

Minister's Report for 2019

Annual Meeting

Some things that are good.

Membership, thanks to the oversight of Lisa, Joanne, and the friendliness of our congregation is increasing.

Lay people are participating more in the services and making worship at BUUF a very rich experience.

Our RE program is tip-tops, thanks to Katharine and others.

Harvey is keeping our focus on the environment with his film series

We had our first Summer Day Camp thanks to the leadership of Joanne, Krettek and others, for which I am very thankful. My visiting grandkids were able to take part.

The BUUF Musicians now perform almost every week, thanks to the dedication of Nan, David, Candace, Julie, Joan, Harvey, Gretchen and others.

One thing that is particularly gratifying for me is that many have commented positively on the opening words I read most Sundays before worship. They are designed to get to the heart of what we are about.

I am making my preaching more spiritual, attempting to show what spirituality looks like for the religiously unnorthodox.

One thing I am particularly thankful for is that Candace is now being more fairly compensated.

I think we are, in addition to being a friendly people, getting better at welcoming newcomers. I am deeply appreciative of the work that Lisa, Joanne, and others do to keep our Face Book and web pages current and attractive.

We have solid care in Daphne Crenshaw.

We are getting new windows!!!

I am deeply touched and humbled by the time and love that went into my 10th anniversary Sunday. I love you all.

I have been able to do the work of the parish such as visiting the sick and jailed, and encouraging those who are temporarily despairing.

Some issues we need to address

We have some younger adults that are sporadically attending services. Hopefully we can find a way of creating programs for them.

We have money problems. This is an issue I am going to have to give considerable thought to. We have had good growth. It is normal for giving to lag behind in these kinds of situations. I am going to start talking about giving, when I feel like I have the right approach to bring to the situation. It is on my mind. I feel bad for the way our finances have caused stress for Harvey and others.

My Feelings:

I had envisioned, when I started at BUUF, that I would stay 10 years if, the fellowship found it amenable. The 10 years up and I do not want to leave.

They warned us in seminary about becoming too attached to one's congregation. I have, however, become attached and feel my life is much richer and that I am a better person for being part of our community. So, I will continue to serve at the pleasure of the board. For you all and our fellowship, I am profoundly grateful.

Peace,

Jim