

Report of the President, Tapestry Annual Meeting, June 11, 2006

When I started to look back on this year, I was amazed that so much had been accomplished. I had to look in my notes to make sure everything really happened this year. But instead of looking back, for a moment, I'm going to look forward. Next year at this time when I end my term as President, what I'd like to say is that the UUA marketing campaign was a rousing success and that the number of visitors increased 30 percent with half of the visitors becoming members within six months. I'd like to say that the Board and all Committee chair positions have been fully staffed all year, and that there are chairs or officers in training to take over those roles in the future. I also would like to be able to report that we have so many able, committed volunteers for committees that we have to re-direct the enthusiastic folks to new areas, such as an Adult Religious Exploration Committee, or a new Personnel Committee. I look forward to reporting that the New Facility Committee has scoped out our space and functional needs, and we are ready for any opportunity (like a building in our price range) or a challenge (we lose our lease) that may come along. But that will all be for next year's report.

This year our accomplishments were so many and so varied that it made the selection of the recipient of the President's Award quite a challenge. Thanks to many of you who offered excellent suggestions, that made the task even more difficult. Here were some of my considerations. Should I select an individual, for example:

John Alcorn for accepting the challenge of guiding the 5-year Comprehensive Planning Committee last summer, buying the banner that hung outside for several months, and for serving on the fundraising arm of the UUA marketing campaign.

Dave Kinnear for also serving on the UUA marketing campaign and for laying the groundwork during his Presidency that made this year's accomplishments possible.

Gene and Mary Ruth Johnson who gave this congregation years of passionate service on the Board, in CRE, on other committees and initiatives.

Jan Meslin who as chair of the Social Action Committee provided renewed energy and enthusiasm and a stream of projects in a wide range of subject areas.

Shirley McGovern for her consistent and persistent wish for peace in the world.

Penny Kinnear for her many years of service as choir director, numerous task forces, and her current contributions to the Comprehensive Plan pro forma budget, and the 2006-2007 proposed budget on top of her considerable duties as Treasurer.

Free Clarke for adding the role of Bursar (who makes the bank deposit each week) in addition to his considerable hours spent fixing things, installing things, and generally keeping this place running, despite challenges from our renters.

Marie Ferguson for her on-going work as chair of the Aesthetics Committee, key role in the stewardship campaign, and her generous donations for the much needed carpet cleaning and the installation of the tile in the Social Hall.

Brenna Hull, though not yet out of high school, took on the challenge of recruiting greeters each Sunday.

Bob Meyer and Jim Semelroth for co-chairing the first, formal, and very successful, face-to-face annual stewardship campaign that increased our annual

gift amount upwards of 30 percent, and meeting the demands of Larry Wheeler, our UUA fundraising consultant.

Carole Shannon for driving the transfer from our inactive investment account to a managed account that is now segmented to hold funds for our much awaited building, for her key role organizing the visiting stewards during the annual campaign, for lending the Board her home for our retreat, and her past service as Treasurer.

Jim Semelroth for editing and publishing our newsletter each month, for maintaining our attendance records and our mailing list and labels, and publishing our congregational directory.

Shirley Aiken for making our beautiful new Tapestry banner.

Bill Hunker for taking on both roles of Music Director and Worship Committee Chair, and with Dana, for sponsoring the wonderful Musical Table dinner and concert fundraiser at their home.

Beth Clemmons, who along with the CRE committee, took on additional responsibility to keep the program going after our Director of Religious Exploration left and with a search committee of **Kathy Tuominen-Lenny, Christine Krueger, and Margaret Pierce** took on the daunting task of finding a new one.

David Salahi for consistently excellent work the past several years on the Tapestry web page.

Terry Smith and **Margaret Pierce**, our outgoing Board members, who both served an officer term as Secretary.

Or should I recognize a team who together made a significant difference?

The Comprehensive Planning Committee of **Connie Pursell, Janet Lusk, Rosy Pacilli and Jan Meslin** who with Chair **John Alcorn** worked through the summer to create a cohesive plan from our thoughts, ideas, and dreams. And for **Tara Sayre** who gave up a weekend to estimate the rest of the financials to finalize and reformat the updated Comprehensive Plan to meet Larry Wheeler's high standards.

To the Naming Task Force of **Liz Bear, Dick Huddlestone, Kristin Potter, and Tara Sayre** who took us through the name change review and selection efficiently and effectively so that we are now Tapestry. We will vote on the official bylaws change a little later.

The Ways and Means Committee, co-chaired by **Carol Semelroth and Judy Tracy** in a terrific team with **Charlotte Clarke, Sheryl Hagen, Ruth McCoy, Carole Shannon, and Linda Yeargin**, who consistently raise over \$30,000 each year with entertaining service auctions and other fund raising events with excellent food and good company.

The Office Volunteers, currently **Michael Boys, Melanie McCullough, Pat Horton, Susan Jagielko, and also Louana Hall, Lois Huddlestone**, who produce the Order of Service each week, route the mail, maintain the files, and support Rev. John during his office hours.

The Newsletter Crew of **Ruth McCoy, Carole Shannon, Louana Hall, Vernie Gallagher, and Nancy Knipe** who photocopies and mails the newsletter every month. And for both of those groups putting up with the overburdened copier.

The Janitorial Committee five teams who clean the building on a rotating schedule so we save the expense of a cleaning service, who had additional challenges with our renters:

Team 1: Gary Livesey and Free Clarke

Team 2: Paul and Gail Hunt

Team 3: Marsha and Bill Medina

Team 4: Sheila Raymond and Norelynn Pion-Goureau

Team 5: Jeff Gothard and Hall Williams

Alternates: Richard Lappin, Paul McCarter

The Task Force of **Penny Kinnear, Marcia Meyer, and Richard Jagielko**, who researched the role of Affiliated Community Minister and recommended **Rev. Sarah Gibb** for the position, who has graced our congregation with adult classes and sermons.

The Committee on Shared Ministry, chaired by **Harold Boerlin** with **Gail Hunt, Jim Semelroth and Betty Elliot** who, behind the scenes, monitor the relationship between the congregation and Rev. John to ensure that it is a healthy and long lasting one.

Another option was to recognize types of service critical to the functioning of our congregation:

- To everyone who serves (or has served) as a committee chair.
- To everyone who serves (or has served) on a committee or task force.
- To everyone who participated in a Covenant Group or who facilitates one, namely **Betty Elliot, Richard Lappin, Harold Boerlin, and Jeff Gothard**.
- To everyone who has taught in the CRE program or helped on a Social Action field trip.
- To everyone who runs one of our social groups that are so important in building our community.
- To all of the visiting stewards who took on the necessary but formidable task of asking the rest of us for our annual financial contributions.

- To those who make or exceed the target for a fair share financial gift each year so we can continue and grow our congregation's good works.
- To all members who served as a Worship Associate, gave a sermon, ran the sound, ushered, or contributed their words or talents to our worship services.
- To everyone who contributed their musical abilities to a service or event.
- To everyone who made food for or brought food to the service, one of our events, or for a member who was in need, or who like **Lois Huddlestone and Charlotte Clarke and Marcia Medina** who coordinates their efforts.
- To every person brave enough to offer a service auction item.
- To the traveling group who donates their "free" fare to the congregation instead of splitting it among themselves
- To everyone who bought scrip to make a percentage of the money you'd spend anyway come back to the congregation.
- To every new member whose potential contributions in time, talent, and commitment are yet to come. New members since the last annual meeting are: **Sophie Alcorn, Marlene Alcorn, J P Lenney, Mary Pax Lenney, Julie Thomas, Mark Fox, Daniel Schmid, Sarah Schmid, Robert Riccardi, Pam Riccardi, Beverly Huff, Scott Noonan, Gina Noonan**

But in the end, I decided to recognize a volunteer whose contributions are wide-ranging, significant, and on-going. I was surprised to learn that **Connie Pursell** joined this congregation only 5 years ago. In that short time, she has become an integral part of the congregation. Connie has served on the Board as a Director for the past two years. As a Board member, she serves as a sounding board and reports feedback she has gotten from you. She came up with the idea to summarize highlights of each Board meeting for the newsletter in "Splinters from the Board" and does so reliably each month. She provides thoughtful, conscientious input to Board discussions, and even planned the agenda and visioning activities for the last Board retreat. But in addition to her leadership on the board, she also serves as chair of the Caring Committee that is always on the look out for members and friends who are in need and arranges for that help to

be given. This year, in addition to those two major contributions, Connie also served on the Comprehensive Planning Committee and, in addition to writing goals and objectives, she recorded and structured the information into a workable format. After the plan was adopted, Connie continued her commitment by updating the narrative to accompany the pro forma financial portion. And although each Board member is encouraged to participate actively in the Annual Stewardship campaign, Connie took on the role of team leader, managing a group of visiting stewards.

While these contributions are significant, it is also her approach to service that is commendable. When Connie adds a task or responsibility to her already full set of commitments, you can count on her to deliver and to deliver well. Although in her employment, this year Connie moved from consulting to a full-time position, she continued her high level of commitment. We will always need volunteers who can pitch in or contribute to a short-term project—those contributions are essential and what fits in with the many other demands on our time. But as our congregation grows, we are especially in need of more volunteers who can provide sustained, long-term commitments of their time and talent. Growing skills and abilities in our lay leadership will be critical to our success as a congregation. Connie exemplifies the volunteer we might all aspire to be. She cannot be with us today due to a commitment to another volunteer organization. At the last Board meeting, Connie announced that she will be resigning from that other commitment. She prefers to focus on serving Tapestry, an organization where she sees the results of her efforts and receives greater benefit and value. I will present Connie's certificate to her at the Board meeting on Tuesday.

While the President officially recognizes only one person or group each year, **you** may recognize many of these traits in your own contributions to Tapestry. Please know that they are appreciated and encouraged by me, by our staff, and by our members and friends.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "C. Lynn Cowan".