



The Leaf

The Monthly Newsletter of the First Universalist Church

February 2004

February Worship Services

- 1: Paul Britner
- 8: Paul Britner
- 15: Derek Parker
- 22: Mike Short
- 29: Heartland District Trustee Charles Redd

Church Authorizes Board To Appoint New Search Committee

The congregation met after services on January 25 to review its ministerial options after Paul's contract expires on June 30, 2004. The congregation chose to have either a half-time or quarter-time minister, with a compensation package not to exceed \$25,000 per year. A motion was passed to authorize the board of trustees

to appoint a ministerial search committee. The search committee will be appointed at the next board meeting, February 3rd. The committee will be responsible for surveying the congregation to gauge desired ministerial responsibilities, determining the desired profile of the minister including

(Continued on page 2)

District Trustee To Speak At New Madison

Charles Redd, the UUA Trustee for the Heartland District will be preaching at New Madison on February 29. Charles became the Heartland District Trustee in 2003, succeeding Gini Courter (who has since been appointed as the UUA Moderator). Charles has been a member of the Fort Wayne (IN) Unitarian Universalist Church since 1972 and has served on its Board of Direc-



tors as the president for two (2) consecutive terms. Charles also served for over 5 years on the former Ohio Valley UU District with two years as Vice President.

Charles was born in Detroit, Michigan and lived there until 1963 at which time he accepted a position with the Marion County (Indianapolis) Juvenile

Court. In 1966 he joined the National Urban League at its affiliate in Marion, Indiana and later in Fort Wayne, In. After leaving the Urban League Charles was the administrator of Affirmative Action Programs for GTE in Indiana and Michigan before becoming a member of the Fort Wayne City Council.

Charles has served 6 years with the Commission on Appraisal for the UUA. He is married with 2 adult sons and 5 grandchildren.

Building and Grounds Update

by Chas Godsey
House and Grounds Chairperson

Sewer System Connection:

We are very pleased to inform the church congregation that on December 3, 2003 our church was hooked up to the Village Sewer System. We started early that morning digging, and we completed the project around 2:30 P.M. in the afternoon. Tom and Doug Hollinger, Frank Hubler and I were present. The project went well. We encountered no major problems. Frank Hubler's total bill for the project came to \$473.00 dollars, including the pumping of the old septic tank. We saved around \$210.00 dollars from the initial estimated cost on the plumbing side of the project. Frank Hubler kindly donated all his labor. As of this date we have not received a bill from Tom Hollinger for his work on the project. His bill was quoted at \$ 1,000.00 dollars. Sometime in the spring Tom Hollinger will come back and level off the dirt. We can then plant grass seed.

Projected improvements for our church in 2004:

We would like to see the bell tower walls up by stairway redone on all four walls to first level within the tower itself. The bell tower itself on the outside needs

Concert To Feature Diverse Talent

The March 28 concert to benefit the Cancer Association of Darke County will feature two prominent but very different styles of music. The Greenville-based Dixieland Rhythm Kings will be joined by Bantry Bay, a group from the Unitarian Universalist Church of Muncie that features Celtic music. Members of this group include Bill Morton, Glenn Stewart, Martin Limbird, Diane Hill and Linda Morton.

Ticket for the concert will sell for \$5 in advance and \$7 at the door. More information about the concert will be announced soon.

(Continued from page 1)

half-time or quarter-time and making a hiring recommendation to the congregation. The board also announced that it will be kicking off a pledge drive. All members should receive a letter in 4-6 weeks.

Mark Your Calendars

February 3: Board Meeting

March 28: Spring Sounds Concert

April 4: Union Service at New Madison

repairs estimated to cost approximately \$ 11, 500.00 dollars. Outside overhangs need to be either painted or enclosed. We hope to replace two or three more basement windows, as we did last summer. The auditorium room needs to be scraped and painted and the carpet could be replaced. Both Restrooms could be up dated and painted.

In closing, all of us can see that our church constantly needs repairs to maintain it for many years to come. As I have stated before openly to our congregation it takes three elements People, Money and Time. Thanks to everyone for all your support to our church.

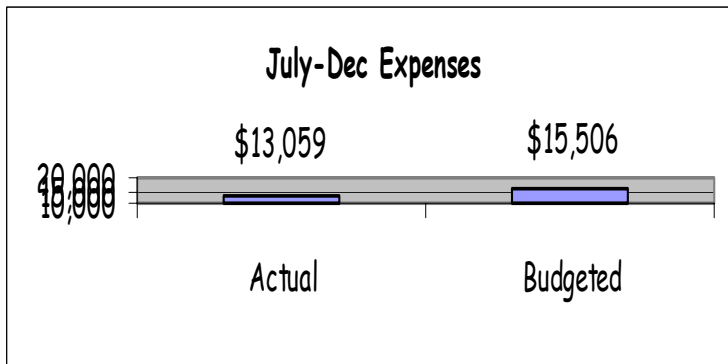
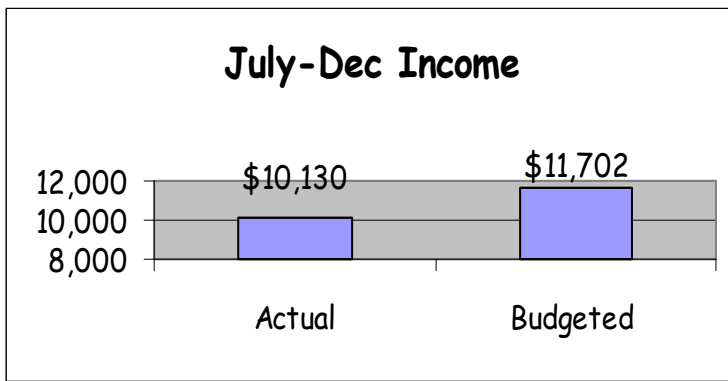
Church completes first half of budget year ahead of projections: income is down, but expenses are down even more.

It's a new year and lots of things will be happening that will affect the finances of our church. One major decision is what type (full-time, half-time, quarter-time or guest speakers) of minister we choose to replace Paul, which will be hard to do. Paul's contract (half-time) will be up at the end of June.

Either way, it's time to start thinking about the replacement process. Minutes of the January 11th congregational meeting have been sent to all members and associates, outlining the financial implications of various ministerial alternatives.

Three of the four options show an annual decrease in our finances. Using the half-time option as an example, the congregation dips into its savings at the rate of \$12,944 per year. Our church could operate for 5.6 years before we are broke, unless we significantly increase income. We really need your input as to what type of minister you want; as well as what duties/attributes of a minister are most important to you. Please try to attend our congregational meetings to help in the ministerial selection process.

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Year-to-Date Figures:

Actual	Budgeted	Increase (Decrease)
Total Income	\$10,130	11,702
		(1,572)
Total Expenses	\$13,059	15,506
		(2,447) (this is good)

As of 6/30/03

Total funds & invests.	\$73,620	75,861
		(2,240)

Given all the above, the Board of Trustees is seriously considering a "Pledge Drive". So in the not-to-distant future be prepared to be asked to pledge to your church. The need is there.

Go forth and do good work,

Dick Brooks
Financial Committee



FEBRUARY BIRTH-DAYS:

8 Sue Searls
12 Claire Brooks Williams
14 David Cassity
15 Bonnie Behee
15 Margaret Buccicone
18 Shannon McMahon
18 Nicki Hovater
24 Wayne Geeting
24 Dan Lucas
27 Kevin Behee
28 Doyle Burns

COFFEE HOUR:

Feb. 1 Jeanette Burns
Feb. 8 Roberta & Dave
Feltman
Feb. 15 Paula & Chas. God-
sey
Feb. 22 Christel & Dick
Brooks
Feb. 29 Dee & Bill Lengyel



LOTTERY: *Denotes Win-
ner Present

Dec. 28 Sue Searls*
Jan. 4 Dede Wissman*
Jan. 11 Joe Lipps*
Jan. 18 Emerson Behee

*(There were no February
Anniversaries.)*

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