

Report of the President – by Connie Pursell, June 2010

Summary of Events and Achievements

This has been an extraordinary year at Tapestry, bountiful and spiritually enriching, but with many developments, changes and challenges.

In the 2009-2010 church year, we dealt with the following:

- Welcomed Rev. Tom Owen-Towle as consulting minister. He will also stay for a second year, returning around Labor Day 2010 and staying through June 30, 2011.
- Faced economic challenges and municipal compliance issues related to a move to a new facility in Mission Viejo. Hopefully, our move will take place around the end of August or first part of September of 2010.
- Faced some staffing and personnel challenges and changes. Michael Boys will replace Suzi Spangenberg as office administrator on an interim basis until a settled minister is called. The new minister will participate in the hiring of the new office administrator.
- Held two great service auctions and for raised a total of almost \$30,000 over the church year. Our auction offerings continue to provide numerous social opportunities for members to deepen connections and strengthen the bonds of community.
- Held a successful Musical Table, a barbecue at Carole Shannon's, a Winter holiday boutique (for 3 Sundays), all facilitated by Ways and Means
- Added an additional book club focused on history and biography, as well as a new culturally oriented group, Tapestry's Almost Culture Club.
- Continued consciousness raising through efforts of our Green Sanctuary folks, related to recycling and conserving.
- Continued our strong commitment to involvement in community and service activities through our Social Action Committee, and strengthened ties to CREER and OCCCO. You can read details of the Social Action efforts in the information packets, as well as on the Tapestry web site.

Merger

The immediate merger with Orange Coast Unitarian Universalist Church was put on the back burner this past year and possibly for the foreseeable future, for a variety of reasons. Merger still remains an option for our future and the building of a joint vision may yet be on our agenda at some time down the road. In the meantime, we are resolved to make Tapestry financially strong and viable, spiritually rich and socially relevant as a stand-alone entity for now and for the immediate future.

Special Mention of Volunteers Who Have Made a Difference

These special individuals and groups deserve special thanks for their continued volunteer commitment and noteworthy results:

- Free Clarke for his dedication to facility management and countless other odds and ends that fall to him simply because he is so agreeable and willing to help.
- Susan Jagielko and the Worship Committee for planning inspiring, moving and thought-provoking services, using well-chosen guest speakers as well as internal talent.
- Along with the Worship Committee, there are Gary Livesey and Richard Jagielko who run our sound board each week, Bob Fischer and his crew of ushers, and our weekly greeters.
- Also, thanks to all who served as a Worship Associate, who gave a sermon or testimonial, a This I Believe presentation, participated in a Reader's Theater or the time for all ages, contributed their musical abilities, or otherwise contributed their time, words or talents to one of our worship services.
- Christine Krueger, Jay Keithahn, Terry Parker and Marcia Meyer for their work on the Nominating Committee.
- Bev Huff and Laura Jackson for their committed work on the stewardship drive this past spring. This is a big undertaking in the best of times, but in this economically challenging environment, it is even more formidable. They have met and collaborated with Rev. Tom, planned cottage meetings and strategies, developed forms and materials, and Carole Shannon has assisted by entering and maintaining computer data.
- Mark Fox and everyone on the "Move Out" committee, for their efforts in taking inventory, cleaning house and holding a successful rummage sale.
- Carol Semelroth, Charlotte Clarke, Bob Meyer, Penny Kinnear, Jan Meslin, and Michael Boys, for serving on the Transitions Team for Rev. Tom this year.
- Rosy Pacilli for the membership orientation sessions and new member recognition ceremonies over the past year, so vital to growing our ranks so that we can become a larger presence in the community.
- Retha Roberts, chair of the Caring Committee along with all the Caring Committee members for all the genuine caring, outreach, prayers, cards, compassion, home-delivered meals and support provided to our members and their families who found themselves in challenging circumstances.
- The many individuals responsible for vital roles and tasks that are ongoing during the year. These many members and friends serve Tapestry by wearing many hats. I want to acknowledge the following groups, as well:

- The teams who clean the facility each week
- The office volunteers who continue to serve as our administrative needs continue to grow
- The crew who assembles and mails the newsletter each month
- Everyone who serves (or has served) as a committee chair, on a committee or on a task force
- Everyone who led, or participated in, a Covenant Group
- Everyone who has attended an Adult RE class or group
- Everyone who has organized materials, planned curriculum, developed lesson plans, taught in RECY, helped on an explorers' field trip, or contributed to an intergenerational service
- Everyone who attended camp at De Benneville Pines
- Everyone who organizes and facilitates events related to one of our social groups, so important to strengthening the bonds of our community
- Anyone who hosted a Moving Forward home meeting related to the Stewardship Campaign this spring
- Those who make or exceed the target for a fair share financial gift each year so we can continue the good works of Tapestry
- Anyone who made a special contribution to the Growth Fund or an unsolicited gift above and beyond their pledged amount
- Everyone who organized or participated in a Social Action event, chaired a subcommittee, participated in mentoring or literacy activities, donated time to Second Harvest or to sorting food at the local food bank, or collected donations for our local shelters and thrift shops
- Anyone who organized or participated in a Welcoming Congregation or gay pride event, or a Green Sanctuary effort – your consciousness raising and commitments are truly impressive
- Everyone who paid their annual gift on time
- Everyone who made food for or brought food to a service, one of our special events, or for a member who was in need or who coordinated those efforts
- Everyone who provided member transportation to a Sunday service, or transport to a medical appointment or provided support to a home-bound individual
- Every person who offered or purchased a service auction item
- Those who sold scrip and maintained scrip inventory
- Everyone who bought scrip so that a percentage of the money you'd spend anyway could come back to the congregation

- Members of the site selection committee who screened and toured potential sites for Tapestry's new home
- Every new member whose potential contributions in time, talent, and commitment are yet to come as well as all the stakeholders who make up this beloved community.

They all deserve congratulations and kudos.

Ministerial Search for Settled Minister

Five individuals have been named to the search committee and they will be involved for the entire upcoming church year in activities aimed at calling a settled minister to Tapestry. The names of the committee members will be announced on June 13, 2010 at the annual meeting.

The President's Award

In most years, the Tapestry President officially recognizes only one person or group each year, but this year is a year of special circumstances and so I am making an exception and naming two individuals to share this recognition. This year the President's Award goes jointly to two individuals who have contributed countless hours in pursuit of a new home for Tapestry. Their names will be announced on June 13, 2010 at the annual meeting.