

# The Saltwater Scroll

## The Newsletter of Saltwater Church

*A Place to Belong, Grow Your Soul, and Change the World*

**December 2015 Newsletter**

### **Worship Services**

*All worship services are at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday mornings unless otherwise noted.*

**Sunday, December 6, "All Will Be Well"**

**With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto**

A "Meet the Minister" gathering for recent visitors will take place after the service.

**Sunday, December 13, "The Secular is Sacred"**

**An All-music Worship Service with the Saltwater Choir, Thomas Burt directing**

An informational meeting from our "Stay or Go?" Team will follow this morning's service. A light lunch will be available for those attending the meeting.

**Sunday, December 20, "A Light in the Darkness, a Seed in the Ground"**

**With Rev. Dr. James Kubal-Komoto and Melinda Einander**

This morning we celebrate the winter solstice. A potluck will be held after the service. Please bring a dish to share.

**Thursday, December 24, at 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.**

**"Christmas Eve Services"**

Our 4 p.m. Christmas Eve service is especially for families with young children. Our 8 p.m. service is our traditional Christmas Eve service. Both services will include singing "Silent Night" by candlelight. Members are invited to bring cookies or other baked goods to share after each service.

**Sunday, December 27, "Direct Experience of that Transcending Mystery"**

**With Slim Moon, Guest Speaker**

Slim Moon is a Worship Fellow at The Church of the Larger Fellowship and is preparing for ordained Unitarian Universalist ministry. Before discerning a call to ministry, he spent his adult life as an entrepreneur in the music business. He will speak about answering life's invitations.

## Board of Directors

Sharon Crow, President  
Lisa Key, Vice President  
Echo Allen, Secretary  
Gaye Greeves, Treasurer  
Aaron Sperry  
Quinn Rose  
Saphronia Young

*The Board of Directors may be contacted by email at [board@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:board@saltwaterchurch.org). Phone numbers and addresses are listed in the church directory. Board officers will be elected at the July board meeting.*

## Church Office Information

Office: (253) 777-4994 or (844) 480-0647 (toll free)  
Email: [info@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:info@saltwaterchurch.org)  
Website: [www.saltwaterchurch.org](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org)

**Church office hours:** Sue Eaton, our church administrator, is usually in the office Monday, 7 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Wednesday, 3 p.m. - 8 p.m.; and Friday, 7 a.m. - 2 p.m. She sometimes runs errands, so please call before stopping by.

## Minister and Staff Contacts

*Any staff member may be reached by phone by calling (253) 777-4994.*

**Minister:** Reverend James Kubal-Komoto  
Email: [minister@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:minister@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Director of Family Ministry:** Melinda Einander  
Email: [melinda@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:melinda@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Music Director:** Paula Mayfield  
Email: [paula@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:paula@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Choir Director:** Tom Burt  
Email: [tom@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:tom@saltwaterchurch.org)

**Church Administrator:** Sue Eaton  
Email: [sue@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:sue@saltwaterchurch.org)

## Minister's Schedule

**Reverend James** is at the church Sunday through Thursday most weeks. His days off are Friday and (sometimes) Saturday. He is available for appointments late mornings, early afternoons, and evenings. Feel free to call him on Fridays and Saturdays, but unless it is an urgent matter, he may not return your call until later.

## Church Calendar

The church calendar is on our website, at [www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendar](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendar). To have an event put on the church calendar, contact church administrator, Sue Eaton, or visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendarrequestform](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/calendarrequestform).

## Deadlines

The deadline for announcements for the Weekly Emailed Announcements and the Order of Service is **Wednesday by Noon a.m.** The deadline for the newsletter is the third Sunday of every month. **The next newsletter deadline is Sunday, December 13 (a week earlier than usual due to Christmas).**

To submit any announcement or newsletter content, visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/publicity](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/publicity). If you email an announcement, please use the [announcements@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:announcements@saltwaterchurch.org) address only. If you email a newsletter article, please use the [newsletter@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:newsletter@saltwaterchurch.org) address only.

# *Our Welcoming Community*

## **Meet the Minister**

A “Meet the Minister” gathering will take place on Sunday, December 6, immediately following the worship service in the church office. This is an informal get-to-know-you gathering for recent visitors and is also a chance to learn more about Saltwater Church and Unitarian Universalism.

# *Our Worshipping Community*

## **Worshipping Through Music**

by Thomas Burt, Choir Director

People often draw lines between secular and sacred choral music. I tend to agree with J. S. Bach, who believed that all music was sacred, regardless of the text. For this December’s all-music service, I have chosen “secular” Christmas songs that are nonetheless sacred to me. These songs invoke and inspire the Spirit of Christmas, touching that place in our hearts where we hold dear the memories and meanings of Christmas that are personal to each of us. Family, Fellowship, Love One Another, Peace on Earth, Good Will to All, these to me are sacred aspects of Christmas.

Secular is generally understood to mean “non-religious,” though literally it comes from the Latin for “of this age,” meaning *not* timeless or eternal, but “of this world.” The theological and philosophical separation between “worldly” and “spiritual” runs pretty deep in Western culture. Even centuries after the Newtonian Synthesis showed that the same laws governed both terrestrial and celestial motion, the perceived division between the Heavens and the Earth hangs on in our language and cultural imagery, so it’s easy to slip into categorizing art as secular or sacred and perpetuate this false dichotomy.

There are many ways to conceive of the divine, of what is “sacred”, of what is “God.” My individual experience leads me to believe that the Earth is sacred, that there is no division between what is “worldly” and what is spiritual. What I call God is within us and all throughout nature, from the center of the Earth to the farthest star. There is no point at which we stop and God starts. The material and the spiritual are aspects of the same world.

Whatever you believe or don’t believe about Jesus, the concept of God made flesh is a powerful one. It seems the spiritual has to be more than just flesh in order to fulfill our need for ultimate meaning, yet we need a present, personal, palpable experience of spirituality for it to be relevant and meaningful in our everyday lives.

As we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, I’m led to reflect on his message of radically inclusive unconditional love. He said “love one another,” and “whatever you do for the least of these, you have done for me.” When we help one another, I think we are the hands and feet of God. That to me is the meaning of “Emmanuel” - God With Us. When we love one another, we are loving God, with all our heart, all our strength, all our mind. When we live the way Jesus taught us, we are God in the Flesh.

## Worshipping from the Welcoming Room

On some Sunday mornings, our sanctuary is very full. We have recently fixed our speaker and begun to set up tables and chairs in front of the TV screen in the Welcoming Room. If you would like to enjoy our Sunday service in a more relaxed atmosphere, feel free to use these table and chairs.

### Reverend James's "Messages of the Morning" are Now Available Online Again

If you miss a Sunday service, you can now read or listen to Reverend James's sermons online again. Recent Sermons are available at [www.saltwaterchurch.org/recentsermons](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/recentsermons) . Selected sermons from past years are available at [www.saltwaterchurch.org/selectedsermons](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/selectedsermons) .

## *Our Learning Community*

### Winter Chalice Circles Begin in January



Chalice Circles, our small group program for adults, are a wonderful way to get to know other church members and to reflect on life's big questions with them. They usually meet the first and third weeks of the month, either at church, at a church member's home, or online using video conferencing technology.

**Chalice Circles meet either at the church, at church members' homes, or online using video conferencing technology, such as the Chalice Circle pictured above.**

Chalice Circles starting in January will meet six times from January through March. The deadline for signing up for these Chalice Circles is

Sunday, December 20. Early registration is extremely appreciated. Please remember that it's necessary to sign up again even if you want to continue in the Chalice Circle you attended in the fall.

To find out more about Chalice Circles or to sign up for Chalice Circles, visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/chalicecircles](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/chalicecircles) . To find out more about trying out a Chalice Circle, joining a Chalice circle, or signing up for a Chalice Circle, please contact Reverend James at (253) 336-6561 or [minister@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:minister@saltwaterchurch.org) .

## **“A Liberal Religious Path” starts January 20**

Reverend James will lead a class titled “A Liberal Religious Path” beginning on Wednesday, January 20, at 7 p.m. In this class, participants will be introduced to Unitarian Universalist history and values as well as Unitarian Universalist understandings of the meaning of life, spirituality, God, prayer, religious community, and other topics. Participants will also be encouraged to reflect on and deepen their own ideas about these topics. While newcomers to the church are especially encouraged to take this class, long-time members are also welcome.

This class will meet five times, January through March, on January 20, February 10, February 24, March 9, and March 23. (These are the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month.) Childcare will be available if requested. To sign up for this class, please call the church office or visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/classes](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/classes).

## **Compassionate and Choices of Washington Workshop**

By Carol Sandoval

In November, End of Life Washington (previously Compassion and Choices) presented a workshop at our church to help participants think through the issues about how they would choose to spend their life when they are close to dying. Exercises helped us explore what is most important to us and what medical treatment we would choose to have.

The workshop was organized by a subgroup of the Aging with Spirit group, chaired by Cynthia Bagley. The workshop was held after two weekly sermons by Reverend James, helping us understand the importance of examining and discussing end of life decisions, for ourselves and to help our loved ones as we approach our death.

The workshop was attended by eighty to ninety people. We estimate that twenty of those people were not from Saltwater Church, providing another opportunity for the community to experience the important work done at our church.

We were guided through completing a Durable Power of Attorney for Health Care and Health Care Directive. Those who chose to were able to complete the document during the workshop. From the line for notarizing the documents at the end of the workshop, it looked like a number of people chose to complete the documents so that their desires are available for their medical providers and loved ones who may need to make decisions if they are unable to.

For those who attended and need additional time to complete the documents, church member Linda Banks has offered to notarize them for free.

## Workshop on SOULCOLLAGE® Coming in January

Church member and art therapist Mayda Taney will lead a workshop on creating SoulCollage® cards on Saturday, January 2, 2016.

Originated by Seena Frost, SoulCollage® is a process for accessing your intuition and reflecting on life's questions and transitions. To learn more about Soul Collage, visit [www.soulcollage.com](http://www.soulcollage.com) or contact Mayda at [merrydancer@comcast.net](mailto:merrydancer@comcast.net)

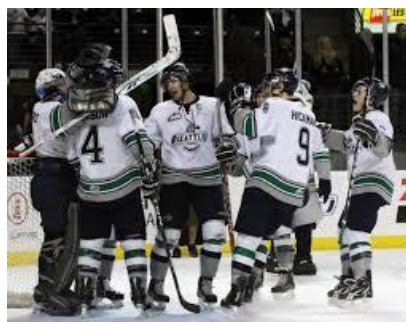
## *Our Caring Community*

### **Creative Hands**

By Betsy Sproger

Do you enjoy knitting or crocheting? We meet to do our own creative projects regularly on the second and fourth Mondays at 7 p.m. in the Welcoming Room. We will meet next on December 14 and 28. Bring what you have been working on at home, and share it with others.

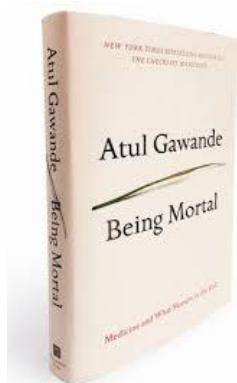
## **Come and Watch the Thunderbirds Play**



The Unitarian Universalist Guys Group (UUGG) is organizing an outing to see a Seattle Thunderbirds hockey game on Tuesday, December 16, at 7:05 p.m.

In the spirit of holiday good cheer, UUGG is inviting any interested church members or friends to join them for this outing. Buy a ticket online at [www.saltwaterchurch.org/uugg](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/uugg) or contact Aaron Sperry at (757) 339-3632 or [decksnipe@gmail.com](mailto:decksnipe@gmail.com).

## **Aging with Spirit**



Aging with Spirit will meet on the third Sunday, December 21, (Change of date due Christmas season). Subject: completing the book "*Being Mortal*".



# Saltwater Church Spirit Singers

By Susan Aigner, Spirit Singers Coordinator

Several years ago, we started a special choir here at Saltwater called the “Spirit Singers.” We sing for those in our community who can no longer attend church...people near the end of their lives, those in nursing homes, etc. We are about twenty people strong, with a small group of four to six singing for each event. Our songs are simple ones, appropriate for a bedside. We sing without accompaniment, and usually in unison. Sometimes we take requests from the people we sing for, and sometimes we choose pieces from our hymnals.

I want to remind everyone that we are here, and to tell newcomers who don't know about us. We, the singers, have found this service to be rewarding, and the recipients of our music and their families have been very pleased.

If you are interested in joining the Spirit Singers, or know someone who would benefit from our music, please contact Susan Aigner at (253) 569-8156 or [susanaigner@comcast.net](mailto:susanaigner@comcast.net).

## Welcome New Members



**Lauren Crowder** became a member of Saltwater Church in October. Lauren grew up in Issaquah, Washington and currently lives in Kent. Lauren married Brian in 2011 and they have been visitors at the church for three years. Lauren works as a quality assurance technician in the food industry. Brian works in the landscape division of the Bellevue School District, where his teenage daughter goes to school. They love traveling, trying out new restaurants, and supporting the Seattle Seahawks. Go Hawks! Lauren enjoys hiking and is an avid knitter. She is a regular participant in Creative Hands. Lauren is also passionate about the environment and climate change.



**Nicole Hansen** became a member of Saltwater Church in October. Nicole was born in Auburn and grew up in Des Moines. She is a graduate of the University of Washington with a BS degree in Mathematics. After serving for six years in the U.S. Navy she returned to Kent. Nicole then graduated from the Art Institute of Seattle with an AA degree in Music Business and married shortly thereafter. She has two children. After a divorce, she lived in Bellevue and Issaquah and attended East Shore Unitarian Church. Nicole is presently working in Renton for the freight railroads on PTC and has relocated to Kent. She is now growing roots in the closest UU church in the area, Saltwater Church. She is an avid hiker and is interested in music (voice, jazz/gospel piano, jazz composition and arranging, song writing and music education). Nicole has shared her love of music with us at Saltwater Church by joining the choir and playing the piano during some of our worship services.



**Leanne LaFramboise** became a member of Saltwater Church in October. She has lived in Seattle for twenty years, mostly in Kirkland. Prior to Seattle, she lived in Connecticut, California, and Tri Cities. She came to South King County to live and work and to raise her adorable son, Leo, with her friends. She lives with Katie and Melinda Einander. She wanted to live in a socially and economically diverse area rather than the Eastside where they were. She joined Saltwater Church because she shares the value of social justice and is looking for a caring community to raise her son. Leanne is a teacher who volunteers her time in the Lighthouse and looks forward to continuing to share her gifts working with our young people.

## Are You Interested in Becoming a Church Member?

Visit [www.saltwaterchurch.org/membership](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/membership) to find out more about the meaning of membership as well as online membership forms.

## Among Ourselves

We hold in our heart Mayda Taney, whose brother Michael, died on November 14.

## Our Caring and Lay Ministry Teams

Both the Caring Team and the Lay Ministry Team at Saltwater Church help members of our community during difficulty, transition, and crisis. Members of the **Caring Team** can sometimes help with some of the following tasks: Bringing meals, providing emergency babysitting, providing respite care, providing transportation to medical appointments, buying/delivering groceries or other needed items, and meeting other specific, short-term needs. To contact the Caring Team, contact Denise Yanega at (253) 838-7479 or at [denise@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:denise@saltwaterchurch.org) .

Sometimes during a time of difficulty, what a person needs most is someone to talk to. Members of the **Lay Ministry Team** can provide an ear to listen, a heart to care, and a hand to hold. They are also available to visit hospitalized or homebound individuals. You can contact any one of the lay ministers below:

- **Debra Valpey** (206) 243-5566 or [debra@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:debra@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Denise Yanega** (253) 838-7479 or [denise@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:denise@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Peggy O'Connor** (253) 839-1432 or [peggy@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:peggy@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Mike Yanega** (253) 838-7479 or [mike@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:mike@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Phil Dindia** (253) 941-1106 or [phil@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:phil@saltwaterchurch.org)
- **Lynn Crow** (253) 941-0860 or [lynn@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:lynn@saltwaterchurch.org).



# *Our Serving Community*

## **Help Make a Child Shine Bright This Holiday Season!**

By Silvia McClung



Each year Saltwater Church reaches out to Mark Twain Elementary School students and their siblings and helps make their Christmas special. We provide presents for children to open on Christmas morning and let them know people in their community truly care about them and their families. We set up a tree in our Welcoming Room, and decorate it with gift tags for items requested by the children's parents.

The Giving Tree is now available in the Welcoming Room. More information about the program and

about the uniform requirements for Mark Twain is next to the tree.

Here are some important dates to remember:

- Now: Take a star or more than one star from the Giving Tree.
- Sunday, December 6: If you choose to give cash and let someone else do the shopping we need the money by Sunday, December 6. Please give your checks to Silvia McClung, made out to Saltwater Church with "Giving Tree" in the memo line.
- Thursday, December 10: We need the unwrapped presents brought to church by Thursday, December 10.
- Sunday, December 13: Our annual "Wrapping Party" is on Sunday, December 13, at 1 p.m. (after our church meeting).

We will deliver the presents to Mark Twain in time for them to be given to the families before the Winter Break. For more information, contact Silvia McClung, Giving Tree Coordinator at [\(253\)-927-2127](tel:2539272127) or [jeffandsilvia@comcast.net](mailto:jeffandsilvia@comcast.net) .

# Hospitality House News

by Sherry Edwards, Hospitality House Meal Coordinator



Saltwater Church is one of twelve churches in the Burien/Des Moines area that support Hospitality House—through donations, involvement with fundraisers, and providing evening meals. Hospitality House is one of two shelters in South King County for homeless women. It is a temporary residence where women can find respite while they work on resumes, improve work and life skills to be able to live on their own, and connect with others socially.

In September, Saltwater Church provided evening meals for a week to the women of Hospitality House. Special thanks goes to Lisa and Owen Key, Phil and Gean Dindia, Sue Eckersley, Carol Sandoval, Kathy Linnell, Lucia Faithfull, and Nancy Corr. They served lasagna, minestrone soup, chili, baked Cornish game hens, and tuna noodle casserole—and many delicious side dishes to accompany the main entrees. As always, Saltwater Church received high praise for the meals provided.

The next opportunity to serve meals to Hospitality House is the week of *December 29, 2015 to January 3, 2016*. Follow these steps to sign up to bring a meal:

- Go directly to <http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/hospitalityhouse> .
- There you will find the form to fill in your name and contact information, as well as what you are bringing. Please be specific as to what your entrée is so other volunteers can bring a variety of main course and side dishes.
- On the sign-up sheet page, there is also a *link* for more detailed information that tells hours of operation, how to sign in, how to set up your meal at the site, and more.

For more information, please contact Kathy Linnell, at (206) 241-0870, or [kellinnell@comcast.net](mailto:kellinnell@comcast.net).



**Sherry Edwards, left, and Diane Dobrowolski, share smiles in the Saltwater Church kitchen.**

## Hurray for Sherry Edwards!

For more than six years, Sherry Edwards has served very ably as Saltwater Church's Hospitality House Meal Coordinator, coordinating church volunteers to bring well over 100 meals to the homeless women Hospitality House serves. Sherry's efforts have made a difference in the lives of some of the least fortunate and most vulnerable members of our community and made a difference in the lives of Saltwater Church members as well. Volunteering feels good and Sherry helped make that volunteering possible. Because of her workload of being a public school teacher, Sherry is stepping down from her position as meal coordinator, but she does so with the sincere thanks of all of us.

## Sound Alliance Victories

By Phil Dindia, Co-lead of Sound Alliance Team



**Saltwater Church members and other members of the Federal Way Day Shelter Coalition pose with Federal Way City Council members after the council approved \$100,000 in funding for the day shelter at an October council meeting.**

By the time you read this, you will have learned that the Best Starts for Kids Levy was approved by King County voters, winning by a margin of 50,000 votes.

During the last three months our Saltwater Church Sound Alliance team has briefed and personally contacted over a thousand persons. In the last two weeks before the election, we wove signs at schools and street corners and knocked on doors in our neighborhoods. We were encouraged when we began to receive colorful mailers not only from the campaign center but also from other children's advocacy groups appealing for a yes vote on that levy. And then during the last week before the election we learned of the reach out by our labor unions and teachers associations to their thousands of members. Suddenly we felt the power of being a part of a larger movement, joined with a whole network of community activists, and felt that we might just win. AND WE DID! We not only felt that we were fulfilling our Saltwater Church mission, but our personal need to make the world a better place for the most vulnerable of our kids. We remain committed to stay alert to assure that South King County receives its fair share of that money.

For the many members of our congregation who joined with our partners for the Day Shelter Assembly at St. Vincent's and the Federal Way Council meeting of October 20, you learned of our victory of receiving \$100,000 over two years from the Federal Way Council. Since those events. That campaign has received over \$12,000 in private donations.

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The overall effect of that work has encouraged all of our partners to believe that the Day Shelter for the homeless will open early next year. It has been a great ending for a year of hard work. So a high five-- a fist bump-- and hugs-- to all.

Finally a quick look at next year. We are planning a congregational get together on January 31. **SAVE THAT DATE!** We will meet after the service that day – we will feed your body as you search your soul. This will be organized differently than our last listening session. Guidelines and details will be given to you a few weeks before the event.

## *Family Ministries*

### **Family Ministries Calendar for December**

Dec 6	Children and youth meet in classrooms
Dec 6	High School Youth Group 12-2:30 p.m.
Dec 7	Family Ministries Team meeting 6:30-8:30
Dec 13	Children and youth meet in classrooms
Dec 13	Congregation meeting (childcare is available)
Dec 13	Parent Class “Roots and Wings” 3:30-5/30 p.m.
Dec 20	Intergenerational Worship (all ages meet in the sanctuary)
Dec 20	Potluck lunch at noon
Dec 20	High School Youth Group 12-2:30 p.m.
Dec 24	Family Christmas Eve worship service at 4 p.m.
Dec 26	Youth group holiday party 6-9 p.m.
Dec 27	Village Class (all ages meet in the Community Room)

### **Roots and Wings: Unitarian Universalist Parenting**

Many parents struggle with the tension between wanting to protect and shelter our children, and wanting to help them develop the skills they need to become happy, capable adults. "Roots and Wings: Unitarian Universalist Parenting in the Millennium" addresses important child-rearing issues faced by contemporary families. This class is intended for parents with children ages 0-10. We will meet monthly on the 2nd Sunday from 4-6 p.m. Childcare is available upon request.

Sign up online at: <http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/node/3213> or call the church office to register. For more information, contact Melinda Einander, Director of Family Ministries.

## **Youth Group Holiday Party**

Youth in grades 6-9 are invited to celebrate together with a white elephant gift exchange and potluck, Saturday December 26, from 6-9 p.m.

### *Church Life*

#### **Stay or Go Information Session**

by Lisa Key, Board Vice President

Six months ago our newly formed “Stay or Go Evaluation Task Force” started working together to determine if our congregation should stay at our current location or move to another location. This task force started as part of our five-year Long Range Plan to help us decide how to best live out our mission and vision.

On Sunday, December 13, 12-1 p.m., the Board invites you to an information session by the Stay or Go Evaluation Task Force, where they will report on the status of their research thus far. A light snack will be provided. Childcare has been requested, but please notify [melinda@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:melinda@saltwaterchurch.org) if your child or children will be there. We welcome you to view all the Stay or Go documents posted on [saltwaterchurch.org](http://saltwaterchurch.org) at [www.saltwaterchurch.org/teamdocuments](http://www.saltwaterchurch.org/teamdocuments) and bring any questions to the information session.

Through the hard work of this team's research, it became apparent in October that their budget was insufficient. They approached the Board, and were granted an increase in their budget by \$8,200, for a total of \$15,000, which is shared with the Parking Task Force. This will allow them to get the professional property evaluations necessary for the congregation to make a decision. More detailed information on this will be presented at the December 13 information session.

#### **Art Talk**

by Debra Valpey

I hope you are enjoying our Art Wall in the Welcoming Room. Please remember that most items are for sale, and 25% of the selling price goes to our church. If you would like to purchase an art object from our Art Wall, please contact me to arrange such.

We will be featuring our own Mayda Taney in December. Her exhibit will include samples of her Soul Collage (for which she is offering a workshop to the community here at Saltwater on January 2) and it will also include additional examples of her amazing and eclectic work. Mayda is an art therapist and she really knows how to help us get in touch with our inner selves. In January we will be featuring the work of our own Nancy Bogni, artist extraordinaire. Many, if not all, of her items will be available for purchase.

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If you would like to have your work included in our February show, please contact me to make arrangements. Preference will be given to folks who have not yet had their work exhibited since the fall. All items for display must be two dimensional (unless we can make special arrangements for three dimensional work), and be original work of the artist who is a member or regular visitor/friend of saltwater or a member of their families.

It is truly amazing to me the creative talent that is yet to be revealed among our congregation, family, and friends.

For more information, contact me, Debra Valpey, at (206) 243-5566 or [debravalpey@comcast.net](mailto:debravalpey@comcast.net).

## **The Saltwater Endowment Fund**

By Suzanne Laurel, Stewardship Team member

Did you know Saltwater Church has an Endowment Fund? It does! With a balance of over \$125,000, it earns investment income that helps ensure our financial stability for the next generation of Unitarian Universalists. A third of the annual growth is available to our Board to use for special projects or emergency expenses each year. Where did this money come from? From members and friends of Saltwater Church, like you! Individuals have named Saltwater Church in their will or as a beneficiary of their life insurance. Others have answered a matching grant challenge. Some have donated in memoriam of members or in honor of a personal life event.

This is the time of year the Stewardship Team would like you to think about the Endowment Fund as a giving opportunity for your family. Do you wish to be remembered for a bequest that ensures our Unitarian Universalist values survive and our community thrives in the years to come? When you review your will or your life insurance policy this year, mention Saltwater Church in it. Did you have a life event this year you wish to highlight through a donation to the future of our church and its mission? Please think of the Endowment Fund.

Have you received an inheritance you would like to share in a spiritually meaningful memoriam? We can help with that! Are you looking for a worthy charity to give a tax deductible donation before January 1, 2016? The Saltwater Endowment Fund is here for you!

The Saltwater Church Stewardship Team wishes to inspire us all to give in meaningful ways and foster a sense of spiritual generosity year round. We will be highlighting other ways we minister to each other and strengthen our community through giving in the months to come. In November, think about the Saltwater Church Endowment Fund and ASK a member of the Finance or Stewardship Team if you have questions about it.



# Financial Snapshot

By Gaye Greeves, Church Treasurer

## For September 2015...

	Month	Year to Date
Budgeted Income	\$ 21,903	\$ 93,032
Actual Income	24,102	102,438
Actual/Budgeted Income	110%	110%
Budgeted Expenses	\$ 28,689	\$ 85,085
Actual Expenses	24,997	80,014
Actual/Budgeted Expenses	87%	94%
Actual Income/Actual Expenses	96%	128%
Actual Income less Actual Expenses	\$ (895)	\$ 22,425

Income for September was higher than budgeted due to some Auction income received. Expenses were less than budgeted but not due to any specific underspending. For the year to date, income continues ahead of budgeted and significantly ahead of expenses for year to date. This gives us a good cash position but both will come closer to budget as the year goes on.

## Financial Feedback Wanted

The Stewardship Team has been asked by the Board increase awareness of church finances in the coming years. The "Financial Snapshot" above is one effort to make that happen. We would very much appreciate your feedback on including the "snapshot" in the newsletter.

- Is it enough information?
- Too much information?
- Would you prefer to receive it in the email announcements, see it on our church website, or printed and available in the Sunday Order of Service?

We want to hear from you, and your ideas for educating ourselves about church finances.

Please contact Jean Spohn, Suzanne Laurel, Patrick Finney, or Saphronia Young. You can also email us at [stewardship@saltwaterchurch.org](mailto:stewardship@saltwaterchurch.org).

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