

Report to the Board – Director of Music
6/16/09

Adult Choir

The First UU Adult Choir just wrapped up their Spring/early Summer season with the 15-minute Bach Cantata, “Der Herr denket an uns.” Many exhausting hours went into the preparation for the work, and our singers and guest instrumentalists (obtained with the help of FUUCA cellist Carolyn Hagler) brought much heart and soul to their work. In keeping with the seasonal theme of community and working together, we also recently delivered the world premiere of FUUCA member Dave Jellison’s “Brand New Day.” All in all, this season has been both challenging AND rewarding for the choir. While we lost a number of key music program volunteers in the wake of the dismissal, the group really pulled together as a community in the face of challenging times. I am so very proud of them and the work they’ve done this season.

Children's Choirs

The FUUCA Children’s Choirs just wrapped up their second full year at First UU in May, and the directors and I are currently planning out the 2009-2010 season. While current funding is not enough to take us through the end of the year, we are optimistic that we will be able to raise the money necessary (see below regarding our potential fundraiser). It has been an extremely rewarding couple of years, and the program has proved to be a vital bridge between the RE and Worship areas. Many thanks to all of the kids, their dedicated parents, the supportive folks in RE, and of course our highly credentialed and experienced choir teachers Danielle and Kelan.

Other Business

Library overhaul – for the past year, our music librarians and I have been going through our extensive musical archives to a) make better use of limited storage space, b) weed out outdated holdings, c) discard ancient (and less-than-legal) photocopied music, and d) make room for more recent acquisitions. This work would not have been possible without the creative energies of our librarians, Barbara Tuttle and Douglas Manger.

Potential fundraiser – I’ve been approached by cabaret singer Linda Stimmel about the possibility of putting on a fundraiser. With the help of the Children’s Choir parents (who are very energized and anxious to see the CC program continue), I’m hoping that we can put Linda’s talents to work to help the CC program, and to create a fun community event for our whole. More details to follow.

Vacation – I will be taking a few days off this coming week, and will likely take some time off in July before the Fall hits. More details to follow once dates are set.

Respectfully submitted,
Brent Baldwin