

Minister's Report for 2018

Annual Meeting

We have had another great year at BUUF.

Good things that are Happening:

Lay leadership is increasing. Attendance seems to be steadily creeping up. On Sundays most of the chairs, in the sanctuary are filled. More young children are in attendance. One Sunday we had fourteen children. There are probably enough teenagers, whose adults attend, that we could start a small youth group.

Our Website continues to bring visitors to our services. We have visitors almost every Sunday. Many of them come back because of our liberal religious message and the warmth and enthusiasm of the congregation.

It also looks like we are moving towards having more involvement with music during the service. Harvey, Gretchen, Katharine, and I attended a seminar on worship the second weekend in May that should help us sharpen our worship focus and make our services more accessible to people of all ages. I am very excited about this. I am planning on asking, in congress with Gretchen, Katharine, and Harvey, four or five people who seem to be inclined towards artful worship to reconstitute the *Worship Committee* which is not the same thing as the *Sunday Service Committee*.

One of the best things that has happened at BUUF is increased participation in the Worship Service by lay people. We have a lot of depth in our congregation. We have many smart, thoughtful, and spiritually sensitive lay people who have added immensely to the quality of our services. I feel like we are just scratching the surface on lay involvement in worship.

The *Parent's Night Out* program is up and running. It is an excellent way that the church can help our young parents create community.

Good things that I want to see happen:

Really get behind "Change for Change."

Raise the pianists pay from 50.00 to 60.00 per service.

Have a larger budget for music in general. We are at a point where we must have quality, live music for every service.

Have a larger budget for guest speakers. Perhaps 200.00 four times a year to bring in a person who is really accomplished in his or her field.

Develop a Worship and Arts Committee.

Start a teen group.

Create a committee to make a video for our website. (I am going to ask some folks to sit on a temporary committee for that purpose.)

Get the *Stole Project* up and running.

Personally:

I am really enjoying being the religious leader at BUUF. I am truly thankful for the opportunity to be a part this great experiment in liberal religion. I would attend BUUF, even if I were not the minister. Here is where my friends are.

Peace,

Jim