils for the bread and compostable cups for the beverages. Compost bins will be provided to collect the compostable cups and napkins. (Do we need reusable plates or can we get by with napkins?)

Arts & Entertainment: Out of the Mud Theater Company will be creating a Solstice-themed show called “Lin Yi’s Lantern” to draw in families and explain some of the concepts associated with Winter Solstice. Also, we are excited to have Jimmy Byrne to serenade, accompany performances and lead caroling tunes. In the middle of the evening we will have a Solstice ceremony encircling the bonfire. Gretchen Haley will coordinate and lead this ceremony, which will include a “body prayer” led by Rita Marsh from Davi Nikent as well as music from Jimmy and hopefully Lisa Dancing-Light.

Volunteers: Volunteers will be provided by TRUU and TSC to welcome attendees and create/tear-down the room. Some of duties include ambassadors, outreach, puppeteers, bonfire attendant, set-up, tear-down and food table. The COLMM will be coordinating the Hosts, including providing a training for all volunteers.

Schedule:

12pm-2pm- Set-up, arrange & decorate the room
4:30pm- Set-up drinks, bread, light bonfire, candles, etc
5pm- Gather & welcome
5:15pm- "Lin Yi's Lantern"
5:35pm- parade out to bonfire
5:40pm-6:15pm Bonfire Solstice Ceremony
6:15pm- Caroling music

Estimated Budget:

Sopris Sun \$140
El Montanes \$Amy can you verify the discounted price?
Out of the Mud puppet theater \$250
Jimmy Byrne \$300
Hot Cocoa, Hot Apple Cider, Bread and Spreads \$50
Candles & Decorations \$150

TOTAL \$900-1000 (Split in half between Third Street and TRUU)