

Report to the UUTC Board
Rev. Bob Renjilian
August 2022

PERSONAL:

- I went to PA with Christy for a week while she had in-person office work to do, and we came back with a U-Haul truck filled with the last of the big items (things that won't fit in a car).
- Christy and I enjoyed one last Brevard Music Center concert for the season.
- I continue with good health - this is the anniversary of my heart attack and all is well.
- Christy and I are thrilled to hear our son, Justin, and his girlfriend are now engaged!
- We are getting our roof replaced - the pallets of shingles were delivered to our driveway here in Etowah as I type this report!
- I'm singing in a concert with the Land of the Sky (Barbershop) chorus in Franklin, NC the last weekend of August.

IN THE WIDER MOVEMENT:

I continue to serve on the UUA Board Committee on Religious Education Credentialing.

REFLECTION ON "NEXT NORMAL"

It was good to see Chalice Camp indoors this year (last year all but bathroom breaks were outside due to safety concerns)! We had a couple more households return to services as well, glad to be back after 2.5 years of caution. Our Sunday morning combined services continue to be working well, and I expect that the Worship Team will continue the 10:00am service into the Fall due to the mostly positive feedback. The UUTC Picnic at Connestee Falls was fun, and included folks who are still cautious about being in crowds, but liked the outdoor event. (Many thanks to Vicky Held for pulling that event together.)

We're hearing of a handful more (a mini-surge?) of households with COVID this summer, and reports of symptoms seem mild. This summertime rise in cases is not anywhere near the severity predicted on the sites I study, and I'm glad of that!

CHILDREN'S RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION:

I attended portions of each day of Chalice Camp. Many thanks to Kevin Lausch and Trisha Powers for their leadership and coordination. I noted there were 21 young people in all (campers and their teen helpers), which felt like a good size group. It is clear that UUTC draws from more than just our own families - many of the participants were friends of UUTC children. This is a wonderful mission to the wider community. Many thanks to Jim Hardy and Bobby King for giving fascinating and engaging presentations on reptiles with the children (hand's on!) to start the week. Having the Mayor, firefighters, law enforcement and rescue squad worked out well too.

ADULT RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION:

Wonderful Wednesday drew about two dozen people for dinner again, with more (about thirty people) showing up for the presentation itself. While grief and addiction was a timely topic, I know it was not as popular a draw. The people present were treated to an interesting and engaging presentation, and the question and answer period afterwards.

At the group's request, we're making improvements to the monthly discussion for UUs at College Walk. The group would prefer a more secular setting (not the chapel), and we brainstormed more than enough topics to fill the year.

I'm hearing good "buzz" around the upcoming return of the Spiritual Explorer's sessions. Coordination is by Earle Rabb, with Ernie Mills and Carter Heyward announced as the initial co-leaders.

PASTORAL CARE:

I've been in touch with folks by phone, and offered home visits if desired. I met with Christine Schmidt to plan David Warinner's memorial service, and then officiated for that on August 13. I was pleased that a couple folks who have been on my pastoral care radar did come out to Fellowship on the Green - that connection is important. I've reached out by phone to a few folks LHHH mentioned to me, and very much appreciate the visits those LHHH Team members have made to congregants.

CEREMONIES:

I officiated at the Memorial service for (member) David Warinner, on August 13, 2022 at UUTC.

I officiated at the wedding of (non-members) Stephanie McGuire and Zachary Schrock in the woods of (members) Josh and Mallory Carter's home on July 30, 2022.

WORSHIP:

I preached on two Sundays in August, and attended a few services as well. The variety of summer speakers has given a broad perspective for our visitors and regulars alike. I'm glad our Minister Emeritus has been able to preach on a few Summer Sundays. Overall, I'm hearing my adjustments to feedback has been worthwhile, and the stronger energy in the room (with the combined service at 10:00) helps me as well as attendees.

LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT:

Thank you for your valuable participation in the Board Mini-Retreat on July 29. I hope you found this to help with the startup of the church year and your understanding of leadership, mission, vision, and my own expressed priorities!

I have also met with Alice Wellborn.

IN THE COMMUNITY:

I attended the Transylvania Chamber of Commerce breakfast and met the new president of Brevard College, Bradley Andrews.

I attended the Rainbow Alliance gathering at UUTC, and introduced myself and our UUTC Welcoming Congregation commitment to the newcomers (echoed by those in the group who already knew us in that positive light).

I attended the August NAACP Religious Affairs meeting on Zoom.

I attended the CARE Coalition "Resilience" introductory training (online) August 18. Kevin Lausch has been working with TC Strong to put together a steering committee for a Youth LGBTQ support group, with UUTC in partnership with others. This is a much needed support for youth in the county (as was reinforced during discussions with the Rainbow Alliance group meeting).

COMING UP:

- UUTC Retreat at the Mountain, Sept. 9, 10 & 11. We now have over 20 registrants. I am glad we have such a nice group to be there! (More room still available). I'm practicing my flute to accompany at least one of the songs, I hope I have the confidence to do more. RK Young and the AV Tech Crew have scoped out the (limited) ability to stream Sunday Worship from that location.