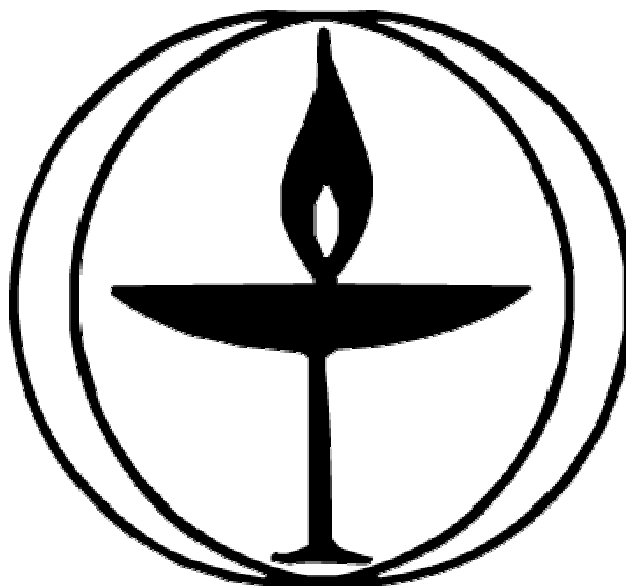


***Boise Unitarian Universalist
Fellowship***



***Annual Report
2009-2010***

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Minister's Report

IN MEMORIAM

Marylu Burns (Elizabeth and Bob's neighbor and friend)

"Casey" Casey (Carolyn Casey's father-in-law)

Bob Chastain

Brink Chipman

Forrest Church

James Crouch

Michael Fuehrer (BUUF president, '86-'87)

Eunice McFarland (Debbie Johnson's mother)

Angie Neitzel

John Tolk

WEDDINGS

Christine Hanzlik and Tim Wilcox

Kelly McConnell and Aaron Willey

Maggie Reid and Jake Lake

Alison Steuart (Cathy Sherman's sister) and Eli

CONGREGATIONALLY SPEAKING

Usually, when I set out to write the "Congregationally Speaking" part of my annual report, I have a phrase or theme in mind, that feels characteristic of the year. It is a little more difficult this year, feeling more as though we have been—organizationally and relationally—rebuilding and creating new ways to go forward.

The 2008-2009 year was simply a difficult one. While it had many, many good parts to it, it was also marked by uncertainty as I returned from a six-month sabbatical, and by increasing friction as the year drew to a close. We seemed a little short on cutting each other slack, on love, and on forgiveness. See my '08-09 annual report for more detail.

My overall take on this year is extremely positive, except in one area which I will mention up front: the stewardship ministry of our religious community.

We had a fabulous Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) consultant, Mary Gleason, visit with us in the fall. She appreciated us very much, and she is also a straight shooter. After interviewing many congregants, with the initial purpose being to see how much we might expect from a Debt Reduction Campaign this spring, she gave us the sobering news that people were simply unable and unwilling to contribute much. She found that there was a certain lack of trust in church leadership, an us-vs.-them mentality, and her recommendations were to regroup: to lift up gratitude for this spiritual home, which nurtures souls and helps heal the world; to attend to both our relationships and our structure; and to focus on conducting a really excellent, complete Stewardship Drive this spring.

The lay leadership and have used her guidelines in all we have done this year.

This report is being written before the results of this year's Stewardship Drive are complete (a beautifully-run drive, with so many wonderful people participating), but it looks as though there may be a gap between goal and results. During the rest of this spring, we all will simply find means to address this difficulty—assuming it arises—in ways that honor the importance of our church in our lives and in our communities.

Speaking of gratitude, my thankfulness is profound for the Stewardship Committee, for the many, many people who volunteered to be Visiting Stewards, and to all of you who have taken this campaign seriously, who have contributed as generously as possible. Money is one of our expressions of commitment, not just a crass commodity—it is great to see the many people who see their financial pledge to BUUF as a spiritual act, the many people who are willing to do the asking, in these terms.

Financial and all kinds of other health are going to be particularly important in the next 3-5 years, as I have announced that I will be retiring in June, 2013. If we are in really good shape in all areas, we will attract an excellent interim minister for the two years of that process and—more importantly—will be an incredibly attractive church for the permanent minister who will be called sometime in the spring of 2015. The Committee on Ministry has dedicated itself to creating a Transition Plan to address the relational, educational, social and emotional issues that will arise for all of us as we move from this long ministry together into the next phase. The Board will be responsible for the “nuts-and-bolts” actions necessary to obtain an interim minister, appoint a search committee, etc. There is also help available through the Pacific Northwest District of the UUUA.

Now, let me return to my overall take on the year. Although there was enormous negativity in the spring of '09, and some extremely rocky places in the fall of '09 (this program year), we have simply moved, over the year, toward being a better community.

Organizationally, it started in spring of 2009 with an all-church calendaring session that really helped all committees, task forces, the Board and staff get an overview. This will be an annual event.

Also in the spring of 2009, work was begun on the Program Ministry Council (PMC). This may sound like yawn-producing stuff, but it will make a huge difference in our ability to work together in harmony, shared mutual expectations, and shared workloads. Briefly, the PMC will consist of the “operations” parts of church work—the lay ministries done so ably by so many people—leaving the Board freer to do the policy work it is so hard for them to find time for. It also frees up the staff somewhat, to pursue all we need to do. To look at the organizational chart—which is very cool—go to http://www.boiseuu.org/resources/BUUF_Org_Chart.pdf Cathy Carmen and Paul Schlobohm are co-chairing this important Council, with a great deal of help from Jane Breckenridge of our congregation, who is an organizational consultant for IBM in another part of her life.

Relationally, we began the year with a Saturday Symposium, which was a real community builder, filled with vision, activities for both the right and the left brain, and a lot of fun. I am extremely grateful to those many who created this event, because it started us on the road to overcoming the “gritchiness” that was being felt in our community.

This year’s Board has set a tone that has made it possible for us to move into much better relatedness. The whole Board has shown complete willingness to share its reflections and decisions, and there has been a lot of creativity. Board chair Judy Frederick’s energy has given comfort and confidence to the congregation, and she has chosen to serve at a time that has not been entirely unstressful in her own personal and health life. Thanks, Judy! Also, new Board secretary Jim Bigelow, a whiz with computer programs, has helped Board transparency and communication by providing better systems.

A documentary was made!! Patricia Heeb and Sheryl Dowlin went to the considerable time, trouble and energy to interview many of our long-time members, in order to document the days before we moved into our current building (1998). It has only been shown once, as far as I know, and I am hoping that we use it next year as part of our historical awareness, helping us move into our next big transition. It is an extremely interesting video.

We had the great good fortune to host the minister of our partner church, Robert Balint, and his wife and two children. This year, Robert is the Ferencs Balasz Scholar at Starr King School For the Ministry in Berkeley, a lot closer than Transylvania! The Balints are delightful, and we are lucky to have such a good relationship with our partner church. Our Partner Church Committee has worked long, long years to keep this relationship strong, through good times and hard times. I am glad to say that there will be a pilgrimage to Mészkö, our village, this spring.

Have you looked at the Peace Pole, by the southwest corner of our building? Two Chalice Circles decided to make that their service project, and it is a visible symbol of our dedication to the way of peace. Set in a small rock garden, it speaks of peace in several different languages, including Basque and Shoshone.

Earlier in this report, I have used words and phrases like "rebuilding," "creating new ways to go forward," "regrouping." Another phrase that occurs to me is "settling in." It took awhile for us all to re-connect after the longish absence of sabbatical, and we had some bumpy spots. We are back together now, as a community, working hard in constructive, creative ways.

May we stay together in these ways, bringing our best selves to the exciting and very large challenge of ministerial transition—enjoying every second of our final three years together. May we remember that we are all student humans (sermon on that subject at boiseuu.org), and be with each other in love and forgiveness.

THE MINISTER'S YEAR IN BRIEF

General

This has been a lot better church year for me than last year. (Except for the time in January that I fell off my horse and cracked two ribs and was laid up for two or three weeks!) Coming back from sabbatical was far more complicated than I—or you—realized. The Committee on Ministry and I and a couple of others are considering writing an article or pamphlet on the subject of sabbatical return.

One of my heart's major reflections at this time is how we will live together creatively in our last three (of what will be 25 by then) years together. I have ministerial colleagues who are aghast that I have announced my retirement intentions so early. Apparently, there is a concern among some people that congregations will start mistreating the outgoing minister, treating her like a lame duck, feeling unexpressed resentment and trying to force her out early, bringing up old and/or unnecessary issues in unconstructive ways, gossiping behind backs instead of being direct, etc.

We all know that grief takes strange forms, including striking out at people who are not the real object of the feelings. But I have faith that we can weather this in a way that honors our long relationship. I have faith that we will be able to express our grief, our love, our fears and our hopes as they arise. I commit to that, and hope the same from all of you.

As to being a lame duck, I don't see that happening. I intend to be strong and visionary for at least the next couple of years (although I won't mind not working quite as hard as I have this year; see specific parts of report, below). And

in our last year together, I imagine there will be a certain amount of “unplugging,” of letting go, of beginning to face the new day.

And, if I’m wrong about how well we can do this process, heck, I can just retire before 2013. But that won’t have to happen.

Worship

I conducted 34 worship services, six more than my letter of agreement calls for. Twenty-three were “solo” sermon-based services; five were shared presentations; and in six, I conducted the service while someone else made the primary presentation. I also preached on Christmas Eve and prepared/conducted Winter Solstice, with the Merry Band of Yule Celebrators.

A very important decision was made by the Board this year: to offer two services every Sunday, as opposed to the first-Sunday single-service we had been offering. This means we miss our very popular first-Sunday potlucks, a not insignificant loss, since people don’t turn out for other evenings in such great numbers. At the same time, we need to be consistent, and we are trying to equalize the attendance at both services, so we can make our great message available to even more people.

I am particularly grateful this year to Dave Ward and Mark Zimmerer, who each stepped in at a last minute, when something arose that made me unable to conduct a particular service. Thanks, guys!

Lifespan Education

Emmie Schlobohm, our Director of Religious Exploration (DRE), completed her first year in January, and has hit her stride nicely. She has had two unpleasant surprises during her early times as DRE—one last spring and one last fall—both involving parents who were unhappy and persistent. The situations were complex, and I don’t wish to imply rightness or wrongness about the issues themselves. What I do want to commend is Emmie’s considered, mature and compassionate way of listening, responding, maintaining appropriate boundaries, and moving toward constructive solutions.

In terms of Adult Religious Education, the chairing of that committee moved from Mike Phillely—who got the program going and headed it up for nine years!—to the able hands of co-chairs Gina DeLucchi and Webb Van Winkle. They are doing a great job.

In the fall, I co-taught, with Elton Hall, a large class on the book *Restless Souls*. In the spring, I taught a five-session class on Spiritual Practices, with a registration of over 30 people, almost—but not quite!—too many. I was part of the group that planned and carried out the visit of Dr. Richard Tarnas, who lectured on Friday, April 23 and offered a workshop on Saturday, April 24.

Pastoral

As always, the Congregational Care Team (CCT) is “there” to assist, for which I am always grateful. They administer the Elizabeth Greene Pay It Forward Fund, which helps church members and friends in need, and they keep an eye on our Food Pantry, also used by church folks. Also, there were five in-house memorial services this year, and the CCT is always invaluable in helping with those.

A little over a third of my meetings were pastorally oriented this year, up from about a quarter last year—perhaps this is one thing that contributed to our improvement in morale this year? As we move toward being a Program Church,

the question of ministerial allotment of time becomes one that all leadership needs to look at.

Organizational/Committees

In the 2008-2009 church year, I attended about 200 meetings, not counting a DRE meeting and a whole-staff meeting each week during office hours. This year, it was closer to 300. About 35% were committees, the Board, task forces, etc (I regularly attend the Board, Exec Committee, Committee on Ministry, Congregational Care and Sunday Services Worship Planning, and try to check in with others at least occasionally) About 22% were smaller groups doing the work of the church. About 34% were pastoral; about 7% denominational; and about 2% community.

This year, I spent a fair amount of time with the incredibly-competent people creating and running the Program Ministry Council. I also participated fully in the Stewardship Committee, and was a visiting steward for four families.

Numerous areas need "shots in the arm": Membership needs a number of new people to do its work, at least two more subgroups to follow specific tasks (e.g., following up on new members; keeping track of, and following, newcomers); Worship is in dire need of more people, since we have had two resignations; we need to figure out how to get more Chalice Circles going, since small-group ministry is vital to a growing congregation; we need a Stewardship chair for next year, posthaste; the Children's Religious Exploration Committee very much needs to be beefed up, so that the DRE is not the *de facto* chair and can do her staff duties. There are more, but you get the idea. We are hoping that the PMC, when it is fully functioning, will be helpful in recruiting—but this is very much an all-church concern, and everyone is needed.

I have held two Ministerial Luncheons a month for most of the year. The western one has been moved by popular demand to Miss Tami's Tea Room in Meridian, on second Tuesdays, and is proving very popular (12 people last time). The eastern one is at the URS cafeteria at the end of the Connector, on fourth Fridays.

The Nominating Committee deserves special mention this year. Chaired by Val Duffy, with Cathy Carmen and Joe Wechselberger serving, that committee has had a larger-than-usual challenge, with Board resignations taking place as people's lives take different directions. They have refused to be rushed or to feel that they have to "settle," and have presented a slate that will be a credit to the work we have to do.

Administrative

The staff team of Emmie Schlobohm (DRE), Gerry Morris (office manager), Nancy Harms, office assistant and I continue to work well together. Carrie Bastian, music director, works as closely as possible with me and with the Sunday Services Committee, given her impossibly-busy schedule. Worship is deeply and broadly enhanced by the wide variety of great music that Carrie provides, with the choir, the group *being hUUMAN*, and wonderful individual musicians.

The office functioning will be moving to a more efficient mode, and Janette Young of the Personnel Committee (and a life and career coach) has volunteered to work with office manager Gerry Morris to see that this happens. Along with the creation of the PMC, having office administration that is very much "on top" of our complex organization, is a top priority in moving toward that health I talked about in the early part of this report.

Denominational

I continue to serve on the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) UUA Board, and I love the work. I attend three four-day meetings a year in Boston, and some Pacific Northwest District (PNWD) meetings. My working group is Excellence in Ministry, and I serve on the Committee on Committees, the group that staffs the Board committees, doing our best to ensure diverse representation.

Community

For the second time, we hosted the Buddhist Relics Tour, a very moving and extremely well-attended event. I spoke on a Boise State University panel on Legacy of Faith, about social action in our tradition. I offered the invocation for the installation of T. J. Thomsen as City Councilman. (He occasionally attends our church.) I attended a meeting called by St. Luke's chaplains to meet their new CEO, and met their new Clinical Pastoral Education supervisor—who is a UU minister!! I offered grace at the Frank Church dinner, and spoke at Rev. Forrest Church's Boise memorial service. And I offered the benediction at the Holocaust Memorial service. With eight others from various faith traditions, I write a religion column for the *Idaho Statesman*.

I continue to wish I had the time for more regular inter-faith work, but that is not happening.

Continuing Education

Winding down on the "official" continuing education front, although I keep up on developments, primarily by reading *Christian Century* and following up on its book recommendations. (And following Prof. Elton Hall's recommendations.) My UUA Board work is one long continuing education, actually, especially in the areas of governance and anti-oppression.

District UU Ministers' Association meetings, held three times a year, always have a continuing education component.

Personal

The big news is that I have a horse and am joyfully learning to ride and to take care of him properly. Not expected at my time of life, but a real joy.

Otherwise: singing in Master Chorale (my husband Bob does, too); volunteering at ZooBoise (so does Bob); daily spiritual practice, plus occasional retreats for more depth. Bob and I went on an Alaska cruise with a dozen family members and close friends last July, and had a fabulous time.

Director of Religious Exploration's Report

Emmie Schlobohm, May 2010

I love Sundays! My workweek progresses calmly and quietly with planning and emailing and doing all the preparations and communications that are involved in anticipation of Sunday. Early Sunday morning arrives and the quiet continues in our building until people start to arrive. That's when it all comes together. My Sunday mornings are filled with smiles and hugs, children and youth, guides and advisors, parents, families, and friends, all eager loving souls discovering, exploring and being together in our beloved community. I love Sundays!

Religious Exploration is filled with more than 40 dedicated caring volunteers who give their time, love and energy to our congregation's youngest members and me on a weekly basis. Their commitment provides ongoing growth and transformation of our children and youth. The 118 registered young people and their guides, advisors, and nursery caregivers travel along together on a journey of discovery that spans many faith traditions, matters of social justice, and inner growth. This past year we've used the Unitarian Universalist Association's online curricula source called Tapestry of Faith and lessons from the Earth Scouts among other sources for our classroom lessons. These curricula are rich sources of guided lessons developed by educators, religious and otherwise, with deep and vast experience. It has been a joy to facilitate the growth and connection that happens with our children, youth and adults.

In addition to weekly Sunday gatherings, twelve junior high youth from our community and beyond, along with their three co-facilitators, participated in our comprehensive human sexuality program, Our Whole Lives, or OWL. This 6-month program equips participants with accurate, age-appropriate information in six subject areas: human development, relationships, personal skills, sexual behavior, sexual health, and society and culture. Grounded in a holistic view of sexuality, OWL not only provides facts about anatomy and human development, but also helps participants clarify their values, build interpersonal skills, and understand the spiritual, emotional, and social aspects of sexuality.

Throughout the year, I have worked with the Religious Exploration community and reached out to other committees and event task forces to create more intergenerational time and events. Our annual Deck the Halls winter celebration carried all ages back in time, to other countries, and to places of the heart, all while honoring and celebrating the power of community. Our youth have been involved in Sunday worship services, contributing their greeting, chalice lighting and reading skills. This year's bridging senior high youth affirmed that the world will be a better place because of connections made, lessons learned, and community provided by our fellowship. Religious exploration will continue to provide opportunities for all ages to connect with each other, learn from each other, and travel together on this journey.

Although Sundays are when it all comes together and the magic of community shines, all during the weeks and months, people in our congregation work behind the scenes. I am blessed to work with a core of Religious Education Committee members and other volunteers who give to this community by calling, emailing, providing sympathetic ears and shoulders, and doing the good work that needs to be done to make things happen. The invaluable resources of colleagues here at BUUF and beyond help to create the environment that allows religious exploration. I'm looking forward to exploring and discovering what wonders await us all in the coming years!

President's Report

Judy Frederick, May 2010

"May you live in interesting times." Someone said this long ago. Whether it was a wish or a curse is debatable. Well, we ARE living in interesting times. We are growing and changing against a backdrop in history that has never been before. Our community here at BUUF is riding along on the global roller-coaster along with the rest of the country and indeed other nations as we struggle with unknown financial situations.

It is my belief that it is in times such as these that we need our support networks the most, and that is what we are here in our congregation: each other's support. From encouragement in the context of presentations, being with one another in the sharing of joys and sorrows, the care and education of our children and one another, to something as practical as the food pantry, we are here to raise one another to our highest good. That makes it easier somehow...to not be alone on the journey. That is what we come here for.

When I took the Presidency of the Board, it was in a crisis situation with people being transferred and holes being filled quickly. Amidst all of this change we began to understand that communication was fractured as well, and the word was "We don't feel anyone is listening". Well, we listened and here are a few of the things we did, and ARE doing:

Lack of transparency / Not being 'heard' by the board

- Set up a Board Corner in the office with agendas and notes from board meeting posted.
- Using surveys to gather information before making decisions.
- Instituted Community Conversations monthly for each service.
- Program Ministry Council came into being.
- Feasibility study with UUA consultant before our fund-raising began.

Wanting more understanding of how BUUF works

- Organizational chart developed and posted both in the office and on the web
- Community Conversations
- Fall retreat for the fellowship
- Vigorous Annual Budget Drive with emphasis on personal contact and discussion

Need for better communication

- Utilizing the internet with a webpage, email lists, a facebook presence, and newsletter on line
- Communication Task-force development
- Preparing for Elizabeth's retirement in three years (we are planning even now)
- Newcomer Chats after every service with expanded UU classes and a defined pathway to membership
- Strategic Plan developed and available on-line and in the board corner in the office
- Looking at having Bi-Annual Congregational Meetings to address the increased complexity of BUUF
- Monthly Second Saturday Potlucks

These are just a few of the ways we are addressing what you told us is needed. Things are shifting because of it.

- We are communicating much better, there are fewer misunderstandings
- People report they feel more involved and educated
- More folks are joining us officially
- We are USING LESS PAPER and living more green as a consequence (look for more of this)
- More individuals are coming onto committees and joining the task-forces and board
- I see us pulling together in so many ways

As Elizabeth often states, "Help us understand how much we need one another on this journey." I say "Make it so. We are in the service of one another's highest good. Thank you."

Program Ministry Council Report

Paul Scholobohm and Cathy Carmen, co-chairs

Term of Committee Chairs: Yet-to-be-determined

Committee Members: Lifespan Ed. Team Leader – Nancy Riley, Connections Team Leader – Jay Wechselberger, Communications Team Leader – position vacant, Ceremonies and Celebrations Team Leader – Beverly Harley, Social Justice Team Leader – Nancy Rice, Building and Grounds Team Leader – position vacant, BUUF Board Liaison – Janet Wyke, Organizational Consultant – Jane Breckenridge, Minister- Elizabeth Greene, Office staff representative – Gerry Morris

Meeting Schedule: The Program Ministry Council is a new endeavor by the BUUF Board of Directors. Thus, the meeting schedule varied. Development of the Vision/Mission, Job Description of the Team Leadership position documents, plus recruitment of Team Leaders occurred between October 2009 and early February 2010. Five meetings were held between mid-February and mid-May.

FY 2009-10 Total Budget – 0

It is our hope to submit a modest budget request for the 2010-11 program year to purchase a speaker phone.

Committee Purpose:

PMC Vision

Increase effectiveness of lay ministry programs at Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship (BUUF)

PMC Mission

1. Provide opportunities for congregational participation
2. Develop creative, functional programs that benefit the church community
3. Enhance the coordination, communication, and collaboration of committees and task forces
4. Support Team Leaders in their work with committees and task forces

Please refer to the BUUF Organizational Chart (page #2) under Programs to see what committee strands feed into the Program Ministry Council Teams and how

this, in turn “fits in” structurally to the overall life of the Fellowship. Note: PMC is shown in lavender.

FY 2009-2010 Committee Highlights and Activities:

As previously mentioned the Program Ministry Council is a new endeavor and as such, has initially tried to build a strong foundation of a clear vision and mission of its role within the on-going organizational structure of BUUF. This process has been useful and at times frustrating because of the strong need for greater coordination and collaboration among and between committees within a growing congregation. We have welcomed the challenge and tried to balance being clear about what is possible to accomplish with building a strong relationship among members of the PMC and with the BUUF Board of Directors. No small task! Our Action Item Lists grows and we incorporate new things as they arise. We will host a master calendaring session within the next week with all interested stakeholders (committees, task forces, BUUF office and program staff) to begin the process of “mapping out” the 2010-11 program year (Aug. 2010-June 2011). We are grateful for the BUUF Boards’ support and welcome congregational input (and participation!) anytime. We’re up and running!

Plan for FY 2010-2011:

1. Fully staffing **all** PMC Team Leadership positions. Vacancies for the coming year include: Lifespan Education, a Co-leader for the Connections Team, Communication and Training, Social Justice and Building and Grounds. We strongly encourage co-leaders whenever possible.
2. Continued establishment of the PMC meetings and the “nuts and bolts” of regular committee operations. We are a project in the making.
3. Greater communication of the PMC’s vision, mission and purpose to the larger Fellowship. We’re here and in operation.

Congregational Meeting Minutes & Treasurer’s Report

Indexed with our **current Bylaws** (revised May 17, 2009) at <http://boiseuu.org/governance.html>

- **Congregational Meeting Minutes – May 17, 2009**
<http://boiseuu.org/board/CongregationalMeeting20090517.pdf>
- **Congregational Meeting Notes – May 17, 2009**
<http://boiseuu.org/board/CongregationalMeetingNotes20090517.pdf>
- **Congregational Meeting Minutes – September 26, 2009**
<http://boiseuu.org/board/CongregationalMeeting20090926.pdf>
- **Congregational Meeting Notes – September 26, 2009**
<http://boiseuu.org/board/CongregationalMeetingNotes20090926.pdf>
- **Treasurer’s Report – Balance sheet, March 31, 2010**
<http://boiseuu.org/board/BalanceSheet-20100331.pdf>
- **Treasurer’s Report – Income/Expense, July 2009–March 2010**
<http://boiseuu.org/board/IncomeExpense-20100331.pdf>

Nominating Committee

Valerie Duffy, Chair

Committee members: Cathy Carman, Chip Cole, Valerie Duffy, Dick Seiver and Joe Wechselberger.

The Nominating Committee began meeting in earnest January 10, 2010. An email was sent to the BUUF Board and to BUUF committee chairs asking for names of members who might be considered for the upcoming openings on the BUUF Board. The names provided to the Committee were added to our list of potential candidates.

In February 2010, the Nominating Committee invited the congregation to attend an informational meeting to learn more about what it means to serve on the BUUF Board. This was conveyed to the Fellowship via email, Order of Service announcements, Sunday morning announcements and the BUUF newsletter. On March 7, 2010 two informational sessions were hosted by members of the Nominating Committee and BUUF Board members.

Our quest was to find the most qualified candidates to fill the slate of BUUF members to serve on our Board and Nominating Committee. The following candidates will be considered for these positions:

- **Judy Frederick**, Past President, term 2010-2011
- **Debra Smith**, President, term 2010-2011
(Debra is willing to serve as Past President in 2011-2012.)
- **Jane Breckenridge**, Vice President, term 2010-2011
(Jane is willing to serve as President in 2011-2012 and as Past President in 2012-2013.)
- **James Bigelow**, Secretary, term 2010-2013
(Jim holds the office now, he's nominated for re-election to another term)
- **David Clopton**, Director #1 position, term 2010-2013
- **Bill Reid**, Director #3 position, term 2010-2011
- **Nicole Silvester**, Nominating Committee member 2010-13

Lifespan Education Council

Adult Religious Education

Webb Van Winkle and Gena Delucchi, co-chairs

Term for Committee Chair: until successor(s) found

Additional Committee Members:

Loren Bergeson, Ned Brewer, Elton Hall, Mark McGinnis, Sue Stadler, Emmie Schlobom, DRE, liaison for Children's RE

Normal Meeting Schedule: 4th Mondays, 7 pm, BUUF Library

FY 2009-10 Total Budget:

- Expenses: \$491.65
- Income: \$1461

Committee Purpose:

The mission of the Adult Education Program at the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship is to strengthen our sense of community, to foster growth in our intellectual, emotional, and spiritual lives, and to support our engagement in the religious, social, and cultural issues of our time.

We accomplish this mission by sponsoring educational experiences that enable us to:

- ❖ Get to know one another better
- ❖ Share our deepest insights and feelings in a relaxed, supportive, and interactive environment
- ❖ Develop new perspectives and skills that enhance our lives as individuals and that contribute to our collective life in community
- ❖ Better understand our Unitarian Universalist values and traditions
- ❖ Increase our knowledge of the world and its natural and human diversity
- ❖ Examine issues that concern us and develop strategies for taking action
- ❖ Enrich and expand our spiritual horizons

Participation is open to all members and friends of the Fellowship, as well as to the interested public.

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

This year marks the first year without Mike Philley who has chaired this group since its inception. Mr. Philley has accepted "emeritus" status however and continues to advise and provide historical context to the new Co-chairs.

Our major event planned for Fall 09, Michael Dowd/Connie Barlow *Thank God for Evolution*, was cancelled due to Mr. Dowd's diagnosis of cancer and subsequent medical treatment. We continue to keep in contact with them and may be able to invite them back in the future. Elizabeth Greene and Elton Hall's classes are always popular: sign-ups soar after Reverend Greene delivers a sermon on the chosen topic and *Restless Souls* was no exception.

Fall classes

Restless Souls: Unitarians, Universalists, and American Spirituality

Thank God for Evolution: A Book Study Group

The Welcoming Congregation: Interfaith Conversations on Becoming More Inclusive Faith Communities and Undoing Oppression

Healthy Children Healthy Planet - cancelled

Money, Values and Investing
Make your Own Salsa Party
Total participants: 60

Mark McGinnis is new to the committee and started off with a bang by teaching *Arts, Religion and Values* this spring and also will teach a watercolor class on the BUUF grounds in May. Elizabeth Greene had an overwhelming response to her *Spiritual Practices* class, exceeding her class size limit by 13 souls. She has expressed an interest in offering this class each Spring session. Elton Hall has headed the effort to plan and publicize the major *Richard Tarnas* events in collaboration with Idaho Friends of Jung (IFJ) and Institute of Noetic Sciences (IONS).

Spring 2010 classes/attendance

Art, Religions and Values
Spiritual Practices
Writing Life Stories
Understanding Our Moment in History Tarnas Salon
Healthy Children Healthy Planet - cancelled
Richard Tarnas Talk
Richard Tarnas Workshop
Watercolor Sketching
Environment of Opposites with IFJ
Call of Life David Ulansey with IFJ/relocated elsewhere than BUUF
Total participants: 121 (excluding Tarnas weekend and Ulansey)

Plans for FY 2010-2011

Adult Education has been working with the Bridge Event Center (BEC) to develop policies regarding the pricing structure and insurance requirements for organizations that wish to use the BUUF facilities for events. Our co-sponsoring of presentations and classes with IFJ and IONS will be regarded as a "Collaborative Relationship", to be defined by developing and implementing Memoranda of Understanding (MOU) with these groups. These MOUs can serve as a model for future collaborations between BUUF Committees and outside groups which have mutually compatible missions and align with the Fellowship's values.

We are currently developing a selection of classes to offer during Fall 2010. Confirmed to date: Elizabeth Greene & Elton Hall: *The Cathedral of the World: A Universal Theology* by Forrest Church; Gena Delucchi: *Burnished Pottery (Intergenerational)*; Jolene Schow: *Jeremiah's Adventure Garden Tour*. Emmie Schlobom, DRE, has suggested we try to schedule a crafts or other class each season that parents and children can do together. We hope to work more closely with Children's RE in order to develop courses that would appeal to BUUF parents as the Idaho Earth Institute discussion classes have not been popular offerings (cancelled twice due to low registration). We have also requested the Board's input on which *Tapestry of Faith: UU Lay Leadership* modules to offer either in the Fall, Spring or both.

Michael Dowd/Connie Barlow *Thank God for Evolution* has been tentatively slated for consideration in spring 2011. If we learn that this will not be possible we will consider other options for a "major" speaker for a public event at BUUF. Also, Mark McGinnis plans to teach *Rabindranath Tagore: National Treasure of India* during that season.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Lifespan Education (cont'd)

Children's Religious Exploration

Committee Chair: vacant

Term for Committee Chair: As long as it's joyful

Committee Members: Ann Sabin, Jan Nissl, Macy Huberty, & Tesla Gillespie

Normal Meeting Schedule: 2nd Wednesday of each month

FY 2009-10 Total Budget:

➤ Expenses: \$307.50

Committee Purpose:

To enhance the learning and growing experience for children and youth and supporting religious exploration and the Director of Religious Exploration

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

It has been a joy to work together during the year on Sundays, at our meetings, and at the various RE-sponsored activities. The craft and activities portion of Deck the Halls was busy and colorful and joyful. Our annual Easter Egg Hunt was well attended and everyone had a great time. We're still finding eggs in the grove that remind us of the fun had by all!

Our numbers are small and we've focused most of our energy this year on coordinating and recruiting weekly adult volunteers in the RE class rooms.

Plans for FY 2010-2011

Our major goal is to increase congregational involvement with our amazing children and youth in the context of religious exploration. For the coming year, we plan to continue to have a great time working together. We would love to have more folks on our committee to share the fun.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Lifespan Education (cont'd)

Library Committee

Carol Wechselberger. Chair

Term for Committee Chair: Indeterminate

Committee Members: Don Clarke, Elaine Durbin, Pat McVay, Carol Wechselberger, Ed Rush, and Irene Rush.

Normal Meeting Schedule: 4th Tuesday, 10:30am to Noon

Expense Budget:		10.00
Petty cash balance fwd 07/01/10:		38.31
Used book sales to 04/30/10		54.25
Expenses paid to 04/10/10		<u>-20.91</u>
Total petty cash on hand		71.65
BUUF restricted acct	<u>75.00</u>	
Totals	<u>85.00</u>	<u>71.65</u>

COMMITTEE PURPOSE: To maintain and operate the library in a user-friendly manner; to encourage the use of the library via BUUF newsletter articles regarding the library's holdings; to generate extra income beyond our budgeted amount through sale of used books; to receive donated books and materials and add them to our collection or add them to our book sale inventory; to continue the work of cataloguing our collection on the computer catalog program purchased for that reason; to generate a hard copy of the catalog for readers to use; to send a representative to Newcomers' classes to tell about the Library; to purchase new books for the permanent collection.

2009-2010 COMMITTEE HIGHLIGHTS AND ACTIVITIES: We raised funds by selling used books in the library, and added many donated books to our collection. The cataloguing of books is complete. We reorganized some of our categories. Two new committee members joined us this year!

PLANS FOR 2010-2011: To continue our work as described in our Job Description document.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Lifespan Education (cont'd)

History Keepers

Charlotte Tompkins, Chair

Term: indefinite

Committee members: Jo Douglas, Elaine Durbin, Lyn McCollum, Frank Shuff, Charlotte Tompkins and Janelle Wintersteen

Meeting schedule: third Thursday of each month from September to June at 19:30 in the library, or at the home of one of our members

Purposes: to collect, organize and preserve our history by filing programs, reports, biographies, photo, tapes, slides, significant news clippings and memorial programs in the drawers and shelves near the southwest window of the library

Committee expenditures

for photographic equipment \$100

for brass, memorial plates \$16; others were donated

Income: \$0

Committee highlights and activities:

added to our store of historical data

displayed photo albums and pictures at appropriate times

visited the new member class when requested

sponsored a showing of the Dowlin-Heeb DVD

with our minister and a member of the Board, developed a policy statement

as to whose names may be engraved on the memorial boards

dedicated two memorial boards in the sanctuary

Plans for the future:

to organize material already collected and add to it

to display our historical records and DVD at appropriate times

to involve more people in our activities

to prepare and print a photo memory book of members of BUUF and

to make it available to all who are interested.

Ceremonies & Celebrations Council

Worship Committee

Wanda Jennings, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: indeterminate

Committee Members: Wanda Jennings, Elizabeth Greene, Beverly Harley, Ed Rush, Mark Zimmerer, Nancy Harms, Besse LaBudde, Bill Pulley, Peggy Pulley, Cathy Sherman, Coston Frederick, Emmie Schlobohm, Carrie Bastian.

Normal Meeting Schedule: Monthly, second Thursday of the month from 7:00-9:00 at BUUF

FY 2009-10 Total Budget:

- Expenses: ??
- Income: 0

Worship Committee Purpose

In collaboration with the Minister, the Worship Committee creates and brings to the congregation Worship Services which address issues of our time, issues of worth, services which speak to the heart of our being, services which give spiritual and intellectual nourishment, services which bring us comfort when we need comfort, and services which bring us laughter and joy.

FY 2009—2010 Committee Highlights and Activities:

Using the theme of Living Community we planned excellent worship services for each Sunday throughout the year. Elizabeth preached the majority of the services. Other services were given by volunteer BUUF members and friends, resulting in no costs for outside speakers. We are a flexible group, making sure that services are of the highest quality even when last minute things, such as Elizabeth falling off her horse, force us to change our plans.

The junior high youth participated in the first Sunday service of each month, doing the readings, greeting, passing microphones and collecting the offering. Senior high youth participated in the third Sunday of each month, greeting, reading and collecting the offering.

Debra Smith trained twelve celebrants who do a wonderful job of conducting the services when Elizabeth is not available.

David Ward trained new service coordinators.

We transitioned from doing only one service on the first Sunday to doing two services every Sunday.

We continued to line up chalice lighters, greeters, and readers for each service, getting the names to Nancy Harms for placement in the orders of service. We coordinated with the social justice folks for their announcements each month. We coordinated with Carrie and the music committee on the hymns and music each month.

We are working to get our sandwich board spruced up or purchase a new one.

The heating of the building was an issue which was a "hot" topic of discussion.

We have monthly meetings which start and end on time with lively discussions and planning.

Plans for FY 2010 -2011

In 2010-2011 the Worship Committee will continue to plan wonderful Worship Services for each Sunday. We are searching for a theme around which to develop our services. We are always looking for new folks who would like to help us plan and carry out worship services.

Music Committee

Tom von Alten, chair

Term for Committee Chair: Way past due

Committee Members: Tom von Alten, Carrie Bastian (choir director), Patti Raino, Jeanette Ross, Adelle Thomas

FY 2009-10 Committee Budget: Expenses: \$1,850; Income: \$0

Music Staff Personnel Budget (not part of the committee budget):

1/4 time Music Director, \$9,400 salary (with no benefits), \$375 professional expense, paid membership in the UUMN; part-time Choir Accompanist: \$1100

Committee Purpose: To oversee the music program at BUUF, with the primary responsibility for musicians' and choral performances for Sunday Services, and occasional other events.

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

Our second program year with Carrie's role expanded to Music Director improved upon the first, with a stronger adult choir undertaking more challenging work, the regular contributions of the BUUF band, *being hUuman*, and musical performance and congregational singing choices well-coordinated with worship topics. Having 2 services every Sunday (starting in January) was a challenge, since we had been giving one performance on the single-service first Sundays in most months. We tried having the choir sing for just one of the two services, and decided that was not salutary. Susan Langley continued as paid, part-time choir accompanist, rehearsing with us for the 2 sessions before a choir performance, and accompanying our performances.

Carrie, Jeanette and Tom were all able to attend the annual conference of the UU Musicians Network, in Portland (with some financial support from BUUF for Carrie, none for Tom and Jeanette), and partake of that rich resource of our denomination. Tom completed 4 years' service on the UUMN Board.

Plans for FY 2010 - 2011:

We hope to involve more members and friends in the joy of making music, and to continue enhancing the experience of worship. If we have the energy and volunteers, we'd like to extend the music program beyond "just" Sunday mornings. We hope to find a second choir accompanist to share the workload with Susan. We plan to host a music event in July that will also be a fundraiser for the Fellowship.

Connections Council

Membership Committee

Jay Wechselberger and Nicole Silvester, co-chairs

Term for Committee Chair: Three years

Committee Members:

Nicole Silvester (co-chair)	David Ward
Jay Wechselberger (co-chair)	Jennifer Smith
Louise Jacobsen (WCC liaison)	Miriam Woito
Elaine Durbin (retiring)	Nancy Harms
Shelia Dengler-Shaw	Debbie Espen

Normal Meeting Schedule:

4th Thursday of each month, 7:00 to 9:00pm at the church

FY 2009-10 Total Budget: \$ 544

- Expenses: \$ 435*
- Income: \$ 0

* \$150 will go toward bulletin boards and associated items in the N. vestibule. The remainder will go toward brochures and chalice pins.

Committee Purpose:

The Membership Committee aims to offer a warm, welcoming commitment to newcomers, friends and members for exploration and experiencing spiritual and religious growth throughout their lifetime.

This purpose is achieved through a variety of activities and administrative tasks aimed at helping newcomers feel welcomed and working with other committees to retain an active and engaged membership.

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

- ⊕ Conducted weekly Welcome Chats to visitors after all services. We engaged members of the board and others to take part in these sessions.
- ⊕ Weekly, sent welcoming letters to all visitors who signed our guest books.
- ⊕ Made nametags for all members and friends who requested them, made special tags for the Welcoming Congregation committee and the Living Community symposium.
- ⊕ Produced Newcomer Packets for use by Newcomer Greeters at the carts each Sunday.
- ⊕ Established a cadre of leaders for the New UU class. The cadre currently consists of five individuals, with several others expressing interest on a case by case basis.
- ⊕ Worked with staff, Stewardship, and Congregational Care to refine the membership rolls.
- ⊕ Utilizing the new "My UUA" interactive web site for church leaders, maintained the UU World circulation list.

08/09 New UU class – 18 participants, 12 joined
09/09 Planned and conducted Joining Sunday ceremony
09/09 Updated UU World circulation list
01/10 New UU class – 13 participants, 5 joined
02/10 Planned and conducted Joining Sunday ceremony
02/10 Updated UU World circulation list
04/10 New UU class – 17 participants, 5 joining
05/10 Planned and conducted Joining Sunday ceremony
05/10 Updated UU World circulation list

Plans for FY 2009-10

- Offer four New UU Classes to prospective members. Classes will be held on different days of the week and in different formats to meet the needs of a variety of class participants
- Continue to offer welcome chats after each service. Encourage board members and others to participate.
- Coordinate efforts across the fellowship to welcome newcomers.
- Certify number of members to UUA.
- Maintain circulation list to *UU World* magazine.
- Host semi-annual meetings with Stewardship, Congregational Care, and staff to maintain accurate lists of members and friends and to identify those who may be drifting away.
- Develop a letter or other acknowledgement, to be signed by the board, for people whose status changes from “visitor” to “friend”.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Connections (cont'd)

Congregational Care Team

Sandy Layser and Susan Kelley, Co-chairs

Term for Committee Chair: Two or more years

Committee Members: Sandy Layser, Susan Kelley, Mary Osterman, David Fitch, Charlotte Tompkins, Bryan Jennings, Kristen Cheyney, Jo Anne Minnick, Pam Woodies, Teresa Wood, Joe Jeffery.

Normal Meeting Schedule: Second Saturdays at BUUF

FY 2009-10 Total Budget: \$250

Expenses: \$250

Income: 0

Committee Purpose: Guided by compassion and generosity of spirit and in collaboration with the Minister, provides emotional, perhaps spiritual, support to members and friends in their times of stress, loss, or joy. Enhances the spirit of community within the congregation.

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

- Management of the Elizabeth Greene Pay It Forward Fund
- Management of the CCT/BUUF Pantry
- Annual Retreat Aug. '09; Marisol Mayer, inservice presenter
- Community Fair participation Sept. 20
- Charlotte takes over Transportation from Dan Bacon
- CCT Sunday Oct. '09. PIFF is recipient of social Justice offering for month.
- Annual Life Skills Training Nov. 6. Presenters: Judy Frederick and Cherie Buckner Webb
- New Members, Teresa and Joe, are welcomed. Mary steps down as co-coordinator.
- Kristen becomes new co-coordinator Feb. '10
- Susan becomes new co-coordinator due to Kristen's new job; Pam becomes lead for Memorial Services in Mar. '10
- CCT and Elizabeth agree to facilitate Memorial Brick info; Mar. '10
- Memorial for James Crouch May '10

We continue with various projects to work on our ongoing goals of:

- Increase caring to increased number of people
- Develop options for community members with challenges
- Increase congregational awareness of caring available
- Provide continuing education for CCT members

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Connections (cont'd)

Committee on Ministry

Sue Stadler, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: not yet decided

Committee Members: Joe Wechselberger; Sue Stadler, Lisa Johnson; Patricia Heeb; Elton Hall; Elizabeth Greene; Sheryl Dowlin; Ned Brewer

Normal Meeting Schedule: monthly

FY 2009-2010 Total Budget: None

Committee Purpose: The heart of the Committee on Ministry activities includes nurturing right relations and the ministry of the whole church. CoM activities include “being there” to assist in the management of conflicts associated with congregational relational issues and concerns. Our team will work diligently toward solutions that honor all parties and the community as a whole. Any member of the team may be contacted to initiate a team consultation process. CoM team members covenant to uphold strict confidentiality, within the limits of the law.

“Out beyond ideas of wrongdoing and rightdoing, there is a field. I’ll meet you there.” – Rumi

FY 2009-2010 Committee Highlights and Activities:

Due to the covenant of strict confidentiality honored by members of the Committee on Ministry, we cannot discuss the issues with which we have been involved. We have been instrumental in mitigating numerous conflicts/discontent that has arisen during the past year. Most recently we have submitted a proposal to the board recommending that the Committee on Ministry guide the Fellowship through the relational and communal aspects of our transition to a new minister.

Plans for FY 2010-2011

The Committee on Ministry will focus on the transition process during the coming year as it remains available to all members of the Fellowship in nurturing right relations.

“The source of love is deep in us, and we can help others realize a lot of happiness. One word, one action or one thought can reduce another person’s suffering and bring joy. One word can give comfort and confidence, destroy doubt, help someone avoid a mistake, reconcile a conflict, or open the door to liberation. One action can save a person’s life or help take advantage of a rare opportunity. One thought can do the same, because thoughts always lead to words and actions. If love is in our heart, every thought, word, and deed can bring about a miracle. Because understanding is the very foundation of love, words and actions that emerge from our love are always helpful.” – Thich Nhat Hanh

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Connections (cont'd)

Festivities Committee

Miriam Woito, Chair

Term for Committee Chair:1 year

FY 2009-10

Total Budget:

- Expenses:\$1,000 (spent \$300)
- Income:0

Committee Purpose: To organize congregation wide group social activities for the congregation.

FY 2008-09 Committee Highlights and Activities:

Second Saturday Fellowship Fun Night Sept. through May

- Hoe Down
- Bunko Night
- Beat Night
- BBQ
- Cookie Decorating

Social Justice Council

Social Justice Team

Nancy Rice, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: no set term

Active Committee Members: Nancy Rice, Rick and Becky Groff, Anthony, Bessie LaBudde, Bill and Gwyn Reid, Bill Hall, Bruce and Sheryl Dowlin, Carol Sevier, Jay Weschselberger, Karen Raese, Cynthia Alleman, Dave Woito, Jeanette Ross, Jim Bigelow, Louise Jacobsen, Mike Webb, Roger Sherman, Sheila Ames, Wanda and Bryan Jennings, Sanctuary team members

Normal Meeting Schedule: 6:30 p.m. first Monday of the month at BUUF

FY 2008-09 Total Budget: \$50.00

- Expenses: \$50 for bulletin boards
- Income: \$0

Committee Purpose:

BUUF's mission statement calls for us to "practice justice as individuals and as a community." The Social Justice Team is a major means by which BUUF members and friends fulfill that charge. Its components include the Social Action Committee, Welcoming Congregation, the Partner Church Committee, Green Sanctuary Task Force, and Hunger Task Force.

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

For the first time in recent years, the Boise Unitarian Universalist Fellowship Social Justice Team decided to highlight one social justice theme during the church year, while still paying attention to long-term projects that have long been important parts of our congregation's social justice portfolio.

BUUF has always paid attention to hunger-related issues, but this past year – amid severe economic difficulties for the Treasure Valley – the Hunger Task Force was formed to focus the fellowship's energies on hunger and its causes through education, service, and advocacy. Key elements of this work have included:

- Supporting Whittier School's Backpack program, which provides weekend food for students and their families. BUUF's support continued to fund 5 backpacks while the Foodbank covered an additional 14 over the 2009-2010 church year.
- Advocating for extension of the "assets test" waiver for food stamp recipients in Idaho.
- Advocating for reauthorization of the Child Nutrition Act in Congress. BUUF successfully arranged Whittier School visits for staff members from the offices of Sens. Crapo and Risch and Rep. Simpson so they could see firsthand how the act funds nutritious school meal programs for Idaho children.
- Serving the Idaho Food Bank through food collections and volunteer opportunities.
- Taking part in CROP Walk to raise awareness and funds around hunger issues.
- Teaming with the Capital City Public Market to staff a booth to provide food-stamp recipients with tokens to buy fresh, locally produced food this summer. BUUF also helped raise money for the "Fresh Funds" program to

help market shoppers double their food-stamp buying power. The booth is set to open in June and will need volunteer staff each Saturday morning.

- Continued participation in the Idaho Interfaith Roundtable Against Hunger.

In addition to these food-focused initiatives, the Social Justice Team:

- Realized the goal of attaining Green Sanctuary status for our fellowship. Bryan and Wanda Jennings accepted the certification on BUUF's behalf at the UUA General Assembly in Salt Lake City last June.
- Continued our work at Interfaith Sanctuary, providing volunteer help at the homeless shelter each Sunday night and a clean-up service project on Martin Luther King Jr. Day.
- Took part in Paint the Town.
- Helped the Boise State Intertribal Native Council with events including the annual Seven Arrows Powwow.
- With Michael Vallez, nursing professor at Boise State, laid groundwork for a Hepatitis C clinic to serve low-income people in Boise.
- Continued our longstanding support of Whittier School in ways beyond the Backpack Program, including the annual collection of warm hats and mittens and assembly of hygiene kits.
- Raised funds for the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee through the annual "Guest At Your Table" holiday fundraising/membership drive.
- Continued our work with Habitat for Humanity and its "Green Builds" in the Treasure Valley.
- Continued our mission as a Welcoming Congregation. (Please see the Welcoming Congregation Committee's separate report for highlights of its activities.)
- A highlight of the year for the Partner Church Committee was the visit from Robert Balint, minister of our partner church in Mészkö, Romania. Robert visited with his family and preached in the BUUF pulpit.

BUUF also continues to give 25 percent of its Sunday plate offerings to social justice causes. From July 2009 through March 2010, we had collected nearly \$10,000 and are on track to top the \$12,701 raised during 2008-2009. Recipients of the plate offerings during the 2009-2010 cycle include the Women's Alliance, BUUF Pay it Forward Fund, The Community Center, BUUF's Partner Church in Transylvania, Interfaith Sanctuary, Capital City Public Market's Fresh Fund, Whittier School Backpack Program, Habitat for Humanity, Boise Urban Garden School, and the Boys and Girls Club. Thanks to everyone for supporting this outreach!

Plans for FY 2010-2011

According to an April 19 article in the *Idaho Statesman*, the number of Idaho residents using food stamps has increased 106 percent over the past two years and now tops 180,000. Although there are signs that the recession is easing, it will take years for many Idahoans to return to a sustainable standard of living. BUUF remains committed to helping our neighbors in need, and to pursuing policies that will reduce the long-term causes and costs of food insecurity.

Continued support of Whittier School Backpack Program

The Sanctuary Team will continue to supply volunteers for Interfaith Sanctuary Homeless Shelter.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Social Justice (cont'd)

Partner Church Committee

Cynthia Alleman, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: 2-3 years

Committee Members: Becky Groff, Nancy Harms, Irene Rush, Charlotte Tompkins, Gwyn Reid, Bill Reid

Normal Meeting Schedule: 1st Monday of the month, 4:30 BUUF library

FY 2009-2010 Total Budget:

- Expenses: 350.00
- Income: varies

Committee Purpose: to facilitate relationship and communication between BUUF and our partner church in Mészko

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

We had some major highlights this past year. The minister of our partner church in Mészko, Robert Balint, was accepted as the Ferenc Balasz scholar at Starr King and he and his family spent the year in Berkeley. We were fortunate that the family visited us in Boise. On a beautiful Sunday in November Robert preached to BUUF.

We continue to support the Ferenc Balasz Heritage Foundation, a joint project to preserve legacy and buildings in Mészko.

We also had a good time at a Fesztival Dinner that same weekend, which was open to the public.

Recurring activities are a Partner Church Sunday in November, Social Justice Plate offering in December, selling of handmade items from Mészko, and the bridge ceremony in June. Often we offer classes through adult R.E., but did not this year.

Another highlight this year is communication with Lynchburg VA, assisting them with their partner church relationship. Lynchburg's partner church, Czegez, is a small church with Robert also being the minister.

Plans for FY 2010 - 2011

- We continue to work to:
- Increase communication between our two villages.
- Build on the success of the Fesztival dinner.
- Support Boise pilgrims to travel to Mészko.
- Work with our partners in Mészko on the Heritage Foundation.
- Continue to look at new ways to support our relationship with our partners

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Social Justice (cont'd)

Welcoming Congregation

Louise Jacobsen, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: Indeterminate

Committee Members: Sheila Ames, Janice Eby, Jeff Korfanta, Sandy Layser, Bill Reid, Ginger Schwabe, Amy Stinett, Bill Hall, Morgen Smith, Michael Stevenson, Jenny Anne Smith, Janelle Wintersteen, Jay Wechlesberger

Normal Meeting Schedule: 2nd Sunday at 12:30 p.m.

FY 2010-11 Total Budget: \$150 (as of 5/10/10)

- Expenses:
 - \$150 – Gay Pride Festival booth space
 - \$17 – Prize for “Name the Committee” contest
- Income:
 - \$288 – Gross income from Tranny Roadshow
 - \$73 – Expenses from Tranny Roadshow
 - \$48 – sound technician
 - \$25 – janitorial
 - \$215 – Net income from Tranny Roadshow

Committee Purpose: To serve as a liaison with the lesbian/gay/bisexual/transgender (LGBT) community; the internal source of information and education on LGBT concerns; and to partner with LGBT organizations to help eliminate prejudice and advance LGBT rights.

FY 2010-11 Committee Highlights and Activities:

- Welcoming Congregation Committee (WCC) members participated in an LGBT-themed service on Sunday, Oct. 11 – National Coming Out Day.
- WCC members staffed a committee table at the Fall Into Community event.
- In partnership with The Interfaith Alliance (TIA), we sponsored a workshop using the Welcoming Congregation Curriculum. Most of the attendees were from BUUF and were either members of the WCC or their spouses. The number of participants TIA agreed to recruit from other churches did not materialize. While there undoubtedly were benefits derived from the experience, there were problems associated with the workshop (facilitator arriving late, running overtime, etc.) that would need to be avoided in future workshops. Also, finding a way to condense the workshop into fewer sessions probably would help attract a wider range of participants.
- In November, we raised \$1,271.64 for The Community Center (TCC) through the offertory proceeds program. TCC is the only facility in southeastern Idaho dedicated as a place where lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) organizations, people and their allies can gather free from concern of harassment.
- In June, our offertory proceeds recipient will be the Rainbow Spiritual Retreat, an interfaith summer camp that provides LGBTQQIA* people and families an opportunity to spend 4 days at Pilgrim Cove Camp (owned by the

United Church of Christ) in McCall, enjoying a variety of water sports, workshops, crafts and interdenominational worship at a nominal cost (meals included). * Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and allies

- We have written monthly articles for *Diversity*, Idaho's LGBT publication, to help make the LGBT community more aware of BUUF's existence and that it is a welcoming and inclusive spiritual community.
- On Saturday, April 17, the WCC hosted the "Tranny Roadshow," a group of transgender entertainers who put on a variety show as a way of educating people about transgender people and issues and creating greater acceptance. The performance was very well received by the audience, and the performers were very enthusiastic about the experience as well. Eighty-two people attended the performance, including the WCC volunteers. The Roadshow split the proceeds 60/40 with the WCC, which resulted in the committee receiving income, after BEC expenses, of \$215.
- In response to the experience of those who participated in the Welcoming Congregation workshop, the WCC decided to do a Welcoming Congregation "audit" based on the requirements in the Welcoming Congregation handbook for a congregation that is becoming a Welcoming Congregation for the first time to assess how BUUF is measuring up in maintaining those standards. This audit will proceed into the 2010-11 church year, and a full summary will be included in the next annual report.
- The WCC decided that the committee's name is not truly descriptive of the purpose of the committee or its function and is generally a cause of confusion. During the month of May, the WCC is conducting a contest to solicit ideas from the congregation for a more suitable name – also a good way to make people more aware that we exist and what we do.

Plans for FY 2010-11

- Continue our regular contributions to *Diversity* and other efforts to communicate to the LGBT community that BUUF offers LGBT people a safe, welcoming, inclusive spiritual community. Identify and take advantage of other opportunities to communicate this message.
- Schedule LGBT-themed services in October 2010 and June 2011 to coincide with National Coming Out Week and the Boise Gay Pride Festival.
- Display the rainbow-colored BUUF banner outside the Fellowship during National Coming Out Week – Oct. 10 – 17, 2010.
- Raise funds for one or more LGBT organizations through the offertory proceeds program.
- Participate in the 2011 Gay Pride Festival and other LGBT activities, as appropriate.

- Complete the Welcoming Congregation audit.
- Offer some type of workshop/educational activity to the congregation and the larger community, as appropriate, during the second half of the church year through the Adult RE program, such as the Welcoming Congregation Curriculum, Interweave's Bisexual Curriculum or the Human Rights Campaign's "Gender Identity & Our Faith Communities" curriculum.
- Screen one or more DVDs such as "Preachers Sons" or the documentary the Lechelt family participated on re: transgender children to educate the congregation and the larger community about LGBT issues.
- Sponsor LGBT social events on a quarterly basis prior to the monthly Fellowship Fun Night.
- Identify and execute some kind of outreach effort to the local LGBT community.
- Maintain an effective working relationship with the rest of the Social Justice Team.

Building and Grounds Council

Landscape Committee

Core Committee Members: Barbara Alexander, David Clopton, Alan Frederick, Matt Gooding, Mary Anne Hedrich, John Jacobsen, Bill Pulley, Peggy Pulley, Jane Rohling, Jolene Schow, Mary Schwartzman, Mary Stell, Valerie Ray

Last year, we achieved our Special Project Goal of installing two bike racks, funds for which came from selling glass jewelry, calendars and the Mothers Day Tea. The next Special Project will be adding to the Walk Through Time, this the vision of Howard Johnson. Miriam Woito coordinated the development of the mosaics the RE kids executed (we have three completed mosaics now). These mosaics depict specific points in time since the Big Bang, which Jeanette Ross chose from the evolution curriculum she developed. We've had one gift of money to continue the concrete Walk from the Big Bang gateway to His Kid (Little Bridge). We intend to continue to the Walk, incorporating the appropriate mosaics to present time, which will be somewhere near the exit of the south wing, with appropriate interpretation/signage. The Walk will wend its way through The Grove and will be accessible and environmentally suited to the northern poplars. This will take considerably more funding than the bike racks, but we will do it in predetermined increments.

Last year, Gus Tate proposed that his Eagle Scout project be the construction of a fire pit to BUUF. The Landscape Committee accepted his proposal and the fire pit is now in the final stages of completion. We intend to have some sort of ceremony to 'initiate' the fire pit and recognize Gus for his generosity and hard work.

Also new to BUUF's landscape is the thoughtful Peace Pole which was proposed by two chalice groups, installed and recently dedicated. The Herb Garden was incorporated into the pasture last spring and will once again provide herbs that beautify and provide limited income to support the Garden.

We are grateful for these gifts of time, materials and energy. It is important to recognize that the wise people who from the beginning recognized the need for a Master Landscape Plan so that the grounds would not be developed haphazardly with little thought for utility and aesthetics. Their forethought is why we have an integrated 'whole' and why we are extremely cautious with anything that deviates from the Master Plan. We don't need anyone's stuffed moose head that has been in the family for generations. We are equally cautious with anyone's gifting us with plants or trees.

In process is a Landscape Gift Policy, regarding items in memory or recognition of someone, disposition of cremated remains, or opportunities to add to a special project, such as the Walk Through Time. This Policy will be the outcome of an all-BUUF workshop held several years ago in which participants offered their suggestions & thoughts for landscape development.

This is a good time to clarify that the Budgeted money we get from BUUF is used exclusively for maintaining the grounds – and we need every cent of it. All other special projects are funded through designated gifts and fundraising. We are very grateful that we can have a Restricted/ Designated fund that allows us to carry a balance beyond the fiscal year. Without that special consideration, we could not honor the wishes of donors or have any long-term planning for special projects.

We are fortunate to have a crew of dedicated Gardeners, Mowers & Whackers, several folks who have 'adopted' specific areas, and our only two paid personnel, Head Gardener Alan Frederick and Assistant Head Gardener Valerie Ray, who direct our maintenance program, have needed equipment which we do not have, and provide their particular expertise. In all, we have about thirty people involved in landscaping, five of whom are Master Gardeners along with one Botanist. This is the 'Heart' of BUUF Landscape – without these remarkable people, BUUF Landscape as we know it would not exist.

Mary Anne Hedrich, for the Landscape Committee

Bridge Event Center (BEC)

Suzanne Woodcock, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: Unspecified

Committee Members: Event Coordinators, Marketing Director, Process Director, Board Liaison, Financial Advisor

Normal Meeting Schedule: 3rd Monday of the Month

FY 2009-10 Total Budget:

- Expenses: \$10,000
- Income: \$12,000

Committee Purpose: The Bridge Event Center (BEC) coordinates the sharing of our building and grounds with the outside community and earns money from usage fees to help pay for BUUF facilities and programs. Additionally, our paid Event Coordinators also assist BUUF members in organizing BUUF events. Net usage fees go into the general fund at the end of each year to help defray the cost of operating our facilities; for FY 09/10, the amount contributed to the fund will be more than \$2,000.

We are currently listing our facility on Craigslist and Google and with the Boise Convention and Visitors Bureau as a site for weddings and meetings as a way of increasing use of BUUF when it is not being used for congregational activities. As a result of this increased visibility, we expect that BEC will be able to make a greater contribution to our BUUF community in the years to come.

Building Maintenance

Gary Wyke and David Clopton, Co-chairs

Term for Committee Chair: 2 years

Committee Members: Gary Wyke, David Clopton

Normal Meeting Schedule: ad hoc (when it's broke, and we have to fix it)

FY 2008-09 Total Budget: \$1000

- Expenses: \$472
- Income: \$0

Committee Purpose: to maintain the building in a safe and efficient condition

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

The maintenance committee performed or contracted to have performed:

- Replaced broken window at west entrance
- Corrected the plumbing to stop the leak from the hall ceiling of the south classroom wing
- Repaired the leak from the roof in the west vestibule
- Repaired doors
- Repaired toilets
- Re-glued trim on library conference table

Plans for FY 2010-2011

Continue maintenance efforts

Finance Council

Finance Committee

Bob Huntley, Chair

Committee Members: Warren Bean, Ed Davis, Frank Shuff, Craig Raese, Judy Holcombe, Blake Olsen (Treasurer), Anka Stam, Jim Lyons and (President elect)

Regular Meeting Schedule: Second or third Sunday each month to coincide with the Sunday prior to the Board Meeting on the third Thursday

Committee Purpose:

- Oversee BUUF's financial affairs
- Receive Committee and other budget requests and draft proposed budget for finalization and amendment by the Board
- Provide timely recommendations to the Board on financial affairs as requested and as circumstances dictate.
- Make final recommendations for budget following completion of Annual Budget Drive

Fundraising Committee

Claudia Fernsworth, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: 3 years

Committee Members: Becky Groff, Patty Nakaoki, Gwyn Reid, Bill Reid

Normal Meeting Schedule: Varies with event

Committee Purpose: To raise money for the general fund of BUUF

FY 2009-2010 Committee Highlights and Activities

October: Poinsettia Sale

November: Silent Auction

February: Live and Silent Auction with Dinner

April: Chocolate Dessert Extravaganza

Plans for FY 2010-2011

October (All month): Poinsettia Sale

November 7, 14, 21 : Silent Auction

February 5th: Live and Silent Auction and Dinner

April: Chocolate Dessert Extravaganza (Pending sub-committee discussion)

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Finance Council (cont'd)

Campus Development Committee

Bob Huntley, Chair

Purpose:

Study campus development from a physical plant (and related furnishing and amenities) standpoint, including time-lines and processes. Make recommendations regarding same to the Board of Trustees for further presentations to the congregation as appropriate.

Responsibilities:

To consider whether, when, how, (financing methodology and goal/timing), of any Capital Campaign to construct Buildings.

To lead and execute the Congregational "Buy-in" to the project, and procure its Financing, Contracting, and Construction

To be accountable to the BUUF Board of Trustees. Report plans and activities to the Board through the relevant Cluster Coordinator, including procuring Board approval of each major step in the process.

To work in collegiality with other committees on matters of mutual interest and concern.

To inform the congregation of activities regularly through the BUUF News. To give the congregation an annual written report each April.

To become sufficiently acquainted with the building and grounds security system to safeguard areas the committee uses.

To recruit and train committee members.

Examples of activities and programs

This Committee lead the Fund-raising, Financing and Construction of the Fellowship Hall and later the two RE Wings

Committee Membership

Warren Bean	Linden Boyce	Chip Cole
Judy Holcomb	David Ward	Bob Huntley
Victorian Owens	Karen Raese	David Woito
Gwyn Reid	Frank Shuff	Bob Smith
Debra Smith	Lisé Stewart	Bob Wallace
Mary Anne Hedrich	Treasurer	President Elect
Roy Montague	Minister (ex-officio)	

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Finance Council (cont'd)

Stewardship Committee

Debbie Johnson, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: Finished July 1, 2010

Committee Members: Miriam & Dave Woito, Judy & Coston Frederick, Bob Huntley, Judy Holcombe, Nancy Harms, David Clopton, Sharon Barlow- & Charles Palm, Bruce Dowlin, Elizabeth Green, Bob Wallace, Linden Boice,

Normal Meeting Schedule: Second Sunday evening of the month

FY 2009-10 Total Budget: \$2,000 plus extra \$500 NOT ENOUGH!!!

- Expenses: \$2500
- Income:

Committee Purpose: Conduct the Annual Budget Drive for operating fund.

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

Originally, the committee was going to run a combined Operating & Capital (debt reduction) campaign Spring, 2010. A UUA consultant was employed to assist with this. The UUA consultant suggested we conduct a feasibility study for running these two campaigns. The conclusion was to solicit Capital/Debt Reduction pledges Spring, 2011.

The ABD campaign began in February recruiting Visiting Stewards. A total of 55 people volunteered to be a visiting steward, four of whom needed to drop out, leaving over 50 people who participated as a Visiting Steward. Most stewards were assigned 4 people each to visit.

Orientation/Training classes were held the first part of March for the Visiting Stewards.

The ABD kickoff began with an all-church Gala on Saturday evening, March 20. This "Dress up in your Party Clothes" event included activities for children, wonderful menu, great music entertainment, and several testimonials from members. The tables were hosted by BUUF friends and members.

Visiting Stewards were given their assignments and began setting appointments March 21. The visitation process continued through April, with a few lagging into May.

Plans for FY 2010-2011:

A similar process is encouraged for next year, however, consideration of the dual pledge drive of Debt Reduction and Annual Operating Budget will need to be addressed.

Information Technology (IT) Committee

Mitchel Bethel, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: Open ended

Committee Members: Ed Davis, Tom von Alten, Jay Wechselberger, Matthew Sabin.

Normal Meeting Schedule: Currently on "as needed" basis

FY 2009-10 Budget:

- Expenses: \$6,000
- Income: 0

Committee Purpose: To maintain, upgrade and implement technologies to aid BUUF office and members.

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

Upgrade of office computers to Windows 7, 64 bit machines (all main staff), purchase of a backup server, managed switch for improved network performance. Purchase of the first database solution (to be replaced by the database solution picked by database committee in the near future).

Plans for FY 2010-2011

Maintenance of current computers

Switching over BUUF's email to Google Apps

Helping the database committee in the setup/management of their database solution

Being available for future technical needs/concerns

Personnel Committee

Patti Raino, Chair

Term for Committee Chair: Two Years

Committee Members:

Erin Logan, Elton Hall, Janette Young, Bill Hoffman

Normal Meeting Schedule:

The first Wednesday of each month at 5:15 PM -6:45 PM

FY 2009-10 Total Budget: \$0

Committee Purpose:

The Committee develops and maintains personnel policies, assists with the development of job descriptions and employee contracts, and maintains submitted time and leave records for BUUF employees. The committee reviews staff evaluations and salary recommendations from the UUA and annually submits a recommended personnel budget to the Finance Committee and BUUF Board of directors.

FY 2009-10 Committee Highlights and Activities:

- Development of annual personnel budget recommendation.
- Development of Revised time-sheet and tracking system
- Added new committee member.
- Clarifications and updates to the Non-ministerial Personnel Manual using UUA model personnel manual as guide.
- Reviewing and mentoring office staff with a goal of greater office efficiency

Plans for FY 2010-2011

- Developing a compensation model for BUUF
- Creating job descriptions for BUUF employee positions (current and contemplated)

Humanists Group

Rick Groff & Jeanette Ross, conveners

Group Purpose:

To support, explore and share our understanding of our responsibility to act with mutual respect toward a just, peaceful and prosperous world without supernatural assistance. We educate ourselves and others about humanist thought, including its role in human endeavors across cultures and throughout history and reflect on our personal philosophies and experiences.

We are an informal discussion group that meets once each month, this year on the third Sunday, 11am, in the BUUF library. We have no assigned budget, expenses or earnings. Our purpose is to explore the development of the ethics and ideals that have contributed to humanism in our country. For some, one individual takes primary responsibility for leading us into a topic (Xan Barrett led us into Ken Wilber's contributions to the 'integral' movement). For other meetings we share responsibility (several of us researched theories of stages of development that are part of the behavioral sciences). We get together for two social events and have presented one service each year on a humanist theme. We also joined other like-minded groups to form Secular Idaho.

Senior Sages

Tom von Alten, coordinator

Group Purpose:

Early in the 1980s, our minister at the time, the Rev. Armida Alexander, suggested to some of BUUF's elders that a meeting of "the sages" might promote our religious fellowship. Helen Langworthy coordinated the group's meetings for many years, and passed the torch to Tom when she moved away.

We now meet on the second and fourth Thursday of January through October, and the second Thursday of November and December, usually at the Kopper Kitchen restaurant for a no-host breakfast, and a variety of presentations and discussion, from regular attendees, and invited guests. Our group includes BUUF members, friends, and others for whom this group is their only connection to the Fellowship. Newcomers are always welcome.