



A History of Jefferson Unitarian Church

1959 to 2009

Jefferson Unitarian Church
14350 W. 32th Avenue
Golden, Colorado 80401

The First 25 Years section (1959-1984) of this booklet was written by
Dick Prouty in 1984 for JUC's 25th anniversary.

Illustrations were by Judy Robeck.

Dick Prouty joined JUC in 1974 along with his wife CJ and was a very involved member until his death in 2006. He had been a reporter for the Denver Post known for initiating environmental coverage long before it was fashionable.



The Second 25 Years (1985-2009) was written by Dee Ray with
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The 50th Anniversary logo was designed by Jim Miller.

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Part 1: The First 25 Years

Introduction: Harry & Russell Burns, Founders

Jefferson Unitarian Church was founded in 1959. Twenty-five years later, Dick Prouty wrote the following on the occasion of the dedication of JUC's patio, dubbed the Burns Memorial Garden, to the founding parents.

Henry Robert Burns was born on September 21, 1893, in Ireland. He and his parents emigrated in 1900, landing on American shores on the day, May 1, that his future wife, Ada Russell Martin, was born in Parkersburg, West Virginia.

Harry went to the University of Cincinnati and in the course of time (interrupted by a stint in the armed forces during World War I), became an electrical engineer.

Russell (who was *never* called "Ada") was a talented violinist, and at 17, went to Cincinnati to study violin under the Concertmeister of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra.

They were introduced to each other by an engineering student (who later married Russell's sister) and were married in early 1923. They had two children, Betty (now Mrs. Robert Russell) and Martin.

In the late 1930s, Harry and Russell discovered Unitarianism and both became deeply immersed in it on the local church and regional levels. Harry, at various times, served the Cincinnati church as chairman of the board and chairman of the building committee; he was a leader at the Lake Geneva Summer Conference; and founder and first chairman of the Rocky Mountain Summer Assembly which was first held at Estes Park and later at La Foret.

Russell was equally active. She held national offices in the General Alliance, and served two terms on the American Unitarian Association Board (which became the UUA when the Unitarian and Universalist denominations merged.)

Harry and Russell moved to Colorado in 1956 and were active in the First Unitarian Church of Denver. By 1959, it was clear that enough members of that church lived in Jefferson County to make it feasible to begin a fellowship.

The first meeting was held at the Burns home. Of course, they didn't stop there. Between them, Harry and Russell must have held practically every office the fellowship had to offer. Russell was the third president, at a time when she was still serving on the AUA board. When she was membership chairman, she would sit at the back of the church, diligently memorizing the names and appearances of visitors so that she could greet them as friends the second time around. Harry often filled the

pulpit, and did a spectacularly good job of it.

The mimeograph machine lived at their house, and they helped crank out newsletters, orders of service, bylaws. They helped with music, fund raising, social events, site procurement—if anything needed to be done, they helped do it. They wrote the statement of purpose and hammered out the bylaws.

Most of all, they inspired the rest of us—sometimes by example, sometimes by gentle prodding. Everybody doubled in brass in the early fellowship days, but it was almost impossible to convince yourself that you were too busy to take on another chore when you realized how much Harry and Russell were doing, or when they pointed out that you had the unique talent needed for a particular job.

We wouldn't be here today if it weren't for them. They were not the only founders of the fellowship which has become Jefferson Unitarian Church, but they were indispensable ones. They didn't just give us a push in the right direction and stop there; they were both very active members of the church until ill health forced them to move to a retirement home. Harry died in 1974; Russell in 1982.

Those who knew them are the richer for it.

It is fitting that the patio and garden at JUC be dedicated in their memory. May we follow in their footsteps.

Jefferson Unitarian Fellowship

Three characteristics highlight the commemoration of the silver anniversary of Jefferson Unitarian Church.

First is the enormous change time has wrought in our community, the pace of daily life and the myriad facets of the environment--natural, social, political and spiritual.

Jefferson County was predominantly rural and its population in 1959 of 125,000 was a tenth of that today. There was no Interstate 70, the Adolph Coors plant was a fraction of its present size and the Applewood subdivisions were mostly plans. It wasn't until the Denver Water Board lifted its suburb development stopping "blue line" in 1960 that Jeffco began to boom.

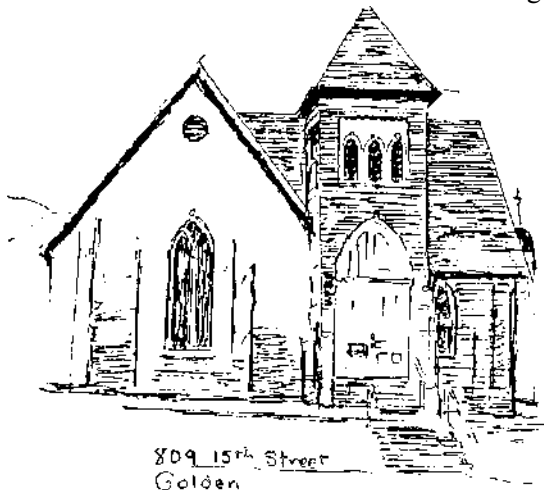
The second characteristic is the Unitarian philosophy. A draft of the Jefferson Unitarian Fellowship bylaws stated:

Basing our membership on no creedal test, but wishing to stimulate honest, reverent thought; encourage the spirit of love, promote social progress; and strengthen our allegiance to truth, morality and religion as exemplified by the purest lives of humanity and interpreted by the advancing thought of our age, we unite in support of the good, the true and the beautiful, and for service to mankind.

Those goals, objectives and purposes remain at the heart of Jefferson Unitarian Church a quarter of a century later.

A third aspect of JUC is the volunteers. There have been hundreds of them and because of their dedicated work, vision and spirit Jefferson Unitarian Church exists today.

The origins of JUC were part of the dynamics of a young, growing metropolitan area in 1958-59. Some 80 Jefferson County families interested in Unitarianism had been identified by the First Unitarian Society as it sought to expand interest in the religion beyond the First Unitarian Church in Denver.



1959 Harry and Russell Burns invited persons interested in forming a neighborhood Unitarian fellowship in Jefferson County to their home on Skyline Drive on February 22, 1959. Thirty persons attended, including Rev. Richard Henry of the "downtown church."

After a series of meetings with the encouragement and support of Denver Unitarians, the Jefferson Unitarian Fellowship was organized on May 17 at the Lakewood home of Barbara and Derald Whiting. Charles Frush was elected chairman; Victor Siverts, secretary; Howard Matthai, treasurer; Tim Armstrong, program chair; Edith Mulhollen, religious education chair. The American Unitarian Association was petitioned to recognize the group and the fellowship charter was issued May 27.

In June, William and Miriam Marshall hosted the first JUF picnic at their Evergreen home. By October the vacant First Presbyterian Church of Golden at 15th and Washington Streets had been rented for \$120 a month and another first was in progress: clean-up day. The first Sunday service was held October 11.

Having its own home was heady medicine at a time when a MacDonald's hamburger was 15 cents and fries a dime. Though the aging building was in need of extensive repairs and furnishing, donated items, including surplus furniture from First Unitarian, took the starkness out of the complex that now is the Foothills Art Center.

Among the founding members were:

Harry and Russell Burns	Mr. & Mrs. V.H. Lindenberg
Rena Loopstra	Mr. & Mrs. Frank J. Froebe
Tim Armstrong	William & Miriam Marshall
Nathan & Gloria Kobey	Mr. & Mrs. Farrell Branson
James & Sally Taylor	Barbara & Howard Matthai
Jacqueline F. Walker	Patricia & Forrest Wilcox
Victor & Betty Siverts	Jeanne & Harney Peterson
Nathan Gordon	Edith & Ralph Mulhollen
Charles & Georgia Frush	

In December a special fellowship meeting was held to approve four pages of bylaws. Naturally, there were changes and final bylaws approval occurred in January, 1960.

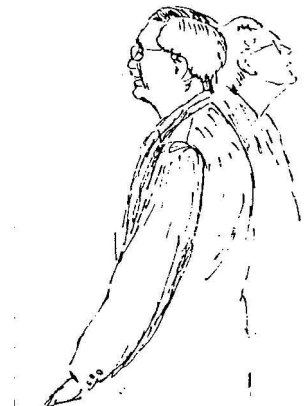
At the December meeting a pledge drive yielded \$ 3,300 for a proposed 1960 budget of \$ 4,005, of which \$1440 was rent. New members and Sunday service collections hopefully would make up the deficit of a \$2,545 operating budget.

1960 The vitality of the founding year carried into 1960 as the Denver Water Board lifted its "blue line" ban on water service to the suburbs. Construction of homes, roads, schools boomed. A Liberal Religious Youth Group was formed under the direction of Edith Mulhollen and Ronald Walker.

The water and sewer lines at the church froze. A second hand electric organ was purchased for less than \$400. Harry and Russell Burns donated a grand piano. Clara Bain took over the secretarial chores.

The prospect of a 50% increase in the budget came with an inquiry from First Unitarian about co-sponsoring a student ministerial intern. Sunday services were prepared by JUF members and guest speakers, many of them visiting Unitarian ministers.

In March, Ralph Mulhollen was elected president and Russell Burns vice president of JUF.



The membership was 42 and about 65 youngsters were in Sunday school. The budget escalated to nearly \$5,000 including monthly provisions of \$5 for insurance \$35 for utilities.

In July the Mulhollens moved to Grand Rapids, Michigan, and Russell Burns loving and capable hands took over the reins of the JUF.

By September, 1960, JUF had a mimeographed newsletter edited by Pat Wilcox. Dick Nash, part time ministerial intern from Meadville Theological School, Chicago, was welcomed, as the *Jefferson Sentinel* reported:

"A Jefferson County Church which prides itself on being unique threw a gala party last Saturday night to welcome its new minister. The event honoring 25-year-old Richard Nash was held at the Applewood home of the Nathan Kobeys."

The article mentioned it wasn't a tea and cookies function as there was plenty of beer on hand. The spiritual character of JUF wasn't limited to the fourth dimension. JUF was formally incorporated September 28, 1960.

Sunday sermons were reviewed in the newsletter and the possibility of purchasing the church from the Presbyterians was a topic of the fall congregational meeting. Appearing simultaneously in the newsletter with an article on borrowing \$30,000 at 5 to 5 1/2% interest was a plea for MorValu trading stamps to acquire tables and chairs.

Another newsletter item: "Mesdames Ussery, Loopstra, and Steele will pour coffee Sunday ... if they can find enough cups. Spare china anyone?" Three weeks later : "WE NEED MORE CUPS & SAUCERS." A few weeks later gifts of cups and saucers were duly acknowledged.

By October 28 when cooks assembled by Russell Burns readied a turkey dinner for the fellowship meeting, \$400 of \$2,000 needed for down payment to buy the church building was on deposit. The program committee persuaded Congressman Byron Johnson and Peter Dominick to relate their aspirations to be U.S. Senator.

Buying the church meant monthly payments of \$325 would more than double the church budget. By November there was \$1,893 in the building fund, 55 "small fry" in church school, a United Nations potluck had been a success and the bank had raised the down payment to \$ 3,000. Some JUF members were having second thoughts too.

By the end of the year the building fund reached \$1,955, children were urged to bring nickels for Blankets for Algeria, the use of the flaming chalice symbol was being discussed and Circle Suppers had been organized. The largest attendance of the year, 65, was on hand for the Christmas service.

1961 The inauguration of John F. Kennedy as 35th president found JUF with 81 members and 90 children in church school.

And JUF was asking itself: Where is this fellowship headed? What are we striving for? What do we want from this fellowship?

Is it merely the companionship of free thinkers that brings us together? Is it because we are all searching for a basic philosophy of life based on truth, reason and understanding that is adequate for modern times? Are we looking for the type of religious education for our children that is consistent with modern knowledge and child psychology; with developing open minds and disciplined thought and with a liberal religious approach to liberal and moral values?

In March the idea of buying the church was abandoned. The dream in its place was to build a new \$100,000 church. Also, did JUF want to call a minister at a minimum of \$8,000 a year or hire a religious education coordinator for between \$1,500 and \$2,000 annually?

A committee was designated to find centrally located property of not less than 2 acres for not more than \$ 8, 000. In September three acres were approved for purchase at W. 34th Ave. and Simms St. The price: \$12,880.

A mimeograph was obtained from the UU church in Colorado Springs. A mailing permit cut postage from 3 cents to 1.5 cents per newsletter. Civil liberties were an increasing concern of the fellowship.

In March, 1961, Dr. Franklyn Newmark was elected president. Gene and Martha Holder were in charge of the church school.

The membership continued to grow and the newsletter mailing reached 215 families. The Sentinel noted potatoes were \$2.69/100 pounds and Lakewood residents voted to remain unincorporated. Fran Newmark set up the bookshop and Jackie Walker spearheaded the first art show.

By the end of 1961 Dr. Newmark observed:

"Our fellowship has made itself felt in the community through the actions of its members in various civic activities. There is no major project in Jefferson County that lacks a member of our group in its inner council. This is a traditional Unitarian situation... that we influence our community far out of proportion to our numbers. We have conducted an art show and a monthly forum to which the public has been invited and we have contributed to the fight against segregation by our financial support of the Unitarian church in New Orleans."

There were also many concerns: lack of continuity, a shortage of RE teachers and the difficulty of developing a program for teenagers.

Pledges increased in number as did the level of individual pledge.

A series of neighborhood meetings to discuss religious philosophy and Unitarianism was deemed more successful than similar efforts at the church. There was little interest in denominational affairs, although there were numerous contacts with local and regional UU groups.

In 1962 Sunday services usually included the 1962 *Hymn of Aspiration*:

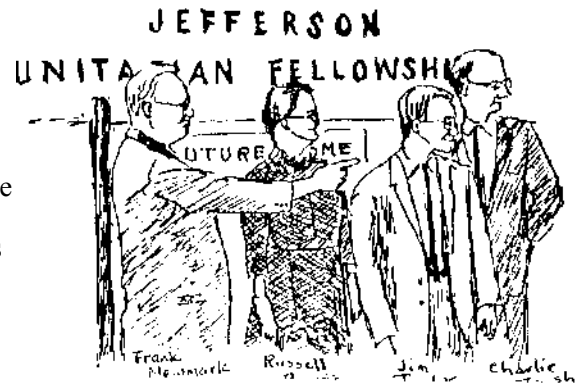
1962

*From all that dwell below the skies
Let faith and hope with love arise
Let beauty, truth and good be sung
Through every land by every tongue.*

In February the church directory listed more than 200 members and friends as Lutheran Sanitarium, founded in 1908 on West 38th Avenue, became Lutheran Medical Center. The community envisioned by the fellowship was indeed in progress.

Despite a disappointing fund drive that netted only \$10,000 of the \$17,000 building fund goal, the Simms Street property was purchased. Several members made unsecured loans to the fellowship to buy the land. On May 27 JUF's president for the 1962-63 year, Dr. James W. Taylor, led land dedication ceremonies, saying, in part:

Today's ceremony is really a public symbol of the fact that our members have dedicated themselves to the continuation and expansion of our Fellowship. We recognize the benefits of working together in the process of learning about religion



and we accept our community responsibility of providing a home and welcome to those who cannot, in honesty to themselves, accept the theological beliefs of other churches. Let us provide an environment in which each of us can engage in the on-going process of development of our own understanding of religion and ethics and learn to apply these principles in everyday practice.

History reveals man's progress in understanding himself and his environment. All religions have attempted to explain man's purpose, place and obligations. We cannot confine ourselves to beliefs of the past, although we respect these insights within the context of the time. The faith by which we live is subject to change and growth as we develop personally, widen our knowledge and experience, and deepen our understanding. Such a religion is subject to revision in the light of new knowledge and experience of what is true.

The church was Planned Parenthood headquarters and the news letter edited by Jeanne Peterson observed: "Our hymn singing could be upgraded. Anyone who'd like to run through them before service and guide the rest of us, get in touch with Deborah Voss."

A committee to change the name of the church was busy getting opinions. There was concern about religion getting mixed up in the congressional campaign as reflected in a sermon: "The Right Not to Believe."

Summer and early fall featured many meetings including plans to welcome Rev. Grant Butler as interim minister for October, November and December. Rev. Butler's October 21 sermon was *Open Frontiers and Closed Minds*.

The second annual art show was held, two Great Decisions groups were meeting in homes and a proposed \$18,360 budget for 1963 was okayed. Plate collections accounted for 12% of income; pledges 87%, church school 1%.

1963 In January, 1963, Frank Newmark headed a pulpit committee charged with finding a minister. A questionnaire on what the membership wanted in a minister was circulated with the usual conflicting preferences being received.

In February the articles of incorporation were amended to: **Jefferson Unitarian Church.**

Change prevailed in the community. Villa Italia Shopping Center plans were announced and the red brick county courthouse' built in 1878 across the street from the church was razed, bringing to an end its final years as sheriff's office and jail.

Reverend C. Leon Hopper

On May 26, after a week of teas, potlucks, orientations and meetings, Rev. C. Leon Hopper, Jr. was called by a vote 69 to 5. The calling of Leon at a salary and benefits totaling \$8,500 a year sparked all kinds of activity from renewed fixing of the ever-fixable church to pleas for pledges. A native of Seattle and graduate of the University of Washington and Harvard Theological School, Leon came to JUC after six years as executive director of the Unitarian Liberal Religious Youth in Boston.

Unrecognized in chronicles of the time was a special bonus: Dorothy Hopper, who was to prove a tireless catalyst in a whole range of JUC and community functions, and the Hopper children, Sheri, Rachel and Chuck. Leon got things off to a rousing start with an emergency appendectomy as "we looked forward to our first year as a bona fide church with a full-time minister of our own," Harry Burns wrote in his history of JUC.



Sermon topics in 1963 included: *Human Rights are Indivisible*, *Reforming the Reformers*, *The Conquest of Christmas*, and *World Out of Touch*.

Although Leon officially began work September 1, his installation was October 20 with Rev. Dick Henry, JUC president Tim Armstrong and several community and UUA dignitaries participating.

The November 22 assassination of President Kennedy stunned JUC and accentuated the spiritual strength to be found in ministering to each other.

1964 The coming of Leon and Dorothy, who immediately opened their home to church and community, sparked increased church attendance and the sometimes crowded conditions progressed to overcrowded, especially for RE. The enthusiasm at JUC was reinforcing the vision of its own church at the Simms Street site. Two Sunday services to serve the growing membership were being considered.

Before the year was out a Long Range Planning Committee had been assembled to examine JUC and identify goals and a direction for the church.

Despite a budget of \$25,240, there wasn't enough money for ambitious committee and program chairmen. RE teacher, Trudy Hutchinson, called for Gold Bond and Frontier trading stamps, Red Stamps, and Green Stamps "to relieve the pressure on the budget." She noted 19,818 "points" donated for basic furnishings and supplies.

The faulty furnace was repaired so all rooms could be heated; fire extinguishers were acquired, rooms were painted and children from the second grade up were welcomed to the first 15 minutes of the adult Sunday service. Sunday service attendance was in the 70s on the average while 219 young'uns were off and on in church school.

The Adult Forum series was a hit with a series of discussions on *Family and Life* that featured guest speakers and good attendance.

In May the Long Range Planning Committee, consisting of past presidents and Leon, reported its findings. The report had three major points: provide programs to strengthen the interpersonal relationships of members; define the duties of the building committee; provide more support to the religious education program.

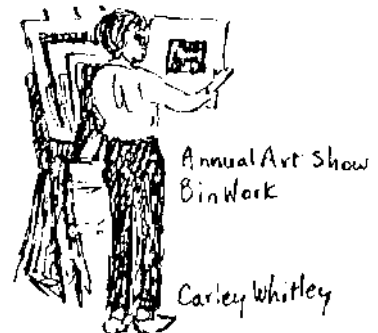
It was the first time JUC had been scrutinized in a businesslike way and the former presidents pulled no punches in calling the shots as they saw them. More than 20 subjects for further study or direct action were recommended.

The committee's report revealed: membership from 1959 to February 1964 had grown from 28 to 205. It was projected to 585 by 1980. The 500-member mark was designated the maximum desirable size for JUC.

The average member's income was \$8,800. The average pledge was \$224 a year. Two Sunday services should be held. "New buildings should be erected as soon as possible" as the church school was renting space in two houses and the auditorium's 80 person capacity was often too small. The report was to become a model for future leaders of JUC.

The annual juried art show continued to grow in participation, public interest and stature. JUC was pioneering community interest in sculpture, painting, ceramics and pottery, hangings and other art forms. The Denver area then had few galleries and limited art awareness so JUC's support attracted many fine artists.

In October JUC president Harney Peterson announced the annual canvass would open with a fellowship dinner at the Aviation Club. The JUC players staged *That Was The Year That Was* and the \$28,000 drive was underway. The result was 132 pledges totaling \$25,653.



It was decided to build a new church beginning in August, 1966, and a professional fund raiser would be retained. Layoffs at the Martin Company affected the membership and pledging was down, although JUC was still in the black.

1965 A new Yamaha grand piano arrived with the new year and Juanita Kinney became executive secretary to Leon and JUC. Helen Hayes volunteered as pledge secretary. Leon was on the Jefferson County Human Relations Council (and later its chairman). He became chairman of the UUA Rocky Mountain Area Conference and was involved in nearly every church activity, as was Dorothy. They were bringing the community to JUC and JUC to the community.

At the annual spring meeting Robert Barnes was elected president.

The push was on to design and build a church on the Simms Street land. Architects were interviewed. Guest ministers told of their experiences in building a new church. Harry Burns headed the building fund canvass with a goal of \$71,000 for the building fund and \$18,531 to operate the church. At one point Leon expressed concern the church might become so wrapped up in the building program that it was diverting attention from the real task and purpose of JUC.

It was the time of civil rights and awareness of the contributions and values of the Negro in America. The religious education program had children visiting other churches and associating with youngsters of racial, ethnic and religious backgrounds other than their own. The Good Shepherd Baptist Church in Denver opened its doors to us. At JUC, its pulpit and seminar meetings were hosting Negro speakers. It was an activity that many in Jefferson County did not appreciate. Elsewhere in the country there was violence as Martin Luther King and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference spoke out in non-violent crusades for full citizenship for Negro men and women. Nationally, UUA also was at the fore of civil rights involvement.

That summer Leon took two weeks of his vacation to go to Selma, Alabama, the scene of murder and terror by white men as Negroes sought to extend their civil rights to the voting booth. He told us of a segregated world harsh, brutal and isolating.

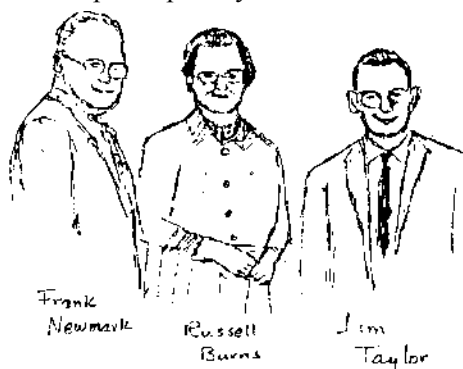
The architectural firm of Rogers & Nagle was retained and directed to draw plans for a facility not to exceed \$250,000 for a final decision in 1966.

Glen Luchau took over as superintendent of the church school. The Women's Alliance was organized in October. *Politics in the Pulpit* was the service of October 31. Monthly art shows continued and included a "Bring Your Own" show for members' works. Priscilla Patton reported more than 500 books sold and Circle Suppers continued to be popular.

The Christmas Vesper Service had a disappointingly small attendance, but the church school average attendance was 92, including nine in the nursery.

1966 The JUC newsletter was being published every second week and had circulation of 330.

Editor Charlotte Peterson reported, "the delivery bottleneck has been cleared up...hopefully."



In March the choir disbanded and the Simms Street land was surveyed. Expectations for the new church indicated 500 members would be needed to support it. "We can't afford it all, but we might be able to build a 200 seat auditorium, RE space for 160 children and a minister's study big enough for Leon, a secretary and the mimeograph machine," Janet Simmons, chair of the building committee noted.

Soon it became clear that JUC couldn't afford to build a church large enough to meet its needs. It was a disappointing reality to many. The need for

larger quarters didn't vanish.

In the spring Alex Cattanach was elected president.

Seminars included *The Bible, History of Unitarianism, Investments, Viet Nam, Contemporary Social Problems* and *Taking a Critical Look at History*.

The Luchaus, Glen and Ruth, were running the RE program like a private school with great support, creativity and professionalism.

1967 Sunday morning forums were initiated on a wide range of topics from religious faith to the VietNam dilemma and local issues. The forums were at 9:30 a.m. before the service.

The ministerial advisory committee got rolling to keep channels of communication open between minister and congregation and to focus on emerging needs.

In May UUA held its General Assembly at the Denver Hilton. It was the first time it had not been in Boston.

That summer a new tradition began as the board of trustees, committee chairs and minister held a retreat at Waunita Hot Springs. The basic questions included: What is JUC? Where is the church headed? What is JUC's role in the greater community outside itself?

New Home in Applewood

1968 Unexpected dreams were fulfilled and others shattered in 1968. An arrangement was worked out with the United Church of the Applewoods to create a cooperative church campus operated by a committee comprised of representatives of both churches. Integral to the agreement was JUC buying two acres of land and constructing a religious education building behind the UCA church at 14350 W. 32nd Avenue. Ground for the RE building was broken March 3 with appropriate ceremonies. The last congregational meeting at the Golden church on April 2 featured the ever popular JUC players who set the decorum for the evening with Jeanne Peterson's classic song on the formation of the fellowship.

*We are the very essence of the Western Unitarian
We're not a bit dogmatic and we're always nonsectarian
We have among us Theists, Deists, Humanists and other sects
Beliefs the Deist holds most dear, the Humanist, of course rejects.
We're very unpermissive when it comes to collars clerical
Regarding prayer we're skeptical; Communion is unthinkable
Although wine punch at coffee hour we really find quite drinkable
We're very open minded, and we do not have a minister
To hear the same man every week seems somehow rather sinister
We're not a bit dogmatic and we're always nonsectarian
We are the very essence of the Western Unitarian.*

A few days later Martin Luther King was shot and many JUCers wondered: "What is this country coming to?"

June 2, the final Sunday service in Golden, was a time of completion and leave taking. Moving days were set for June 7 and 8, but first Robert Kennedy would be gunned down. Again grief engulfed us.

In a very upbeat note Leon observed, "I see our church with the support of members and friends moving on many fronts—in our children's program, social concerns, personal counseling, establishing a sense of community in a faceless society, encouraging confrontation for personal growth, facilitating the development of

personal credo, providing awareness of contemporary issues enhancing the creative—all in all becoming a vibrant and viable liberal organization."

But for Leon, that wasn't enough. There was a role for JUC in interdenominational affairs and work with black civil rights efforts.

The RE building wasn't ready as scheduled, but classes began anyway on September 29 amidst contractors' tools and supplies. The Mad Finance Committee announced its fall fund drive featuring wooden nickels and on November 17 joint dedication services were held at JUC's new home.

Rev. Paul Alexander, of United Church of the Applewoods, and Leon told the assembled congregations of their respective religious uniquenesses. Bob Drew, JUC president, and Franklin C. Forney, of UCA, pledged the cooperation and respect of their respective memberships.

The dedication was followed by an open house with coffee and tea and a concert by the Westminster Woodwind Quintet.

Meanwhile the Simms Street property was for sale and the newsletter carried a notice: *Wanted: Gold Bond stamps to buy church equipment*. The \$39,000 budget was met with pledges for \$32,000.

The idea of two congregations using the same facilities attracted widespread media attention and public interest. More than 1,000 people visited the campus for the annual art show, a play *In White America* and Sunday services.

1969 JUC had a new home, but the needs were still significant. The parking lot was mud when it rained or the snow melted. Landscaping was pen and ink on paper and the kitchen was jammed if three people tried to get into it at once. Besides, it didn't have a stove. But Leon had an office—at last.

Frank Newmark volunteered to head a Vanguard Committee. Dozens of interviews were conducted with families on what JUC should be, what their feelings toward the church were and how the church could be better. Among the results were the formation of a music festival, marriage seminars, humanism seminars and programs on interpersonal relationships.

A singles group was formed, Leon and Dorothy hosted new member dinners at their home, and the neighborhood groups were organized. The 10th anniversary of the founding of the fellowship was appropriately noted with a wine tasting and potluck dinner.

In June, Wheat Ridge was incorporated. A week later Jefferson City incorporated and by November had changed its name to Lakewood. The school board had a \$5 million budget crisis and citizen meetings were being held on what to do about it. JUC's finance committee recommended charging church school tuition and conducting a special canvass for UUA.

By winter there'd been an all-church family weekend at the Jefferson County Schools Outdoor Laboratory on Bear Creek above Evergreen; the fellowship dinner was held at St. Joseph's Hall in Golden; and the art show was the biggest and best yet with 607 items submitted by 182 artists. The jury accepted 158.

A social action committee sponsored a series of public forums on law and order, school and other issues.

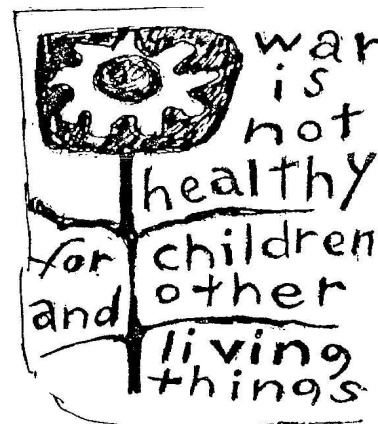
JUC was still struggling with achieving a sense of community and purpose within the congregation, with reaching out to the greater community, all the while seeking religious enlightenment.

1970 Leon was elected district representative to the UUA Board of Trustees. Jack Babb headed the Church Campus Corporation and the changing roles of men and women were very much in evidence in the programs.

A portion of the RE building was leased to the Tilden Day School as a partial solution to making better use of the campus facilities and providing income. A peace rally attracted 200 people. The Social Concerns Committee initiated task forces on education, peace, human relations and the environment.

A Music Festival comprised of jazz, folk, chamber and baroque programs, was hosted by JUC in April.

RE had 206 children registered from 101 families and the 101 tuition program raised \$1,515. An annual coffee budget of \$100 was recommended after the donation basket for coffee table was removed by congregational vote—at one of "those" congregational meetings.



1971 The vitality of JUC wasn't being matched by the United Church of the Applewoods. Long before UCA's formal demise in October, it was apparent the unique experiment was about to end. JUC gained 41 new members as the Christian group declined despite the combined operations it was hoped would save it.

Kirk Brady, who would be elected JUC president in 1972 to succeed John R. Keith, was chair of the Church Campus Corporation and presided over the arrangements as JUC took over the entire facility.

JUC's second ministerial intern, David Gilmartin arrived in the spring and proved to be a stimulating addition to the church family. The spring Music Festival included dance and theatrics. The 10th annual art show was "the best in years." The event included a festival featuring the Norwood Puppet Theatre, a jazz concert, and an art "happening" via free form sculpturing in the parking lot and many art demonstrations.

More than \$2,000 in art was purchased from the 171 works submitted by 100 artists. The jury considered 489 works by 200 artists in assembling the show. Dorothy Hopper and John Schaffer were co-chairs of the event.

The seminar series in fall and spring showed a decided shift from societal interests outside the church to focusing on personal relationships, marriage, child rearing, dealing with teenagers, self esteem, group dynamics and individual development.

The Hoppers continued their practice of meeting with college youth at their home during the Christmas holidays to discuss ideas, problems, values and frustrations.

The New Year's Eve party was predictable: A Blast!



1972 Carol Drew was hired as executive secretary for programming all church activities in conjunction with the minister, program committee and other committees. Pledges amounted to \$37,000.

The spring Festival of Performing Arts was a gala event with the Queen City Jazz Band, rock and folk music, the Colorado Chorale, a rock/blues concert and a

Hootenanny as well as dance and drama.

The Women's Fellowship was active with a range of luncheon and program meetings with babysitting' available for 50 cents a child. About 20 women were participating.

Leon's annual report observed, in part: "With the increase in the repression of ideas and thought, particularly on the part of government, the need for a religious movement which dares to speak and act in behalf of the right to know is greater than ever."

It was an election year and the Pentagon Papers and reaction to them were prominent in the news.

The autumn art show was bigger and better than ever and \$600 in prize money was being offered. The art committee purchased a ceramic and metal wall sculpture from Dave Passarelli as a memorial to Mary Sorrentino. It was hung over the fireplace in the commons room. The Movie Group was meeting at various theaters, and convening afterwards at homes for discussion.



1973 Leon and Dorothy took a sabbatical to England from January through June. Members of the program committee and staff coordinated the Sunday services. "We've missed them sorely," Kirk Brady said on turning the presidency over to Karleton Halladay at the spring congregational meeting. The budget was \$48,000.

Jeannie Canny took over church school operations from Peggy Keen. The newsletter was now weekly. The spring Performing Arts Festival was excellent, but poorly attended.

The congregation offered to buy the main building from the United Church of the Applewoods for \$104,000 despite the prospect of a difficult capital funds drive. Lyle Carden put the fund drive together with "superior" results and JUC moved another step toward having its own church. The combined debt was over \$110,000.

Programs included visiting politicians Rep. Don Brotzman and Sen. Floyd Haskell, black history and modern dance. It was a full and varied program as usual.

Keys to the church were issued to committee chairmen and seminar leaders, simplifying access to the church. The problem of getting the church closed and locked up continued and continues.

1974 The total budget was in the \$55,000 range as Anne Wheeler took over as president. The annual meeting was preceded by a potluck which was preceded by "communion".

Eight family clusters were formed in the spring to bring extended family opportunities to persons of all ages, especially families with children and grandparent aged adults.

But all was not rosy. The church seemed to be on a "plateau," as Leon observed. The fund drive in the fall fell short of the year before and "the changes in the church no doubt reflect the emotional climate of the society which is concerned, confused, worried and uncertain about the future. I sense a greater inward turning and less concern for institutions per se. We need to sort out what this means for our church and its future."

It was the year of Watergate, anguish over the consequences of war in Southeast Asia, and an unsettled society was marked by job losses, sudden transfers and a slump in the economy. There was concern and conflict over the environment, the divorce rate, latch-key kids, gasoline shortages and higher prices. All were part of the social fabric and it was JUC's duty to deal with it—all of it.

The spring Arts Festival, Circle Suppers, Sunday forums, monthly women's

luncheons, new member dinners, visitors coffees and the art show continued undiminished with new members and friends finding ample opportunity to participate.

It was the year Fran Armstrong became administrative assistant and Carol Bowles staged *A Child's Christmas in Wales*. It marked 20 years in the ministry for Leon.

1975

A Long Range Planning Committee was organized to set objectives and deepen the understanding of the purposes and functions of a liberal church. It was appropriate for it was the 150th anniversary of the American Unitarian Association and, as Marie Eisele reported in April, "Finally we own our mortgaged church."

Bob Drew agreed to take another term as president. The budget was \$59,000. There wasn't enough money to meet it and programs were cut.



Bruce White, graduate student in music at the University of Colorado, took over the choir and assembled an outstanding series of presentations, including two concerts: Charles Ives and Baroque Music, both featuring instrumental accompaniment. The choir would meet on alternate Wednesdays at First Unitarian and JUC and perform alternate Sundays at both churches. The bookshop was doing a steady business with best sellers like James Michener's *Centennial*; Carl Rogers *On Becoming Partners*; coloring books and Sierra Club calendars. The kitchen was renovated,

Sunday service attendance was down but the seminars were heavily attended.

The Ides of March brought the M.A.D. fair organized by Sue Kent. M.A.D.=Make A Difference. The fair gathered 60 different public and private service agencies to JUC for seminars, films, presentations, lectures. Booths manned by volunteers dispensed information on a vast range of social issues and ways to serve the community. Speakers included Dottie Lamm, County Commissioner Joanne Paterson (a member of JUC) and State Sen. Ruth Stockton. The fair was a fantastic success and netted extensive print and air publicity. Leon; even took a ride in a "Life Cycle" hot air balloon tethered in front of the church.

RE needed teachers, the family clusters were thriving and the newsletters were literally womanhandled at the rate of 500 a week. The monthly art shows, or "artist of the month" as they were known, continued to be organized and assembled in the sanctuary by Susan Elliott and Carley Whitley. A great range of expression and often exceptional talent was hung each month, although public and congregational interest, let alone sales, seemed marginal. It was often a discouraging effort.

The harpsichord kit drive kicked off in April and the instrument was built through the summer and on November 1 presented to the congregation. The JUC singers assembled by Valda Pancoast and Bruce White had performed a crowd-pleasing Duke Ellington program in October. In November Vaughn Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem* was performed, accompanied by a 25-piece orchestra featuring several members of the Denver Symphony Orchestra. Voices from other choirs and chorales boosted the singers to 40 voices.

1976

Leon got the year off to a startling beginning by resigning in January effective March 31. He and Dorothy, after 12 ½ years at JUC, were off to Boston where he would direct ministerial education for UUA. It was a shock to JUC and the community. Leon and Dorothy had helped us come a long way. It seems, in retrospect, the formation of the Long Range Planning Committee in June, 1975, and other measures aimed at getting things in order so that JUC would govern itself, were part of

a bigger plan.

Interim Minister, Van Vanstrom

The first task was picking up where Leon left off—he was part of everything. Another was the election of a Pulpit Committee. Of course a questionnaire went out on what was wanted from a minister and a special report on JUC was compiled for prospective ministers to see if we had what they wanted in a church.



Bruce Douglass was elected president and the old standbys, Helen Hayes and Juanita Kinney were to prove stalwarts in church operations during the interim.

The Simms Street property was sold—a boost to a deficit budget drawn for 1977. Jeannie Canny resigned as RE coordinator. Dale Foreman picked up the fall canvass and 189 pledges were received totaling a disappointing \$50,418. More than 100 members did not pledge.

September was highlighted by the arrival of Rev. Vester L. "Van" Vanstrom as interim minister. His gentle and experienced manner soothed a good bit of the anxiety and uncertainty confronting the church. He and "Mrs. Van" were ministering to JUC during a difficult time. His administrative skills also were much appreciated.

By December the Pulpit Committee members had travelled to many cities to hear and interview prospective ministers to try and match them with JUC and vice versa. Three were chosen to visit JUC at our expense. None of them were like Leon and Dorothy. At the end of 1976, Rev. John Alexie Crane, of Santa Barbara, Calif., was called after a vote of the largest quorum JUC had ever assembled.

Van would see us through until April when Lex and Virginia would arrive. It had been a good year. JUC was like a fellowship again with so many people involved.

Reverend John Alexie Crane

1977 This was the year Lex and Virginia Crane came to JUC and that the Commons room was newly carpeted. The new board took office in May headed by Dr. Bill Vigor, president.

By September the fund drive was being organized by Bruce Douglass and Clarke Morrison, and the leadership held a one-day retreat near Bailey, Colorado. Many visitors were attending Sunday services, the word-of-mouth communications network playing the predominant role in attracting them to see the new JUC minister.

Sunday service topics ranged from insights into contemporary daily living contrasted with past lifestyles and expectations, challenges of living with others, and personal development, to the women's movement, music, poetry and literature. The Unitarian singers under Bruce White continued their superb programs of special music. Fran Armstrong resigned and Ginny Crane was hired as administrator, a post she had filled for six years at the Santa Barbara Unitarian Church. The budget for 1978 was set at \$74,000.



1978 The *People Are Not for Hitting* seminar was a rousing success at Loretto Heights College with a reception afterwards at JUC.

Lex and Ginny were functioning well as a team to JUC's benefit. Ginny was gracious, well organized and effective as administrator which enabled Lex to have more time ministering.

In his first year, Lex had attended some 211 meetings, 86 counseling sessions, numerous pastoral calls including some "heavy crisis" situations, and performed 11 weddings and six memorial services. He was becoming active in denominational affairs in the Mountain Desert District and Rocky Mountain Area Conference as well as UUA.

In fact, as Lex noted in his annual report, he hadn't realized until he recapped a year's activity that he'd neglected time for study, reflection and sermon preparation by being so involved in day-to-day activities.

The October congregational meeting approved a \$74,820 budget and friends were asked, after a long discussion, to stop smoking in the building.

Bookstore sales topped \$2,900, largely stimulated by Lex's sermons and seminar programs.

1979 JUC's membership moved into the mid-300s as extended and intensified efforts to increase membership and pledging were getting results. After six years of having about 200 pledging units, it surged to 233 as a result of a lot of hard work.

There were new member mini-biographies in the newsletter, thanks to Ollie Murphy, founder of Eat for Art, and new member dinners at the Crane's home organized by Becky Hammond and Wanda Babb. The greeters effort was emphasized and an outreach program began. The Physical Plant Action Team headed by Bill Belew was moving as decisively as funds permitted on improving the appearance and functionality of the church campus. The feasibility of expanding the church was being evaluated.

In May Dr. John Albers was elected president. A ministerial relations committee was begun and for the first time there was a JUC summer Sunday program and a summer activities program. Both were successful although some activities were poorly attended. Sunday services had between 40 and 100 attendees.

The Unitarian Singers found Sharyn Baker to direct and were singing once a month between First and JUC.

All in all, JUC was more active and had more people involved in a greater range of activities than ever before. The M.I.R. (Make it Real) pledge drive, headed by Lael Moe, had 233 pledges for \$63,500. It was launched by a fellowship dinner and a canvassers' training session in November conducted by Rev. Phil Giles from First Universalist Church.

1980 This was the year of the illustrated directory. Members and friends trooped to JUC to have their pictures taken. Snapshots from various activities filled out the volume.

Lex was celebrating his 30th year in the ministry "and it is feeling very good." Lael Moe was elected president.

The growing, expanding church was becoming more demanding to administer, and much of the administration fell to the board and its committees and staff.

A Service Auction of rides, babysitting, music and cooking lessons, ski trips and other activities was held in February as a fund raiser for the Ninth Grade Trip to Arizona.

An intern minister proposal was approved, Norma Riley took over RE coordinating and Phil and Helen Hayes were keeping JUC's financial act balanced, as they had for so many years. Ginny Crane observed it was volunteers that comprise the backbone of JUC as she did double duty herself as minister's wife and church

administrator.

The 19th annual art show from November 2 to December proved to be its traditional excellence with 173 artists submitting 366 pieces. The jury accepted 64 works by 50 artists for exhibit. Sales topped \$4500. The five week long show was to be the last. The enormous amount of volunteer work, declining attendance and participation and changes in the art world and the community were already putting the future of the show in question. The monthly shows continued.

The JUC blood bank was in its second year and for the first time all the steps for the pledge drive followed the UUA Canvass Manual. 231 pledges tallied \$71,134.

JUC, with Nancy Andrews and Edna Harr doing an enormous job, sponsored the Thung Pleuy family, refugees from Cambodia. Ellsworth Pettit, a devout Baptist, was hired to direct the JUC singers. It was a mismatch and, as he noted "it has been very difficult for me because of the uniqueness of Unitarian beliefs."

There was \$3,000 in the budget for an architect to help on planning expansion of the church and the Physical Plant Action Team was working in four areas: worship and fine arts; fellowship and recreation; religious education and administration and outdoor areas. After interviewing seven firms, Brooks Waldman Associates (with Josh Comfort assigned to the project) was retained.

Frank and Gretchen Mills headed up a delightful LaForet Family Weekend attended by 146.

Thelma Roberts headed a kitchen committee to keep chaos and dirt in rein. The congregation pledged \$93,000 to the building fund for a new kitchen and expanded commons and basement.

Seminars, programs and Expanding Your Horizons groups featured a vast range of indoor and outdoor events including *Quest—A Personal Religion*, by Lex and a slide presentation on the Mt. St. Helens eruption by volcanologist Don Mullineaux.

There was a Town Meeting and in November, 270 people attended the membership dinner and program at St. Joseph's Hall.

1981 In January, with building expansion plans taking shape, a building finance committee chaired by Frank Mills was hard at work figuring out where the \$285,000 going to come from plus getting a handle on increased operating costs of a larger facility.

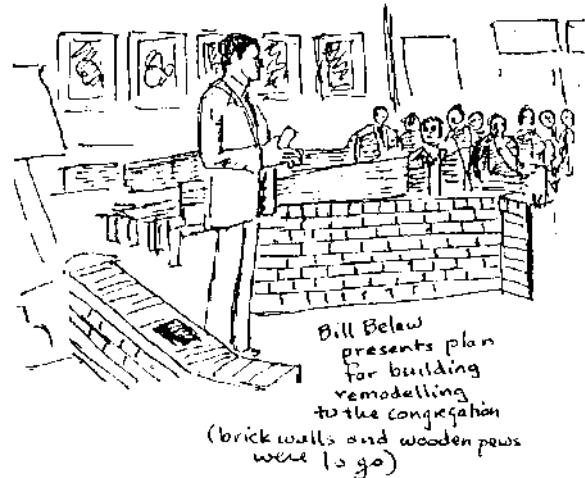
Ministerial intern Eve Bardas headed a seminar on the New Testament from a religious liberal's viewpoint; Lex conducted seminars on prayer and Unitarianism. Eve also directed the summer program.

In May, taking a good idea from the junior high group, a JUC Service Auction was held and raised more than \$6,000 for the building fund. It was a financial and social success with more than 150 participants. Fred and Ruth Artes did a whale of a job. Ginny Crane resigned at the end of June and Cyndee Dries was hired in October.

The two lots south of the church were put up for sale and Ken and Laurie Pribbeno voluntarily directed the Unitarian Singers.

Bill Belew was elected president at the May congregational meeting.

Until autumn JUC life was racing along with the expansion and ever energetic program. Then Lex Crane resigned, effective in mid- October; there was a bomb



threat; the contractor defaulted on the expansion bid and Young World was sold to new management. Bill Belew and the board were getting a workout.

Lex's unexpected resignation to become director of the UUA Ministerial Education program was not only a surprise, it exemplified a theme of his JUC ministry: explore parts of you that have been lying dormant, try things you didn't know you could do, do new things and discover a new being in yourself.

After all, if Lex could learn to ski at age 58, why couldn't we try new things? Gretchen Mills headed an aggressive Program Committee that helped keep involvement and attendance at a high level.

Resurgence of right wing groups including the Ku Klux Klan and the Moral Majority, violence in Central America, the Nuclear Weapons Freeze and a Guest At Your Table hunger fighting program were part of the Social Concerns agenda.

The fall canvass garnered \$74, 400—a new record.

The personnel committee wrestled with state and UUA rules for JUC employees. The Building Plan Committee, organized in January to make a 2,900 square foot addition a reality, was working overtime. In June JUCers approved plans for an expanded commons room, basement facilities, new kitchen and storage space and other modifications and improvements. Final drawings and specifications were readied for bids. In October the low bid was \$62,000 over budget. In December a scaled back expansion was okayed.

The Diversions Committee's costumed Halloween party was a success and prompted a New Year's Eve service with attendees attired as they had been in high school.

Interim Minister, Jim Hutchinson

1982

In January the building contractor said he didn't like the financial picture at JUC and withdrew his contract. Jim Hutchinson arrived as interim minister to find 403 active members and Sunday services attracting between 93 and 181 persons. He encouraged and endorsed the expansion, noting membership was up 53% and the operating fund 175% in a decade.

In March a new building contract was approved with a \$243,000 performance bond. The heating bill was \$2,300 for the winter, up from \$1,100 in 1977 despite less energy being used.

Debra Casswell was elected president as a search committee ranged far and wide for a new minister. The congregation was getting used to the idea of running the church and its programs itself.

The committees, seminars and groups found themselves caught up in the dynamics and enthusiasm of being part of a church that was growing in many dimensions, not just via the physical facility.

The office crew managed to function despite noise, dirt, drafts, interruptions and confusion resulting from construction. Even partially complete, the addition was superb with high ceiling, lots of space and light.

JUC was getting more involved in denominational matters including the Front Range Unit of UU Women's Federation, UU Social Concerns, UU United Nations Office, Denver UU Metro Office at St. Francis Center, UU Metro Council of RE Coordinators and other activities. The Urban Social Action Coalition was formed and Thelma Roberts of JUC was named chairperson of the forthcoming The Prophetic



Rev. Jim Hutchinson

Imperative workshop.

A support committee was established to help those suffering a loss or stressed from illness, family changes, death or other cause. The Milestones sharing time at Sunday service was initiated in December.

Reverend Sylvia A. Falconer

1983

There were many highlights in this full and busy year, but the foremost was the calling of Rev. Sylvia A. Falconer to minister to JUC. Prior to her arrival in March, the two lots south of the church were sold for \$67,000 and Russell Burns' estate gave JUC \$10,000. The gift was set aside pending consideration of an appropriate memorial to Harry and Russell Burns, founders and leaders of JUC.



The calling of Sylvia Falconer was the culmination of more than a year's work by the Search Committee. She was an energetic, straight-talking woman who said: "*Caring for people is my profession; caring about them is my life.*"

Sylvia, a graduate of Starr King Seminary and with degrees in speech and education from the University of Washington, was quickly identified as a westerner and human rights advocate/activist. She had a firm belief in the value of ritual.

Debbie Casswell was reelected president of a church that had emerged stronger and more cohesive during its time without a minister. JUC had proved it could run itself, even to charging ahead with a major remodeling.

The congregation found Sylvia's ministry as different from Lex's as his had been from Leon's. Lex had been intellectual and philosophical. To this Sylvia added the dimension of feelings and emotions to be identified and dealt with as essential to spiritual awareness. She was animated and often dramatic.

The Annual Auction involved more than 100 volunteers and \$10,410 was raised.

In June, Juanita Kinney retired and was thanked for her 20 years of service to JUC. The summer found Sylvia and her children, David, Rebecca and Curtis, settling into the community.

By autumn JUC was refurbishing the RE building for a new tenant, Tiny Treasures, and conducting a congregational dinner on the new gray carpet of the commons room. It was the first time there was enough room to dine at JUC.

Marie Eisele resigned as secretary and moved to Texas. Bobbie Cromwell took over. Sue Kent was ordained and designated JUC's Minister-at-Large to work, teach and demonstrate Unitarian values in the Denver metro area. Sylvia was installed.

Sylvia's style of ministry was emerging. She emphasized the value of parents being involved in children's education and that spiritual enrichment wasn't just going to happen, it had to be worked toward and that was an individual's responsibility. RE was a priority for her with adults, youth and children. She was functioning as a catalyst to stimulate, focus and direct interests and energy and then let independent-minded JUCers carry on.

The fall pledge drive tallied \$101,000, \$13,000 above 1982 although the number of pledging units stayed at 261.

1984

SESOEXFOSEEK celebrated its 15th anniversary. The SEcret SOciety of EXotic FOod SEEKers was started in 1969 by Frank Newmark to explore other cultures' foods and customs and raise money to feed the hungry in the U.S. and abroad. When restaurant fare became too expensive, potluck dining in homes evolved. A small fee for wine provided by the host resulted in a surplus which was donated to

charities including the S. S. Hope, the Tay Loc Orphanage in VietNam and other worthy causes. Lou Cotugno began arranging the dinners and writing Roses are Red poems to announce them when Frank left to serve on the hospital ship.

Linda Whittenberg arrived as ministerial intern and was warmly welcomed. Into the summer she was a positive and nourishing presence active in many programs. Her dream workshops were a hit. She formed the Creative Worship Services with JUC members contributing their skills and talents in a non-conventional service.

Peggy Swartzenberger, who'd taken over Juanita Kinney's secretarial duties, moved to California in the spring. Joan Hershberger was hired.

A 25th anniversary committee was formed and began planning official commemoration services for October. The Harry and Russell Burns Memorial Garden was under development between the RE building and the church. Lael Moe, Chet Cromwell and Harney Peterson headed weekend and evening work crews building a patio, often with a sparsity of workers. The project continued through the summer to the eve of the dedication, October 14.

Special services were planned. Founding and past members were advised of the event that would conclude with dedication of the patio garden to the Burns's memory. A plaque notes their dedication and inspiration to JUC.

Then JUC was off on its next 25 years.

Note from the Author

This brief history was prepared for the 25th Jefferson Unitarian Church anniversary with particular help from C.J. Prouty, Franklyn Newmark, Jeanne Peterson, and Judy Robeck. Judy's drawings illustrate the pamphlet.

Harry and Russell Burns' records of early days were invaluable. An effort to identify people who'd played special roles in JUC became impossible—there were so many that the history became mechanically and financially unaffordable, especially when so many unrecorded but fondly remembered events were noted.

It proved an unexpected spiritual experience to have insight into how much has been and how much can be done just by doing it.

Dick Prouty, October 1984



JUC HISTORY, 1ST 25 YEARS



~Drawings by Judy Robeck

Part 2: The Second 25 Years

Brief Summary of 1985-2009

After Rev. Leon Hopper left in 1976, the next decade found JUC striving to define its culture and the level of its commitment. Membership grew from 250 to over 400 and shrank back down to 360 after the difficult and divisive year of 1986-87.

During Rev. Robert Latham's 9-year tenure from 1988 to 1997, JUC stabilized with around 400 members, became a more mature mid-sized church, and actually envisioned what it would take to grow into a large church. It seemed that this minister had come at just the right time for JUC to appreciate his intellectually-stimulating sermons and his emphasis on growing JUC's shared ministry. In addition, the warm and caring presence of Associate Minister, Joe Willis, was roundly felt.

Robert's departure in 1997 was jarring; however, it has been said by old-timers at JUC that the church's quality of life does not depend on its minister. JUC's infrastructure was strong. Conflict again arose the next year and strained relations among members, but it seemed almost as if, once it was over, people could not wait to put it behind them and get back to the business of being a community. In fact, almost as if someone was whispering in our collective ear "*If you build it, they will come,*" we renewed our vision in 1999-2000 to become a larger community and to expand the existing facilities.

Rev. Peter Morales recognized and appreciated JUC's tenacity when he came in 1999, and was excited to see us succeed in our aspirations. In his quiet and affirming way, he enabled the congregation to tap its potential and grow in both physical and spiritual ways. His fatherly-chat manner of preaching, along with strong ministerial support and creative, passionate lay leadership have attracted an increasing number of visitors—many of them young families—and membership is hovering around 765.

Downs and Ups

1985

As JUC was celebrating its 25 years of existence and dedicating the patio to the founding parents, the Burnses, two big questions were on the mind of President Lyn Barber: "How much do we want to grow?" and "What is the answer to our perennial financial struggle?" Lyn's annual report begins with saying that the year was one of "celebration and stability" in spite of "differences of opinion." He went on to deliver a mini-lecture on the propensity of UUs to "overindulge in selfishness" concluding that "our members could double their contributions without considerable strain in 8 out of 10 households."

Lark Matis and Peg Swain had teamed up for the second year to share the job of RE Coordinator. They too made a case for an attitude change in the congregation. They proposed changing their job title to Director of Religious Education (DRE), and

posed the question of whether, at JUC, “directing a religious education program is a legitimate, respected position which should be adequately valued by pay and prestige, or if indeed it is a quasi-super volunteer position.”

The auction committee had tried several new ways to make money for the 1985 budget including Request-o-Grams, the absentee bid, the raffle, and selling special desserts after the dinner. It contributed \$12,370 towards JUC’s total receipts of \$138,000 that year.

In October, JUC shared their traditional LaForet retreat weekend with First Universalist of Denver for the first time.



Chapel at LaForet

1986

“1986 was a difficult period for JUC,” wrote President Dick Prouty in his annual report. Controversy over the performance of the minister was building up. The congregation was almost evenly divided in favor of and opposed to retaining Rev. Falconer. There was a feeling among some that Sylvia had overstepped professional boundaries, but many felt simply that her penchant for ritual and drama, plus her emphasis on women-centered and spiritual themes, was exclusionary and was not a good fit for the predominantly humanist and traditionally activist crowd at JUC. Chet Cromwell, who headed the Sunday Services Committee, noted that “The services that our committee presented focused mainly upon issues needing attention in the world around us in order to provide a balance to Sylvia’s services.”

In March, 1986, Rev. Russell Lockwood was called in to consult with the congregation and make recommendations. An ad hoc committee, the Lockwood Response Panel, was formed with John Schaffer as its leader. The panel held a series of cottage meetings in June, July, and September.

In spite of the efforts of the board, the panel, and the Ministerial Relations Committee headed by John Bradford encouraging the two sides to talk it out, the debate became more and more divisive. Pledges, which had been down for two years, were being withdrawn and financial support for the church dwindled. This was in large part because of the controversy, but also because of a downturn in the economy and, as the financial officer, Bill Janeway, put it, “a continuation of a pattern in this church of parsimonious contributions.”

A congregational meeting was called for September 28 to vote on retaining Sylvia, but Sylvia resigned in advance of the meeting. The agreement worked out saw her departing at the end of December, 1986. Writing in a year-end report, Sylvia stated that “The church has gone through three years of self-imposed chaos.” She challenged JUC to go beyond being a “maintenance/social church,” and “become a serious religious institution.” She left them with this thought, “Have you had a feeling that church policy and decision pops out of personality rather than principle?”

Although the crisis was behind us, it was evident amid a wave of resignations that the work of healing had just begun. The Lockwood Panel determined that “programs for goal setting and healing will be undertaken early in 1987 and must be continued until this church community becomes again a safe place and whole.”

1987

Pledging units decreased from 280 in 1986 to 228 at the beginning of 1987. However, many long-standing activities continued during this period of regrouping, such as the Annual Auction which netted \$9,000, the new member dinner, the SESOEXFOSEEK dinners, and the weekend retreat, which was held at Snow

Mountain Ranch for the first time.

The Membership Committee under the leadership of Judy Douglass and Marci Mustoe tried several innovations such as new member packets, a new member bulletin board, new member sponsors, and honoring new members during a Sunday service in May.

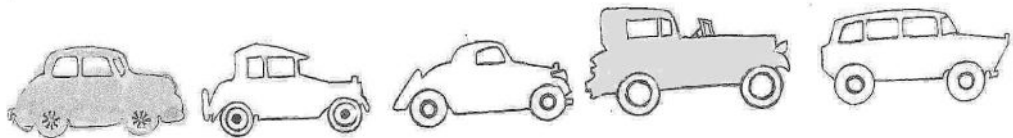
Lark Matis acquired the DRE title and reported that nine of the 10 goals outlined the previous year for the RE Program were accomplished. She instituted the Secret Pal Program, which gave kids and adults an opportunity to form new friendships with one another.

The Sunday Morning Program Committee, under the direction of Geoff Hunt, realized that their job had suddenly become a lot bigger when it became clear there would be no minister for the entire year. They set goals for themselves of bringing in one UU guest minister per month and dividing service topics evenly among "UU Heritage and Affairs," "Spirituality," "Personal Development," and "Social Action." Verleen Bush began in March to coordinate Sunday services, but the committee was charged with keeping services going during the summer for the first time ever.

The committee was proud of their new order of service, which included a note at the bottom requesting "no applause" (a topic that would continue to be debated on and off for many years to come). It also encouraged visitors to use red cups during coffee hour so that congregants could identify guests and welcome them.

Reflecting their optimism, the board, under the leadership of President Marie Belew, appointed a Long Range Planning Committee in June and a Ministerial Search Committee in October. In July, Sue Kent resigned ending her community outreach ministry with JUC to become District Services Representative.

The annual canvass campaign was successful with an average increase in pledges of 18%. The theme was JUC as an automobile—that is, a fine machine which needs ownership and TLC. Carolyn Belfor made the decorations (some things never change), which were colorful cardboard cars.



In spite of the increase in pledges, the budget was still a concern as JUC wanted to hire an interim minister and replace the leaky roof; plus, they were very nervous about being dependent for 20% of their income upon a renter in the RE building.

One bright spot was a donation from Dale and Maxine Foreman of 45 acres of mountain property, the sale of which was to be used for scholarships for ministerial interns.

Computers were becoming integral to every phase of office operation as the administrator, Cyndee Dries, started entering pledge information in a database. She lamented that she was forced to "negotiate and prioritize" computer time for three staff members and numerous volunteers. For the coming year, she recommended acquiring an additional computer and cutting back to a bi-weekly newsletter.

Perhaps one might summarize the theme for 1987 something like, "We're all doin' the best we can, so stop complaining!" Comments sprinkled throughout the annual report included defenses from Cyndee about the necessity to cut newsletter articles that don't fit, from Geoff Hunt for resisting interference in the Sunday morning program, from the coffee hour hosts for running out of coffee, from the stewardship event planners for not including children, and from the Adult RE program about what exactly constitutes "convenient times" to schedule classes.

1988

The Sunday Morning Program Committee got a bit of a break as Paul Bicknell served as Interim Minister from January to July, 1988. He was appreciated for the quality of his pastoral care. One of the Sunday morning highlights was a JUC interpretation of the rock opera, *Jesus Christ Superstar*.

President Wyley Eaton thanked the congregation for its “understanding, counsel, and support in our efforts to establish this church as a caring community with a global mission.”

The Social Responsibility Committee had a growth year increasing its membership and its activities to include advocating for peace causes, sponsoring forums, providing information on environmental issues, supplying a monthly meal for Jeffco Action Center, helping at the Gathering Place day shelter, becoming a member of the Human Rights Project, and recycling aluminum.

The Denominational Affairs Committee was busy spearheading the formation of the Mountain Desert District so that our area would be represented more effectively at future General Assemblies.

This year saw the initiation of the grocery certificate program by Marie Belew and Trudy Hutchinson, which generated \$4000 in its first year.

DRE, Lark Matis, was increasingly frustrated at the process of sharing space with a Montessori School, which still accounted for 19% of JUC’s income. She felt that her time could be better utilized than spent going to meetings about space needs, moving furniture, finding lost art work, and locating misplaced supplies.

Administrator Cyndee Dries (a.k.a. the “Ms. Glue” of the organization) characterized the year as one filled with “constant anticipation.” The waiting was over when Rev. Robert Latham assumed the role of Senior Minister in October, 1988.



Lark and Cyndee

Reverend Robert T. Latham

1989

Now in its 30th year, buoyed by the arrival of an enthusiastic and stimulating Senior Minister, JUC started showing signs of maturing into a more organized and purposeful organization. President Jim Matera called it “an exciting year of change and transition for JUC.”

The board formed a Committee on Ministry (COM) to gauge the congregation’s perception of JUC’s ministry. The Volunteer Coordinator, Pat Emery, worked with several committees to discover and track the talents and interests of members, including instituting a Volunteer Interest Survey and collecting new member biographies. The newsletter was finally given a name (by committee, of course), *JUC Crier*, and a new logo.

With JUC feeling the effects of growth, a Space Planning Task Force went to work and published a report that recommended steps for best utilizing existing space in the short term, adding to the facilities for the medium term, and moving to a larger campus in the long term if recent growth patterns persisted.

The pledge campaign theme was “Champions by Choice” and it incorporated UUA recommendations such as in-home canvass visits, a fellowship event away from JUC, creation of a brochure containing a fair share giving guide, and encouragement to make budget requests based on “your group’s vision” rather than “your group’s

basic needs.” The result was an 18% increase over the last year’s pledges.

JUC now felt its income substantial enough to buy new office machines, make needed repairs, add to its contingency reserve account, establish a \$5000 endowment fund, hire a part-time associate minister, and implement recommendations for better space utilization.

The YRE Program was still short on space and chafing under the restrictions of having to share the YRE Building with the Montessori School. They even had to rent space for the *About Your Sexuality* 7th Grade class. The office was also very short on space and finished out the year wondering, “Where, oh where, are we going to put a new associate minister?”

1990-91 church year

A change in the bylaws brought JUC’s fiscal year in line with the District and the UUA fiscal years; that is, from now on, a church year would be from July 1 of one year through June 30 of the following year. The first Mountain Desert District meeting was held in Albuquerque, the first Lockwood Leadership School was held in the district, and Rev. Joe Willis was hired as JUC’s first associate minister focusing on adult RE and pastoral care.

Other personnel changes included acquiring Barry Bloom as choir director and losing Helen Hayes, who had been JUC Pledge Secretary for 25 years. Lark Matis (now Lark Matis-Ruffner) was sorely missed while she was out with major health issues.

The Social Responsibility Committee was a particularly active presence this year. With about 20 members, they involved themselves in circulating petitions, manning an information table, supporting human rights causes, sponsoring forums, continuing support of a Philippine youth through a Foster Parent program, continuing support of a bank in Mexico that administered micro-loans, advocating peaceful solutions to the Persian Gulf Crisis, and continuing their long-time donations of food and money to the Jeffco Action Center, which JUC had helped to found back in 1968.

Finances, as always, were a struggle as the pledge campaign fell short of its goal. It was supplemented by proceeds from the Annual Auction, which netted

\$10,500; the grocery certificate program, which netted \$6,200; a second “mini-pledge” campaign, which boosted pledges by \$11,000; and a \$20,000 loan from the UUA to pay for roof repairs, replacing the sanctuary floor, and remodeling the basement.



Rev. Latham

One of Robert’s major themes was co-ministry. As soon as he came in the fall of ’88, he began to talk about the congregation and minister working in deliberate partnership. Perhaps this contributed to the general mood characterized by Stan Hamilton, the Financial Officer, “The church calendar is full, there is a feeling of energy and excitement at JUC, and our membership is growing.”

1991-92 church year

This church year saw JUC continuing on a path of growth and harmony. Membership stood at 380 at year’s end—not a very large net increase, but a great number of visitors had been recorded during the year. The theme for the year was *Partnership* and Rev. Latham felt that “Something of great value and importance is happening in our midst in both our internal and external ministries [due to the] apparent vision and dedication of our membership.”

The Organization and Communication Committee headed by Pat Emery began to educate the congregation on implementing the reorganization plan they had

formulated. Basically, it consisted of restructuring the various committees under an umbrella organization called the Program Council, which would be made up of the facilitators of each of the member groups.

Rev. Joe Willis was kept very busy helping the Adult RE Committee beef up their program with a new emphasis on lifelong learning. He notes that he put 10,528 church-related miles on his car mainly in his pastoral care role. He also preached at the new Columbine UU congregation that JUC had helped foster in southwest Denver.

1992-93 church year

Bob Drew, in his third stint as board president, noted at the end of this church year that “many good things are happening or about to happen.” He called out “maintenance in the RE Building” and “the need for long range planning” as areas of concern.

This year, JUC adopted the Family Tree Transitional Housing Program as its All-church Project. Due to expert coordination by Shelley Fleetwood, about 180 volunteers spent over 1000 hours providing furnishings, holding workshops, staging recreational events, painting, tutoring, mentoring, and child sitting for Family Tree clients. Also, two programs were started that have been perpetuated through the time of this writing—the car repair program with labor donated by Mike Connelly and the Holiday Gifting program which provides gifts at holiday time to Family Tree clients.

The SRC morphed into the SAN or Social Awareness Network, which declared their focus to be indigenous peoples. They continued many activities from the past such as contributions to Jeffco Action Center, support of their foster child, and funding micro-loans in Mexico. A new venture was selling Women’s Bean products.

The Support Group became the Para-ministry Group led by Marci Mustoe, and they were attempting to broaden their scope by restarting the neighborhood groups program of a decade ago, providing non-crisis support as well as crisis support, and holding para-ministry trainings.

1993-94 church year

The church was humming along quite efficiently during this year due to stability in its financial situation and its staff. It should also be noted that JUC was blessed with a legion of steadfast volunteers—many in their second decade of filling a niche, such as Trudy Hutchinson working in the office and running the grocery certificate program, Priscilla Patton manning the bookshop, Ruth Cooper organizing the library, Judy Douglass being the mainstay of the RE Program, and Hank Seasholes taking care of the physical plant, to name just a few.

Income and expenses came out just about equal to support the overall budget of \$250,000. When the basement was found not to meet code, it was closed until a special fundraising project called “Miracle Sunday” brought in an extra \$21,000 for repairs. The Long Range Planning Committee held focus sessions with congregants to find out their visions for JUC. President John Bradford called it a “year of interesting challenges, implementation of new structures, and looking toward the future.”

Sunday mornings were made special by the well-crafted, intellectually stimulating sermons of Robert Latham, the uplifting voices of the ever-growing and improving choir under the leadership of Barry Bloom, and the world class piano solos of accompanist Ksenia Nosikova.



Zeke, the mascot for 1992's *Old Time Down Home Country Auction* was brought back by popular demand. He became a familiar sight as the life-sized version of him (created by Carolyn Belfor, of course) was wheeled in for announcements on the Sunday mornings leading up to the auction date. Zeke was sold at an auction some years later, and since then, has been known to arrive unannounced at the homes of various JUCers. Where in the world is Zeke today?



**1994-95
church year**

The year began with another annual retreat at Peaceful Valley, the second to be held there, with 108 attending.

The Long Range Planning Committee published their recommendations after a two-year long process of study. Their report sought to identify specific areas of JUC ministry and programs that could be nurtured to grow and better serve members' needs. It recommended that we actively look for ways to accommodate more people and that new paid staff positions be created, such as a caretaker and a paid Volunteer Coordinator.

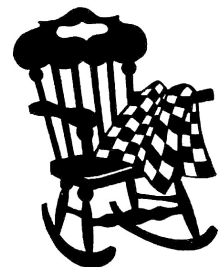
Meanwhile, Pat Emery, who was now Membership Chair, was doing all she could think of to retain the approximately 500 visitors JUC was getting per year. It had become obvious to her that we were not doing enough to be welcoming when one visitor was overheard telling another at coffee hour: "Whatever you do, don't take one of those red mugs for visitors—it's the kiss of death! No one will talk to you." With Robert Latham's encouragement, Pat instituted some processes that are still being used 15 years later by JUC and other congregations throughout the denomination. She created a visitor nametag board where returning visitors would find a nametag waiting for them, followed up with visitors who did return, and instituted Newcomer Orientation sessions.

The second half of the year saw Rev. Latham go on sabbatical, and although he was missed, the impact was lessened by the leadership of President Barb Bailey, Associate Minister Joe Willis, and Lark Matis-Ruffner who was in the midst of transitioning from Director of Religious Education to Minister of Religious Education.

**1995-96
church year**

Frank Mills was a long-time member whose presence was strongly felt in the choir, in the nursery, and in the commons area chatting with new people. When he passed away in November of 1995, he willed his estate to JUC thus boosting the assets of the Endowment and Memorial Gift Trust (EMGT) fund from \$10,000 to \$380,000.

The board focused its efforts this year on preparing for growth. The membership continued to hover around 400, but attendance on Sunday mornings was healthy and conventional wisdom was that visitors who felt cramped in the sanctuary and common areas would not return. Although there was some sentiment that enlarging the congregation would make JUC a less close-knit community and would drive away some who valued the homey atmosphere, most felt a desire to grow the denomination and felt that new



Frank Schriver Mills
January 23, 1945 - November 13, 1995

members meant new energy, new talents, and more vital programs.

Teams were formed to investigate other facilities for sale in the area, assess the feasibility of building on to the existing campus, arrange for extra parking down the street, prepare for taking over the RE Building without a renter, and plan for two Sunday services in the coming church year.

Fortunately, the Pledge Campaign for 1996-97 netted an increase of 16%, which would help fulfill some of the best-laid plans of the planning committee and the board.

The *JUC Crier* began to be mailed every other week instead of weekly, but contained more articles in its new 8-page format.

The Family Tree All-church project was still going strong in its 4th year and received special recognition from the Comprehensive Housing Program, the Rocky Mountain News, and the MDD.

**1996-97
church year**

The highlight of the fall of 1996 was the ordination of Lark Matis-Ruffner as a Minister of Religious Education (MRE). President Ken Pierce called it a dramatic year because of moving to two services, calling an MRE, and reclaiming the RE Building (...mostly, that is. We did still have a school renting half the building on weekdays, but it didn't require setup and takedown.)

Rev. Latham embarked upon a series of sermons he called Transforming Truths—for example, how to change the past, the concept of grace, and personal covenants as the source of all that is profound in our human experience.

All in all, things were going smoothly, Dewey was happy, and nothing of great import happened...that is, until mid-June of 1997 when Robert Latham announced his immediate retirement! A shockwave passed through the community.



Robert's legacy was later summed up as follows:

"In addition to being a good preacher, Robert Latham took a strong leadership position in bringing about our Program Council, helping us to create a highly meaningful mission and covenant statement, renewing JUC's commitment to strong outreach programs, building an innovative Committee on Ministry model, facilitating a meaningful long range plan, and establishing an associate minister position for pastoral care."

A Search Committee was hastily assembled and dispatched to General Assembly in Phoenix to interview potential interim ministers, of which only four available candidates were left at this point in the year. The congregation voted to hire

an interim to start in the fall because most felt that it would be too hard on volunteers to put on a year's worth of Sunday services. In July, Rev. Mary Hnottavange was hired as Interim Minister.

Interim Times

1997-98 church year

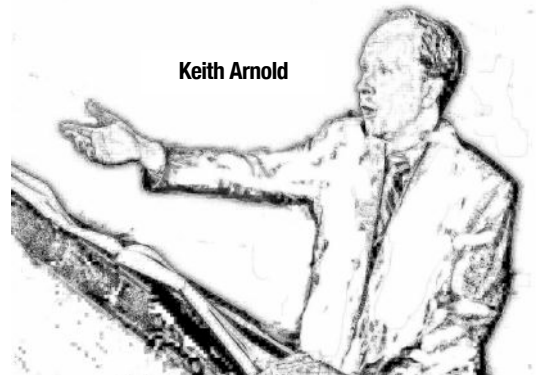
Board President Bob Hofmann put it aptly when he wrote in his annual report: "Declining attendance often accompanies the departure of a highly charismatic minister like Rev. Latham, and this phenomenon began immediately in September. While Rev. Hnottavange was a strong asset in areas of administration and organization, many members were critical of ... sermon content and delivery."

We were still on a two-Sunday-service schedule and the sanctuary was beginning to feel rather empty.

Added to that, in her interim role of helping the congregation to focus forward and embrace change, Rev. Hnottavange failed to recognize the importance to the JUC community of having our beloved Associate Minister, Joe Willis, in our midst. This caused a rift that grew larger as the year went on. By mid-February, knowing that the search committee was not scheduled to complete its work until 1999 and afraid that the board was going to extend Rev. Hnottavange's term, a contingent of concerned and upset JUCers went to the board and asked for a dialogue on the subject.

Town hall meetings held in March proved to be highly contentious with one side arguing to ask Mary to leave right away and the other side feeling that this was too harsh a reaction. At a special Congregational Meeting on April 5, members voted narrowly to terminate Mary's interim ministry immediately. Also in April, Rev. Willis began a six-month sabbatical and said that he intended to resign at the end of that period.

Despite the fractious relations disrupting our church life, this was a year of many firsts. Keith Arnold joined the staff as our first Director of Music Ministry. The first pledge canvass musical, *Care-a-Lot*, made its appearance. It was produced and directed by Keith Arnold and Dick Prouty. The Long Range Planning Committee reconvened and coordinated a *Decisions for Growth* program (or *Decisions for Health* as it was renamed) led by UUA staff. Once-a-month Wednesday Fellowship dinners were instituted. The membership group, led by Kim Cox, started their *Getting to Know UU* orientations. Becky Vanderslice organized Jeffco Partners for Interfaith Action, a coalition of about a dozen faith groups in Jefferson County partnering to fund and build Habitat for Humanity houses locally.



1998-99 church year

It's hard to imagine a better fit for the job of putting JUC back together again than Interim Senior Co-ministers, Jaco ten Hove and Barbara Wells. From the very first Sunday of the church year when members came back and were warmly welcomed outside of the front door by the new ministers, the mood began changing. In October, Joe Willis resigned and was honored with a celebration of his ministry.

Services were fresh, meaningful, and fun. We came to look forward to Jaco's cry of "Huzzah!" and our "Huzzah!" in response. According to Dee Ray, head of the

Sunday Services group, “They banished the pulpit and replaced it with risers and a simple stand; they replaced many of the traditional reading elements of services with their own music [Jaco played guitar and Barbara sang along]; and they instituted a change in chalice lightings from the traditional reading to a from-the-heart, personal reflection.”

Due to their innovative ideas and attention to every aspect, programs were also stimulated. (It didn’t hurt that there were two of them to divide the meeting duties.) Even though JUC had previously gone back to one service, the ministers staged a Fabulous February during which people were encouraged to spend their entire morning at the church eating brunch, visiting, and joining in on a discussion group. Jaco and Barbara even held open houses at their home asking people to come and brainstorm about JUC.



Shortly before the year ended, we were sobered by a national tragedy. The ministers wrote in their year-end report, “The Columbine High School shootings [of April 20, 1999] directly impacted our congregation for many reasons, not the least of which is that JUC member Paula Reed, is a teacher there. . . No one at JUC was far removed from this painful event and it touched many of us in powerful ways.”

The year ended with pledges up 28%, a nearly balanced budget of \$324,600, visitor and new member attendance high, and a call out to Rev. Peter Morales to be our next Senior Minister.

Reverend Peter Morales

1999-2000 church year

The year began with unexpected news from our MRE, Lark Matis-Ruffner. After having led our RE program for 15 years, she had decided to resign and move away. A lot of chalices had been fashioned in that time and a lot of youth pageants had been performed! However, life went on with Kathy Vaughn, long-time District YRUU Coordinator, filling the gap as Acting DRE.

Board President Linda Ropes described the church this year as *invigorated* and *positive*. Our new minister called JUC “alive with *confidence* and *enthusiasm*.” The board had made a wise decision in August to go back to two Sunday services since, by the end of the year, membership had swelled by about 70 people. Volunteers and office staff alike were relieved when a paid caretaker, Doug Schuler, was hired.

The mood was reflected in our finances as the Annual Auction raised \$36,000 (compared to \$19,000 last year) thanks to Fran Thorpe’s phenomenal leadership. The Stewardship Campaign was again highlighted with a musical, this one called *Fiddler in the Red*, and the average pledge increased by about \$150.

Perhaps even more than JUC’s activities at the turn of the century (yea! we survived the Y2K bug!), this year was remarkable for the *planning, planning, planning* going on in *meetings, meetings, meetings*.

- A search committee was in the process of finding a new associate minister to



help the senior minister and to take over the Religious Education program.

- In what they termed a landmark decision for JUC, the Personnel Committee worked out a comprehensive benefits package for the staff and got it approved.
- The budget planners were figuring out how to balance the budget without a renter in the RE building (newly christened the Frank Mills Religious Education Building), while the YRE Building Improvement task force was figuring out how to enhance the space.
- A task force was holding classes to study what it means to be welcoming to gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender individuals so that we could become an official Welcoming Congregation.
- The Sanctuary Master Plan Task Force was completing their remodeling design.
- And, of the highest significance, the Futures Task Force and the board compiled the findings of recent long-range plans, surveys, workshops, and conversations with church groups to create a vision statement. In May, the congregation voted to turn this vision into an action plan.

**2000-01
church year**

We were on a roll. In addition to all the things we had voted last year to carry out in this church year,

- The Board hired an architect to draw up initial conceptual plans for a building expansion and started planning for a capital campaign.
- The Board established a Vision Implementation Task Force.
- The Board asked the Long Range Planning Committee to research what it would take to transition to a large-church governance model.
- The Sanctuary Redesign Task Force worked all summer to complete the remodeling of the sanctuary. The “great white wall” was installed, and although its design was a bit controversial for some, it did give us a fine, blank canvass on which to create many and varied looks for the chancel.
- The Sacred Furnishings Task Force solicited designs for a chalice stand, a lectern, and plant stands and had them built.
- We voted to become a Welcoming Congregation.
- We added a wayside pulpit on 32nd Avenue.
- Ron Dries got the JUC website up and running.

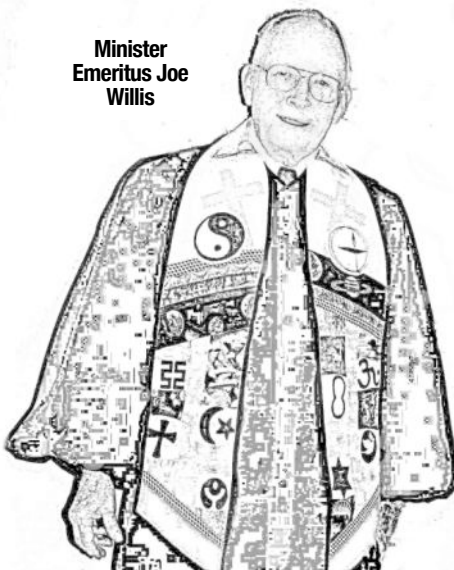
This year we ordained our new associate minister, Rev. Todd Strickland, as

Minister of Lifespan Religious Experience, and we also honored our previous associate minister, Rev. Joe Willis, by making him our Minister Emeritus.

Other additions to staff this year were Pat Emery in the newly paid position of Volunteer Coordinator (a job she’d done for free 10 years ago); Rev. Nadine Swahnberg, who we ordained as our Community Minister; and Annie Hedberg in the newly created paid position of New Member Coordinator. The office staff thought they were crowded before—this year they found themselves giving up their conference room as a workspace for six part-time employees and a copy machine.

Audiences were delighted by yet another creative and talent-filled stewardship musical—this one written entirely by Chris Sealy, Fran Thorpe, and Dea Brayden and directed again by Steve Sealy—called *UUs on Broadway*.

Minister
Emeritus Joe
Willis



In their year-end reports, both Peter and Todd stressed the need to develop more opportunities for personal relations and small group ministry. They felt strongly that the less intimate atmosphere of a larger church could and should be offset by intentional small group gatherings whether they be for sharing a meal, sharing one's spiritual journey, or sharing conversations in Spanish.

Touch the Earth, Reach the Sky

**2001-02
church year**

The church year opened with two Sunday services on Sept. 9. Forty-eight hours later, 3000 lives were lost in the World Trade Center towers—now a gigantic pile of rubble and ashes—and the world was in shock. Many JUCers, wanting to be in community, gravitated towards the church that evening and sat in stunned silence or tried to comfort one another.

The Board had to have two sets of eyes this year—a near-sighted set to monitor current activities and budget and a far-sighted set to look at the “what” and “how” of expansion. They began the year with a \$35,000 deficit and launched the “Yellow Card Campaign” giving people a menu of four ways to contribute just a little more. Meanwhile, the Building Advisory Team went to great lengths to “let every voice be heard” and gathered requirements from all quarters for what the building project should look like. The “Yes-we-can-man” created by Lindsay Brayden was a familiar sight as the Capital Campaign Committee inundated the congregation throughout the year with every form of communication known to mankind and ended up raising capital pledges amounting to \$1.2 million (or 1.3 as it was later reported).



Even with the space shortage and the plans to remodel, the congregation voted to become a host church once a quarter for clients of the Interfaith Hospitality Network. This social action project is remarkable for the large number of volunteers—about 80—that it takes to provide the families with overnight shelter, meals, and transportation to their day site for a week. The Social Action Group had strong reservations about the viability of taking on this new project—their resources were already stretched thin carrying out their many ongoing projects—however, Jim Bole and Ron Larson didn't debate the issue. They just said, “We'll do it,” and so they did.

JUC was continuing to attract an increasing number of visitors. The combination of the Membership Group under the leadership of Kim Cox and the New Member Coordinator, Annie Hedberg, was exceptionally effective at involving people, retaining them, and making them feel welcome. JUC was not only growing in size, but also in reputation. Rev. Strickland writes, “At the ministers' convocation in Birmingham earlier this year, the mere mention of Golden, Colorado could start an elevator full of ministers buzzing about the exciting religious education, social action, worship, and overall growth taking place here.”

We got a little more culture this year too with the addition of the *JUC Live! Performing Arts Series*, which brought to our stage five events of professional music and theater during the year.

In early June, just as we were going into our summer schedule, we were presented with another one of those little surprises we'd rather not have. Peter informed the congregation that he'd been offered a position by the UUA as Director of District Services and was accepting. He felt, he said, a “powerful allegiance to the future of our movement” and this office would give him a chance to help districts

grow their membership. We couldn't help but notice that this was the third time in our history that our minister was lured away by the national organization in Boston. And we couldn't help but notice that it was very, very late in the season to be trying to find an interim minister. "Not to worry," said the UUA, "we'll find you a good one."

Rev. Richard S. Gilbert, after a distinguished 32-year ministry in Rochester, New York, was happily easing into retirement with commitments to teach a few courses at UU theological schools in the fall when he got the call from Boston. Did he want to interim at JUC when his courses ended? Then, he was cornered at General Assembly by Board President Dea Brayden and her posse, who convinced him that he could become a sort of itinerant minister splitting his time among Berkeley and Chicago and Denver. So here he came to save the day, and we were all mighty glad that he did.

2002-03 church year

After the successful capital campaign, JUC was ready for the next steps. In August, 2002, an architectural design was drawn and in October, the contractor was hired. A six-month-long process of getting some of the needed permits from the county was finally completed.

Following a congregational vote in September, Keith Arnold was ordained as Minister of Music. JUC wanted to honor Keith for "bringing special gifts of ministry" to the church. He assumed the title of Reverend and became eligible to perform weddings and other ceremonies.

The Social Action Group (SAG) was profoundly changed by Dick Gilbert's interim ministry. Rev. Gilbert was known throughout the denomination as an expert on outreach having spent 30 years at his former parish honing an effective process and organizational structure for this work. He taught a workshop at JUC in January based on his book, *The Prophetic Imperative*. Social justice work, he told us, is a responsibility of the entire congregation and must become an integral part of church life. Rather than leaders being responsible for finding volunteers to carry out projects, projects would be planned and executed by Task Forces formed at the grass roots level by people with a passion. He suggested SAG should become a council and be renamed the Social Responsibility Council (SRC). Long-time members Jim and Til Taguchi were inspired by the workshop to start an endowment fund dedicated to social justice work.



Jim & Til
Taguchi

The Ministerial Search Committee had been working hard all year. They found a candidate for Senior Minister who came to JUC and went through the usual process of candidating week. At the May congregational meeting, there was quite a bit of discussion with many folks expressing doubt about whether he was a good fit for our church. When the vote was taken, he failed to get an affirmative vote from over 90% of those present, which meant he was not accepted. Comments made at the congregational meeting started a debate on JUCeForum, an unmoderated group e-mail list to which any member could post. The debate escalated, went on for nearly six months, and turned rancorous. Basically, it amounted to some people ascribing ulterior motives to others who had spoken up at the congregational meeting and others defending their right to do so. Messages from the ministers and others asking that all JUCers return to their UU values and stop the destructive dialog went unheeded by a few. At this point, the Board shut down the Forum and left in place only a moderated group list, JUCeAlert, which is for the express purpose of distributing information about JUC-sponsored events.

**2003-04
church year**

JUC was once again without a minister and scrambling to find an interim, but someone in Boston seemed to know that Rev. Diane Miller might just be available. Rev. Miller had been a UU minister for 26 years, was well-respected in the denomination, and accepted our invitation.

Congratulations! We are now a large congregation. JUC passed the threshold of 550 members, the number that the UUA uses to distinguish large from mid-sized, in the fall of 2003. To align with recommended governance models, the board was busy doing the organizational and bylaws work necessary to delegate more decisions to councils and remove themselves from the nitty-gritty details of church life. The Business Council and the Social Responsibility Council were formed and joined the Program Council in acting as coordinating bodies for various groups or task forces under their purview.

The Building Advisory Team led by Jim Matera with the title of Owner's Representative, was really gearing up for the start of construction now and still trying to cut through the red tape of county government, but building permits were finally obtained on April 5. The offices were moved to a temporary trailer installed on our lot.

The Stewardship Campaign, *Away We Go!* was a huge success under the direction of Fran Thorpe and Jo Roberts with a \$80,000 increase in total pledged amount. The EMGT investments were doing well (those were the days!) and the directors made a record \$50,000 available for special project grants.



Lu Horner, Bev Curtiss, Martha Johns

JUC sponsored another minister in her ordination, Penny Rather, who had been our ministerial intern the prior year.

At the end of the year, Rev. Miller reflected that among her goals was one "to provide the congregation with a positive experience in ministerial teamwork and in working with a female Senior Minister." She concludes that "These goals turned out not to be as challenging as JUC's history had indicated. It is my deepest hope that you continue to fare well as people I have come to know and cherish, and as a congregation with such love, vitality, and heart."

Todd Strickland recalled Ghandi's words: "These are my people. I am their leader. They are on the move. I must hurry and catch up with them."

At the end of the church year, the Ministerial Search Committee announced that they believed they had found the perfect candidate for our new Senior Minister—Peter Morales! It seems his UUA job wasn't quite what he had expected, and he missed us. He was approved at the May Congregational Meeting by a whopping 99% "Yes" vote.

Reverend Peter Morales Returns

**2004-05
church year**

Todd Strickland put it well when he said, “We began the year with the staff in the trailer, with the kids migrating between the middle school and the sanctuary, and with those who drank more coffee than they had planned making a mad dash for their cars or one of the portable bathrooms, depending on the urgency.”

The Social Responsibility Council was privileged this fall to be able to hire Rev. Nathan Woodliff-Stanley as a part-time Social Responsibility Facilitator. It was an idea made possible by a grant from the Taguchi Social Action Fund, and the concept was to have a professional observe the functioning of the SRC and make recommendations that would strengthen our social justice work and help us integrate that work into the full life of the congregation.

The much-anticipated Building Dedication celebration was held in January. The new chapel was named in honor of our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Joe Willis who had passed away in 2002, and the remodeled office and meeting building (originally the RE Building) got a new plaque re-christening it the Mills Building in honor of Frank Mills. Our new front doors were designed by Carmon Slater and featured a stylized representation of Clear Creek, South Table Mountain, and our gorgeous Colorado sunshine.

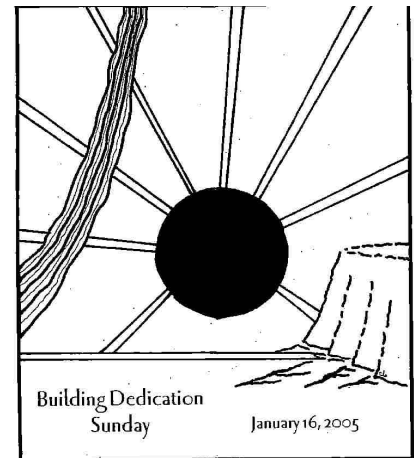
Among the many changes to the structure of our main building was the removal of the fireplace that used to be in the wall between the north and south commons areas. This is why you may still hear references to “a signup table on the fireplace wall,” which generally elicits a chuckle from people who were around before 2005 and a puzzled look from newcomers.

Considering the many setbacks and unexpected challenges, Jim Matera felt relieved that the building expansion and remodel project was only over budget a mere 5% (although the budget had grown to \$2 million by this time).

Somehow, word must have gotten out that JUC had room for everyone now as membership peaked at about 650 in the spring. As Rev. Morales put it, “One in every six members has joined within the last ten months.”

One way in which people tried to stay connected with each other was through the Chalice Circle program in which small groups met monthly to share their past life experiences and talk about what is important and meaningful in their lives now. There were ten groups meeting in 2005.

Nadine Swahnberg was awarded the Community Minister of the Year award by the UUA at General Assembly this June.



**2005-06
church year**

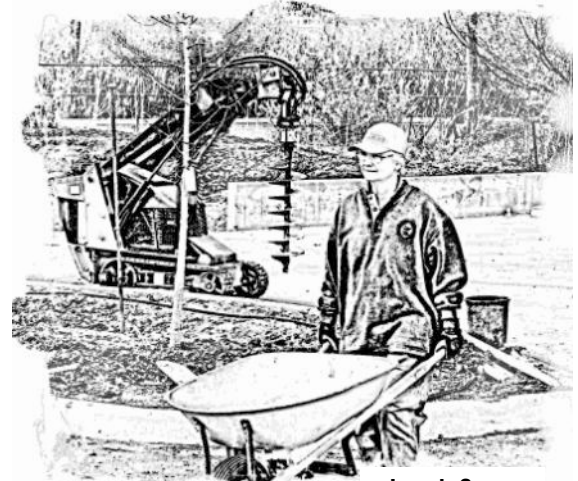
Chet Cromwell had read an organizational assessment of JUC from the Iliff School of Theology that said “JUC’s rapid growth will likely lead to the loss of important features of their church history unless they overtly act to keep it alive.” So he took action. “A group of ‘old-timers’ got together to decide on a way to honor our first minister, Leon Hopper, for his unique service to JUC,” Chet wrote. Their theme, *Founders to the Future*, became the theme for the Stewardship Campaign as well. In April, Rev. Leon and Dorothy Hopper came to JUC and were honored at a service dedicating the sanctuary in their name. Dee Ray published a series of articles in the *Crier* that reviewed the early history and included vignettes solicited from early members recollecting the first 1 ½ decades.

The presence of Rev. Woodliff-Stanley as Minister of Social Responsibility, still funded by the Taguchi Fund grant, was helping to make social action more visible in the JUC and wider community. Special collections for Hurricane Katrina and Pakistan earthquake relief yielded impressive results, and all told, more than \$46,000 was given away this year to help others.

The choir became nationally recognized when an EMGT grant allowed them to travel 50-strong to Washington, D.C. to sing a 25-minute *a capella* prelude to the Colorado Day service at the National Cathedral. The JUC Ringers had gotten a new set of hand bells and it was always a special treat when they played at Sunday services. Keith Arnold and Marlys Brinkman chaired the 2005 Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network conference in Denver, which attracted 275 UU musicians from across the country and culminated in a huge Interfaith Music Festival in August.

Thanks to the countless hours spent by our web developer, Ron Dries, JUC's website was acquiring more and more features such as the online calendar and Calendar Event Request Form thus saving many calls to the office.

The final phase of the master building plan was landscaping. When the Building Advisory Team had been madly looking for ways to control cost overruns, Shirley Muggli stepped up and offered to lead the landscaping project using volunteers. The Jeffco Planning Dept. agreed to grant us a "performance bond," which meant that if we did not complete the work, we would be liable for \$21,000 more to cover the cost of having it done professionally. It was a monumental effort, and seeing people swarming over the grounds with their shovels and wheelbarrows became a very familiar sight during this year. Jim Elliott of the Building and Grounds group noted that "By the end of 2005, a total of 32 trees, 120 shrubs, 230 perennials, and 115 bulbs had been planted."



Jeannie Spears

2006-07 church year

With JUC now the 12th largest church in the denomination and still experiencing a 7% growth rate, the Board decided to go to three Sunday services this fall. The church had struggled under operating deficits for the past two years, dipped into reserves, and launched an ambitious stewardship campaign, *Deepening My Commitment*, with a goal of a 40% increase in pledges. We didn't quite make that, but called it a success with an average 23% increase.

A bit of a twist was added to the campaign this year. JUCers were challenged to deepen their commitment not only with money, but with a donation of time. Dee Ray organized 15 community service projects which offered over 430 signup slots. Amazingly, the slots were filled! Steve and Chris Sealy, having decided they wanted to take a break from producing a musical extravaganza this year, offered to edit a film of the Social Action Weekend (SAW) projects instead. Unfortunately for them, the plan backfired since they spent many more hours making the film than they ever did putting on the musical. Oh, well! The results were worthwhile and the congregation expressed a lot of satisfaction at having been part of a church-wide effort to make an impact in the community.

In his annual report, Rev. Morales reminded us that our size and status in the UU movement gives us a special responsibility to show leadership nationally. He cites UU University workshops led by himself, Dea Brayden, and Annie Hedberg at GA

and a companion DVD made by the Sealys and sent to every UU congregation in the country. He also mentions several other workshops he led in various locations. Keith Arnold was doing his part by accepting a 3-year term as the president of the UU Musicians Network and Nathan Woodliff-Stanley represented JUC at numerous interfaith and social justice organizations and events.

Often unnoticed unless you were a beneficiary was the extraordinary work being done by the Pastoral Care Group under the guidance of Susie Streng. She established the group in its present form in 2002 and was still leading it now five years later. Susie reports that in 2006-07, “there are records of 346 services provided to members and friends (although there were more not recorded). They included 21 home or hospital visits, 62 meals, 38 rides, 47 household services, 7 memorial receptions, and 170 sympathy and sunshine notes mailed.”

The church community was saddened when Todd Strickland unexpectedly resigned from his position as Minister for Lifespan Religious Experience this spring. Todd was instrumental in the growth of the YRE program and brought many changes to the curriculum. He was often said to have charisma with children and left a lot of friends behind. Many were upset that the reasons given were not very detailed or clear; however, Todd spoke candidly at the spring congregational meeting asking that there not be a public discussion on the matter, so there was not.

2007-08 church year

Lois Abbott, the Board President this year, remarked on how much the Board function had changed since she was last president in 1970. There was more paid staff, and councils had assumed responsibility for the day-to-day details of church life, so the Board was free to center their attention on the bigger picture—futures planning, defining organizational changes and the bylaws to keep up with them, and funding our vision.

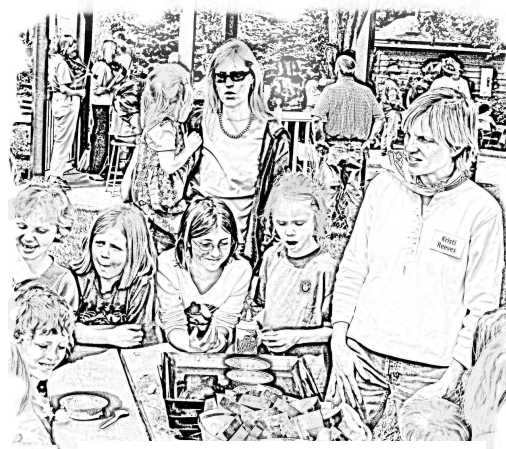
Nathan Woodliff-Stanley went to full time and took over responsibility for the 80-plus adult education classes now being offered. He also coordinated a new Sunday morning program for education and discussion called *Explorations!*

The Pastoral Care group was the happy recipient of a gift from Dave Willard allowing them to hire Tracey Wilkinson as half-time Pastoral Care minister in January.

Going with the trend towards online news, the office started distributing the *Crier* electronically (with a snail-mail option for those who request it). The office was distributing about 600 *Criers* each week by e-mail and about 100 by US mail. Cyndee estimated that \$2,400 and much volunteer labor was saved by using this method.

Parents and kids had many fellowship activities to choose from as the group now called CURK (the Community of Unitarians Raising Kids) hosted parents’ days and nights out, holiday parties, picnics, hikes, campouts, and field trips to name a few. Dana Lightsey, who had been our ministerial intern last year and was filling in as our DRE this year, arranged a multi-generational trip to a Buddhist enclave in Morrison. She didn’t quite expect the level of response she got—180 people signed up! The YRE group said a sad, but fond farewell to Sara Lacher, who had been their YRE assistant for over 6 years.

Fran Thorpe, fund-raiser extraordinaire, brought back Rev. Dick Gilbert to kick off the Stewardship Campaign with his *Sermon on the Amount*. When Fran decided that they had “made enough calls, written



CURK picnic

enough letters, sung enough songs, and recited enough testimonials,” she called it a success with a 9% increase in pledges and a total budget of \$954,505—just shy of her \$1 million goal. The powers-that-be then decided that a year-round focus on stewardship was necessary, and so the Stewardship Council was formed.

When Rev. Morales wrote the blurb for his sermon, *A Religion for Our Time*, in the first newsletter in January, he mentioned that “the service will include a major announcement about our future.” He wasn’t kidding! The announcement was that he was preparing to run in the 2009 election for president of the UUA. It turns out that he hadn’t lost the passion for growing the movement that he’d expressed back in 2002 when he left for Boston the first time. He believed that this was the right time and the right opportunity in which to go for it. He concluded the sermon with these words,

I cannot sit idly by while we continue to drift into obscurity. I ask you to join me in this campaign to revitalize our movement. We need so many more thriving religious homes for the liberal spirit. Together we can lead change. Together we can make a historic difference. We live in a new world—and we have a religion that is perfect for that new world. Our playing small will not serve the world. Let’s let our light shine.

What else could we do? We stood up and applauded.

2008-09 church year

This was a year of challenges. As President Barack Obama was about to take office, no one could deny that he had the biggest challenge in the world. Perhaps because so many JUCers had worked so hard on the Obama campaign, Peter Morales was asked to give the invocation at an Obama rally in Golden in September—JUC’s 15 minutes of fame!

Congregants had their own personal budget challenges and the finance people worried as the global recession impacted the size of pledges and of next year’s budget. They asked the program groups to prepare for some “belt-tightening.”

Remember back in 2005 when we promised the Jeffco Planning Dept. to complete our landscape plan ourselves or else pay the performance bond of \$21,000? By default, this became the personal challenge of our administrator, Cyndee Dries. She recalls: “After receiving two or three annual extensions from the county, the volunteers burned out, and it was left to me and Doug (the caretaker) to get the landscaping finished up according to the requirements before the deadline. So I hired a lot of it to be done, and in the fall of 2008, the volunteers made one last push with “Blue Jean Sundays” led by Jeannie Spears and Jim Elliott. We received final approval from the county late in the fall.”

Rev. Woodliff-Stanley had his own sizable challenge acting as both senior minister and associate minister after Peter went on sabbatical in January. Good thing he had a lot of able staff around him, like Ashley Johnson, the new DRE; Tracey Wilkinson, Minister of Pastoral Care; Margret O’Neill, Ministerial Intern; and Barry Bloom, Minister of Spiritual Life.

Rev. Bloom, who led six services and several workshops during the year, saw evidence that he was fulfilling a need among our members. He said, “There has been an obvious transition at JUC to a greater sense of and practice of a deeper spirituality than was true in my past years here. Many have thanked me for being at JUC in this role.”

Sue Parilla, in her third year as Volunteer Coordinator, constantly challenged herself to do just one more thing for JUC. She was filling a myriad of roles in addition



Rev. Nathan Woodliff-Stanley

to recruiting volunteers, such as facilitating Program Council, supporting the Membership Coordinator, supporting the Young Adult Group, leading the 8th grade Coming of Age program, organizing Golden Circle luncheons for the over-70 crowd. And when she couldn't get a volunteer to do a job (like organizing the rummage sale—ugh!), more often than not, she did it herself rather than leaving it undone.

Rev. Morales's last sermon before his sabbatical began in January of 2009 was appropriately titled *Looking Back, Looking Ahead*. He said:

I want to leave you with a great challenge today. We still have work to do. We have more untapped potential now than we had ten years ago. Our greatest achievements lie before us...I don't know what JUC's next chapter will hold, but I know that we need to think beyond this place. Does it mean new partnerships with other congregations? Does it mean helping start a new congregation, or maybe creating a satellite location?

I do know this: together we can do amazing things.

Peter didn't get much rest on his sabbatical. He knew he had some catching up to do in terms of name recognition if he was to win over the well-known and well-respected Rev. Dr. Laurel Hallman who had announced many months before. Peter—aided by his resourceful and tenacious campaign manager, Dea Brayden, and many other Morales fans—worked feverishly for six months to get their message out. Eighty people from JUC attended General Assembly in June (what Pat Emery called a “critical mass” in terms of a new denominational awareness within JUC) to either staff the booth where people would come to find out more about Peter Morales, be a voting delegate, or attend workshops and just be on hand for the excitement.



A Morales fan



Guess what—he won! The JUC community seemed overjoyed and ready to go back into another interim ministry phase. It helped to know that we would have a very experienced minister for our first interim year. Rev. David Sammons, who had recently retired from a California congregation, had been lined up in advance to step in if Peter won.

We wish Peter well as he scoots off to his next adventure and we'll miss his “Senior Moments.”

As we prepare to commemorate JUC's 50th year with a celebration on October 18, 2009 at Foothills Art Center (formerly 1st Presbyterian Church) where it all began, let us remind ourselves of those to whom we are indebted:

- our founders, Russell and Harry Burns, to whom the patio is dedicated;
- our first minister, Leon Hopper, to whom the sanctuary is dedicated;
- our benefactors, Dale Foreman and Jim and Til Taguchi, who bestowed grants to fund the hiring of interns and the promotion of social justice;
- our Minister Emeritus, Joe Willis, to whom the chapel is dedicated;
- and, our largest benefactor, Frank Mills, who funded our EMGT and to whom the current office and meeting building is dedicated.

In addition, we are—all of us—indebted to each of the other members of our community for maintaining the warm, fun, and vital atmosphere that makes us all keep

coming back.

A Look Ahead

Note: The following was how Dick Prouty ended his history of the first 25 years of JUC. His words are timeless and eloquent.
~Dee Ray

The same principles that led to founding the church thrive today in more comfortable and elegant surroundings.

The members of Jefferson Unitarian Church are dedicated to the encouragement of the pursuit of a free faith characterized by:

- Belief in the essential goodness of people;
- Exploration of diverse paths to spiritual growth;
- Affirmation of the dignity and value of each person;
- Sharing of life's joys, sorrows and dilemmas;
- Encouragement of human progress in society.



Let us celebrate life together and individually. So be it.

Appendices

Timeline

1st 25 Years

- 1959: 32 Unitarians form Jefferson Unitarian Fellowship
 1960: Dick Nash comes as ministerial intern; Circle Suppers are started
 1961: First annual Art Show held
 1962: JUF buys 3 acres at 34th & Simms
 1963: JUC incorporates with 200 members
- 1963-1976: Leon Hopper's ministry
 1964: First long range planning committee
 1965: Leon visited Selma, Ala. for civil rights movement
 1966: Dreams of building on Simms St. land abandoned
 1968:
- JUC started sharing facilities with United Church of the Applewoods
 - RE building constructed behind the sanctuary.
 - JUC is instrumental in creating Jeffco Action Center
- 1969:
- SEcret SOciety of EXotic FOod SEEKers is started
 - 10th anniversary was celebrated with wine tasting and potluck dinner
- 1970: JUC's first Performing Arts Festival was held
 1971:
- United Church of Applewoods disbanded
 - 10th annual art show was a multi-event festival
- 1973: JUC begins capital campaign to buy the campus from United Church
 1975:
- M.A.D. Fair is held;
 - harpsichord is built
 - first About Your Sexuality curriculum is taught
 - kitchen was renovated
- 1976:
- Leon Hopper resigns for job at UUA
 - Vester Vanstrom hired as Interim Minister
 - 9th Grade Trip is started
- 1977-1981: Lex Crane's ministry
 1978: Membership reached mid-300s; budget \$75,000
 1979: Summer Sunday program initiated
- 1980:
- First picture directory
 - 19th annual and last art show was held
 - LaForet Family Weekend was held
- 1981:
- Cyndee Dries was hired
 - Lex Crane resigned for a job at UUA
 - 2 lots south of church were sold for \$67,000

1982:

- Jim Hutchinson hired as interim
- 403 active members
- Building project began to add an expanded commons room, basement facilities, new kitchen and storage space

1983:

- Sylvia Falconer was hired as Senior Minister
- South Commons addition was completed
- pledge drive netted over \$100,000;
- Sue Kent ordained as JUC Minister-at-Large

1984: 25th anniversary was celebrated; patio was constructed and dedicated as Burns Memorial Garden

2nd 25 Years

- 1985: Office acquires its first Apple computer
 1986, Dec.: Sylvia Falconer resigns
- 1987, March: Verleen Bush hired to provide Sunday services
 1987, July: Sue Kent resigned as Minister-at-large
 1987: First year with summer services
 1988, Jan. to July: Paul Bicknell served as Interim Minister
- 1988-1997: Robert Latham, Senior Minister
 1989:
- 45 new members added for total of 370 members;
 - 5-Year Space Utilization plan presented
- 1990, spring: First MDD meeting (Albuquerque)
 1990-1995: Barry Bloom serves as choir director
 1990-1998: Joseph Willis serves as associate minister
- 1991: Foreman Intern and Scholarship Fund established
 1993: Fall Retreat at Peaceful Valley, Lyons
 1994: Long-range Plan issued after 2-year study
 1995: JUC's All-church Project (Family Tree) is named "Best Social Action Project" in all of MDD
 1996: Endowment & Memorial Gift Trust fund gets huge boost from Mills estate
 1996, fall:
- Began two Sunday services
 - Lark Matis-Ruffner ordained as Minister of Religious Education (MRE)
- 1997, Oct.: Lark Matis-Ruffner installed as JUC's MRE
 1997, June: Robert Latham resigns

APPENDICES

1997: Keith Arnold hired as Director Of Music Ministry

1999, fall:

- Peter Morales becomes Senior Minister
- Lark Matis-Ruffner resigns
- Futures Task Force conducts visioning sessions

2000, fall:

- Todd Strickland hired as Minister of Lifespan Religious Experience
- Sanctuary remodel completed
- Nadine Swahnberg ordained as Community Minister
- Joe Willis becomes Minister Emeritus

2001, spring:

- Conceptual design approved
- Congregation votes to conduct capital campaign
- Easter: New sacred furnishings for sanctuary completed

2001-2002: "Let Every Voice Be Heard" informational meetings held

2002, spring:

- Membership exceeds 500
- Capital campaign raises \$1.3 million

2002, Summer: Rev. Peter Morales announces he's leaving for a job with the UUA

2002- 2003: Dick Gilbert's Interim Ministry

2002, fall:

- Architectural firm creates new design
- Phipps Construction hired as contractor
- Keith Arnold ordained as Minister of Music
- Joe Willis passed away

2003 - 2004: Diane Miller's Interim Ministry

2003:

- Jan.: Dick Gilbert's workshop leading to the restructuring of social action into a council;
- Taguchi Social Action Fund was established
- Spring: Bylaws changes passed aimed at restructuring governance to large church model
- Final plans for building expansion drawn, county approvals obtained
- 6th Annual Stewardship Campaign Musical presented
- May: Candidate for Senior Minister is unsuccessful; prolonged debate ensues on JUCeForum

2004, Jan.: Groundbreaking ceremony conducted

2004, spring:

- Construction begins
- Membership goes to 576
- EMGT fund is at high of \$600,000 as the Foreman Fund was absorbed into it: EMGT loans JUC \$115,000 for construction and grants \$51,600 for special projects
- Business Council was formed

2004:

- Fall: Peter Morales re-installed as Senior Minister
- Campus closed, sanctuary and kitchen remodeled
- Nathan Woodliff-Stanley hired as SRC facilitator financed by Taguchi Fund grant
- Dec.: Construction substantially completed; office moves from trailers into remodeled Mills Bldg. and RE occupies new RE wing of main building

2005, Jan.: Building Dedication Celebration; plaques installed for new Willis Chapel and Mills Building; membership exceeds 600

2005, fall:

- Nathan Woodliff-Stanley hired as part-time staff Minister of Social Responsibility
- JUC Choir invited to sing at National Cathedral

2006:

- Jan. 16: Building Dedication Sunday
- March: Sanctuary dedicated to Leon & Dorothy Hopper
- June: Over the year, congregants donated over \$46,000 for humanitarian aid
- June: JUC led UU University workshop at GA and produced a DVD that was distributed to UU churches throughout the country
- June: membership 740 becoming 16th largest in UUA

2006, Fall:

- 8 a.m. service added
- Nathan begins Explorations series, a Sunday morning educational forum

2007:

- April: Held Social Action Weekend with over 50% of total membership participating in 15 service projects
- May: Pledges hit high of \$744,000 as JUC became 12th largest congregation in UUA with 765 members
- Todd Strickland resigns

2007, July: Newsletter is distributed electronically unless mailing is requested; 600 copies are e-mailed and 100 copies are mailed 1st class

2007, fall: Nathan Woodliff-Stanley goes full-time with focus on adult education (LEAP program) and social action

2007, Nov.: 8 a.m. service is dropped

2008, winter:

- Peter announces he will run for president of UUA in 2009
- Half-time Minister of Pastoral Care, Tracey Wilkinson, is hired
- Golden Circle lunches are started for members aged 70+
- Stewardship Council is formed

2008, Fall: Ashley Johnson hired as DRE

2009, Jan.: Peter Morales goes on sabbatical, campaigns for UUA presidency.

2009, June: Approximately 1/10th of JUC's membership goes to General Assembly where delegates decide who will be the next UUA President: Peter Morales wins and heads for Boston.

Guide to Commonly Used Acronyms

BGC.....	Buildings and Grounds Committee
BOT.....	Board of Trustees
COA.....	Coming of Age
COM.....	Committee on Ministry
CURK.....	Community of Unitarians Raising Kids
CUUPS.....	Covenant of Unitarian Universalist Pagans
EMGT.....	Endowment & Memorial Gift Trust
GA.....	General Assembly (annual meeting of UU congregations)
GLBT (or LGBT).....	Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual or Transgender
IHN.....	Interfaith Hospitality Network
JUC.....	Jefferson Unitarian Church
LEAP.....	Lifespan Education and Programming
LNC.....	Leadership Nominating Committee
MDD.....	Mountain Desert District (JUC's District)
OWL.....	Our Whole Lives
RE.....	Religious Education
ReGaL.....	Religious Growth and Learning (former name for YRE)
RSG.....	Religious Services Group
SALT.....	Sound and Light Team
SESOEXFOSEEK.....	SEcret SOciety of EXotic FOod SEEKers
SOUPPS.....	Support of Unitarian Parents of Preschoolers
SRC.....	Social Responsibility Council
TSAF.....	Taguchi Social Action Fund
UU.....	Unitarian Universalist
UUA.....	Unitarian Universalist Association
UUSC.....	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
YRE.....	Youth Religious Education
YRUU.....	Young Religious Unitarian Universalists

Members and Contributing Friends Remaining from JUC's 1st Decade

1. Sallie & James Taylor, #24 and #25 of the original charter members, 10/1959
2. Dorothy & Charles Sandberg, #59 & #60, 12/18/1960
3. Joan Cattanach, 3/12/1961
4. Gertrude (Trudy) Hutchinson, 3/11/1962
5. Reva Hamm, 11/04/1962
6. Priscilla Patton, 5/26/1963
7. Dottie Massaro, 11/21/1963
8. Carley W. Emery (Whitley, Warren) 11/28/1963
9. Robert Stelzer, 12/1/1963
10. John & Jeanne Schaffer, 3/15/1964
11. Eunice Brock (residing in China), 4/26/1964
12. Robert & Carol Drew, 12/13/1964
13. Chet & Bobbie Cromwell, 12/20/1964
14. Donald Mullineaux, 10/10/1965
15. Lois Abbott, 5/29/1966
16. Wyley Eaton, 3/26/1967
17. Bailey & Carolyn Belfor, 9/17/1967
18. Judy & Robert Miller, 10/8/1967
19. Helen Long (Santilli) 10/22/1967
20. Marilyn Scherer, 11/17/1968
21. Len Wheeler, 11/24/1968
22. Anne Wheeler, 11/24/1968
23. John Bradford, 12/8/1968
24. Linda Bradford, 12/8/1968
25. Stan & Mary Hamilton, 6/8/1969
26. Jakob & Margaret Bakker, 9/14/1969
27. Jim & Barbara Bailey, 11/23/1969
28. Anne Farrar, 12/14/1969

Presidents and Membership

	Board President	Member-ship
1959-60	Charles Frush	
1960	Charles Mulhollen	90
1960-61	Russell Burns	
1961-62	Franklyn Newmark	
1962-63	James Taylor	
1963-64	Tim Armstrong	
1964-65	Harney Peterson	157
1965-66	Bob Barnes	
1966-67	Alex Cattanach	
1967-68	Bob Drew	
1968-69	John Schaffer	
1969-70	John R. Keith	200
1970-71	Lois Abbott	
1971-73	Kirk Brady	
1973-74	Karleton Halladay	
1974-75	Anne Wheeler	
1975-76	Bob Drew	
1976-77	Bruce Douglass	
1977-78	Bill Vigor	200 P.U.*
1978-79	Sue Kent	233 P.U.*
1979-80	John Albers	
1980-81	Lael Moe	
1981-82	Bill Belew	
1982-83	Debra Casswell	416
1983-84	Debra Casswell, March/Apr.-Judy Douglass	398

*P.U.=Pledging Units

	Board President	# of Members**
1984-85	Lyn Barber	398
1985-86	Jack Dais	
1986-87	Dick Prouty	408
1987-88	Marie Belew	367
1988-89	Wyley Eaton	350
1989-90	Jim Matera	359
1990-91	Barbara Cotts	369
1991-92	Barbara Cotts	372
1992-93	Bob Drew	388
1993-94	John Bradford	395
1994-95	Barb Bailey	385
1995-96	Barb Bailey	387
1996-97	Ken Pierce	411
1997-98	Bob Hofmann	392
1998-99	Bob Hofmann	399
1999-2000	Linda Ropes	450
2000-01	John Wahl	460
2001-02	Donna DeMaria	520 (May)
2002-03	Dea Brayden	513
2003-04	Dea Brayden	576 (May)
2004-05	Liz Hill	633
2005-06	Robert Baker	725 (May)
2006-07	Rich Sider	765 (May)
2007-08	Lois Abbott	763 (May)
2008-09	Lois Abbott	774 (May)
** as of February of the church year unless May is indicated		

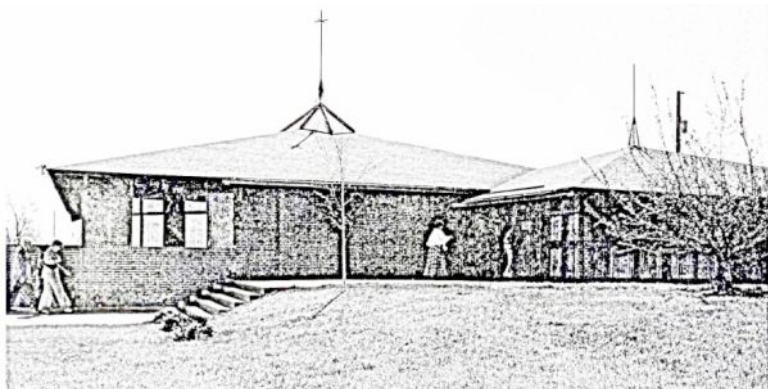
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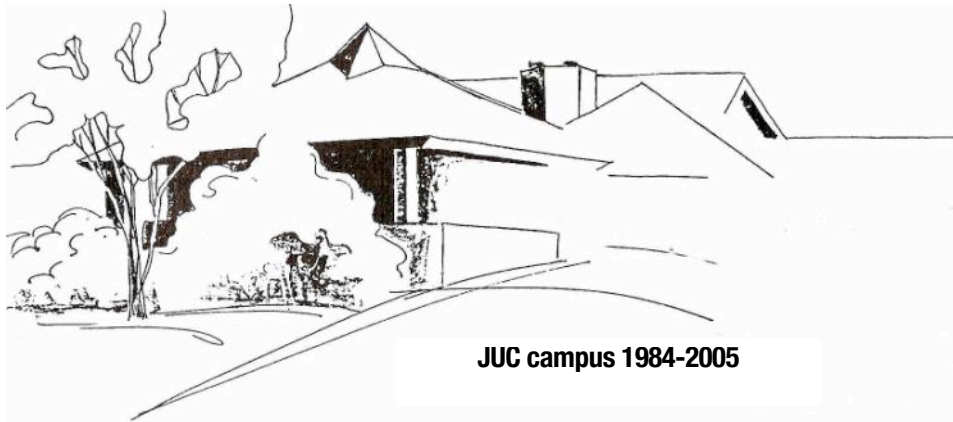
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JUC campus 1968-1983



JUC campus 1984-2005

2005-present



The chalice design in the center of the back cover is a black and white copy of the stained glass window that hangs at the end of the hall in the YRE wing of the main building. This design was brought back from the Sydney Unitarian Church in Sydney, Australia by Lindsay Brayden in 2002 when she was attending school there. After getting permission from the artist, she gave a photograph of the window to Dennis Westbrook, who made a pattern from it, cut the glass, and assembled the window.

The logos surrounding the chalice window moving clockwise from the JUC chalice on the top are:

- Logo for Social Action Weekend of 2008, Walking Our Talk
- UUSC logo
- Nature's Keepers, pre-teen outdoor club
- Stewardship campaign logo, spring 2009
- All-church Family Retreat logo, Fall 2009
- Fellowship dinner graphic used in the *Crier*
- Men's Conference logo, 2009
- Logo used in the *Crier* by Keith Arnold who makes cool music
- YRE classes logo used in the *Crier* by Lark Matis-Ruffner
- Capital campaign logo (Yes-we-can-man), 2001-02



Legend on previous page