

From the Minister

I want to put in my two cents about our annual Service Auction. I do so now because each year in the midst of the event I feel bad when I look around the room and know there are members and friends missing out on this important event. People who don't attend not only miss out on the companionship and fun of the evening itself—always lots of food and laughter—but more importantly they miss out on the opportunity to become part of a good many future church social events that come out of the auction. The auction is a time when people make arrangements for future connections and fun.



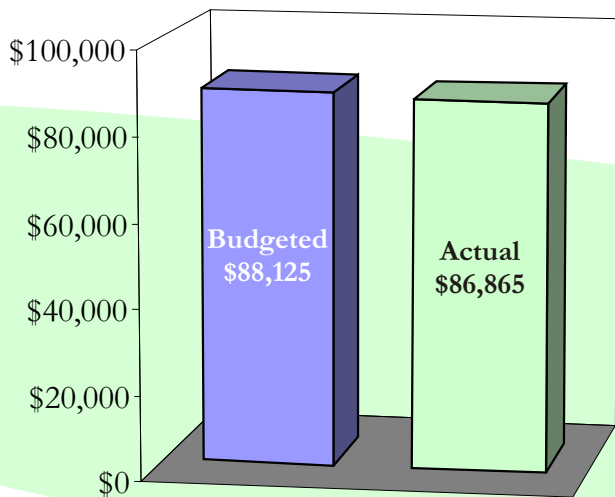
Rev. Dan Brosier

Yes, it is a fundraiser for the church, and yes it does cost money to buy goods and services (but you have control over what you buy), and yes, we hope people come and spend money. But many of the things auctioned off are reasonably priced (some are downright steals), and just about everything is well worth its price. The auction is a great place to buy entertainment, goods and services, and stuff that will bring a smile to your face. And with such things as auctions—the more participants, the merrier the occasion.

And don't worry if you haven't been to one before—just show up and join in. It is an informal and fluid affair. Everybody is in it together. It is an opportunity to make new friends and deepen the connections you already have—and get some neat stuff.

Hope to see you at the Service Auction on the 11th.

Member Pledges—2005-06 Fiscal Year



The 2005-2006 budget calls for \$117,500 in pledges; nine months' worth of this figure is \$88,125. Questions? Contact your Finance Coordinator, Alice Macy.

FROM YOUR CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR

Suggestion Box Available

There is a box on the Visitor Table for suggestions for the Executive Team. If you have a suggestion about ways that the church can improve its programs or its services to visitors, friends and members, please fill out a suggestion form and place it in the box. We are always happy to hear from you.



Linda Porter

Who to see about...

It can sometimes be a bit confusing knowing who to go to for what at our church. The names of Staff, Board members, and Committee Chairs are all listed in the front of our official church directory but that still doesn't tell you who to go to with more general questions. Here are a few guidelines about who can provide what information.

Contact:

The Board of Trustees for suggestions or questions related to the overall health, governance policies, personnel, strategies and direction of the church. Dan Hislip is Board President.

The Executive Team for suggestions or questions related to the day to day operation and ministry of the church. The Executive Team members include Dan Brosier, Minister; Kathy Hislip, Groups and Activities Coordinator; Alice Macy, Finance Coordinator; Linda Porter, Church Administrator; Andrea Schmidlin, Social Action Coordinator; and Kathy Underwood, Director of Religious Education.

The Program Council for suggestions or questions related to the programs, groups and special activities of the church. The council also accepts proposals for starting new programs, groups and activities. New Program Proposal forms are available in the church office. Program Council members are Kathy Hislip, Andrea Schmidlin and Kathy Underwood. Special activities and programs are also listed on the wall directory in the church entry and, on a weekly basis, on the new bulletin board in the church office.

The Church Office for general concerns, suggestions or questions related to communications, building rentals, supplies, building/grounds maintenance emergencies, and church equipment. The Church Administrator is Linda Porter and the Office Manager is Jackie Van De Warker. Specific questions related to finance should be directed to Alice Macy, Finance Coordinator.

If you are still not sure who to ask, I am always happy to direct you to the appropriate person or group. You may contact me at administrator@uuce.org or at 847-888-0668.

UUCE Calendar February

2006



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			1 6:45p Barn Bells 2 7:00p Committee on the Ministry 7:15p Barn Bells 1	2 7:00p Spiritual Inquiry Covenant Group	3 9:15a Executive Team Meeting 11:30a Program Council 6:30p Women Cooking for Women	4 9:00a qUilters 9:00a Canvass Training -O
5 9:00a Unichords 9:30a Worship Com. -102 9:30a Adult SS 12:15p RE Council 12:30p Forum on Global Warming	6	7	8 6:00p Eat/Meet 7:00p Finance 7:00p Apple 7:00p P.R. 7:00p Parents 7:00p Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 7:00p The Witness	9	10	11 6:00p Service Auction
12 9:30a Adult SS 12:30p Prairie Fest Team	13	14 7:00p Covenant Group	15 6:45p Barn Bells 2 7:00p Board Meeting 7:15p Barn Bells 1	16 7:00p Intentional Living Covenant Group	17 9:15a Executive Team Meeting 11:30a Program Council	18
19 9:00a Unichords 9:00a Canvass Training 9:30a Adult SS 12:30p Green Sanctuary <i>Newsletter Deadline</i>	20	21	22 6:00p Eat/Meet 6:45p Barn Bells 2 7:00p Women's Spirituality Group 7:00p Cakes for the Queen of Heaven 7:15p Barn Bells 1	23	24 7:00p Book Group -O	25
26 9:00a Unichords 9:30a Adult SS 9:30a Canvass Committee 12:30p Energy Audit	27	28 7:00p Covenant Group				

Month of Sundays

February

5 In Need of Prayer

Going deeper into the meaning of prayer takes many of us beyond our original notions and opens up possibilities. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

12 Getting Real About Love

This service celebrates and encourages love by cutting through some of the romance to the heart of the matter. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier

19 Beloved Community

Within the Unitarian Universalist there has been considerable talk about beloved community. In this service we look at what this means and how we can foster it. Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.

26 So It Goes, The Gospels of Vonnegut

Kurt Vonnegut in his many books and essays has explored the pivotal role religion plays in everyday life, and from his Humanist perspective questions the role of religion in our lives today. Anne Ward and Bob Sandidge, drawing from Mr. Vonnegut's many wisdoms and humors, help us better understand our own beliefs.

SERVICES BEGIN AT 10:45 A.M.
WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU

FANNING THE FLAME—FUNDING OUR FUTURE

"We light this chalice..."

"...the light of truth, the warmth of community, and the fire of commitment"

Each Sunday Dan opens and closes the service by lighting and then later extinguishing the flame of our chalice. In this year's Canvass we are drawn to the chalice and its flame as the inspiration for our theme, "Fanning the Flame—Funding Our Future." The flame has been lit for this year's Canvass.

And what does that "flame" represent to you? Is it hope, freedom, inspiration? Is it the thought provoking sermons, wonderful music, and religious education for our children that we receive each Sunday? Is it support for our own unique spiritual journeys, opportunities for involvement in important issues, friendships, covenant groups, or even committee work? Is it our prairie cathedral, our location in the country, the labyrinth and meditation garden, or our restored prairie? Whatever the "flame" means to you, we hope you agree that the value of all we receive from our participation in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin (UUCE) is well worth funding its future.

And that is what the Canvass is about—funding the future of UUCE. Like any business, household, or organization, it costs money to run UUCE. Our expenses include salaries and benefits for staff to run the programs of the church, community outreach, denominational connections, building upkeep, energy costs, and others. To pay for these expenses, we need to raise \$159,000 in the form of pledges from our members and friends for the 2006-2007 fiscal year, which begins April 1.

During the two-week Canvass, members and friends of UUCE will meet with a canvasser either in a face-to-face session or in a telephone conversation and be asked to pledge financial support for UUCE. You will also have an opportunity to express your feelings about our church.

The Canvass begins on Canvass Sunday, March 5, with a Revival service and Revival Luncheon. We hope to schedule many of the canvass sessions that day. You will receive more information about the Canvass in the next month. Please contact the Canvass Committee with your questions or ideas.

We hope you will reflect on the value of the experiences, friendships, and inspiration that you receive from your participation in our church and consider a generous pledge in our quest of "Fanning the Flame—Funding Our Future!"

Thank you,

-The 2006 Canvass Committee:

Paul Anderson and Joe Masonick (co-chairs), Cameron Kirk, Alice Macy, Leslie Sawyer, and Rusty Winchel

GROWING COMMUNITY GARDENS

On Wednesday, February 8 at 7 p.m., anyone interested is invited to get together and start planning our neighborhood and/or community gardens. This is an action-oriented huddle, so start thinking now about possible locations and crops. What do we have? What do we need? The answers to these questions will put a concrete task on each person's to-do list. Don't worry; many hands make light work.

Bring an orange rind, banana peel, or egg shell to feed the composter (not coffee grounds, please; we already have plenty of those) OR chip in a buck for a bag of seed or steer manure. Questions? See Donna Askins. Want to RSVP online? Visit <http://oilawareness.meetup.com/259/>

Announcements

CIRCLE OF LIFE

We are saddened by the news of the deaths of Andrea Schmidlin's father, former members David Phillips and Larry Nauman, and Roberta Nauman's sister.

NEW MEMBERS

Since our last newsletter, Andrea Budasi, Joy Shores, Rich Ridley and Sara Mertens signed the membership book. We joyfully welcome them into our church community.

BOOK GROUP

You are warmly invited to join the members of the Book Group at any of their upcoming meetings, which begin at 7:00 p.m.

February 24 - "Peace Like a River" by Leif Enger.

At the home of Dotty Carrangi.

March 31 - "The Good Earth" by Pearl S. Buck.

At the home of Helen Maxwell.

April 28 - "Bee Season: A Novel" by Myla Goldberg.

At the home of Margot Cusimano.

LIBRARY HELP NEEDED

Do you have a passion for books? Do you like to organize them? Or perhaps you just need a reason to get out of the house once a month? If so, I could use your help! I need one or two people to assist in re-organizing the church library, and get more books on the shelves. This would be 4-8 hours, and can be broken up to fit your schedule. See Kathy Underwood if you'd like to help out.

EAT AND MEET

Eat and Meet nights are scheduled for February 8 and 22. Look for the clipboard to sign up. The Programming Council is considering adding to this very successful program. In order to do so, we need people or groups to help coordinate meals. This could be done as a fundraiser, or as part of a covenant group's work, or by anyone who likes to entertain. If this is something you would like to consider, see Kathy Underwood, Andrea Schmidlin, or Kathy Hislip for more information on what is involved. We'd love to see our program grow, but we need you to help us do so!

BOSTON BOUND BABES

The all-girl quartet of Taylor Kremer, Lenya Schug, Savannah Underwood, and Emily Waldron is raising money to go to Boston this summer to see some UU sites and have fun. They are hosting a bake sale after the service on February 5. Donations of baked goods are appreciated, although not necessary. Your sweet tooth is, however!

DONATIONS CAN BE CHECKS

Yes, your donation to the Interfaith Food Pantry can be a check. If you keep forgetting to buy and bring donations for the Pantry, you can write a check to the Interfaith Food Pantry and give it to me (Henny DuBois). The Pantry staff indicated a need for breakfast items. February 5 is our Pantry Sunday, but your donations are welcome any time during the month.

GOOD NEWS

\$880 was collected through the Christmas Eve offering to be sent to the UUSC South Asia Relief Fund.

Kudos to:

Donna Askins for sharing "Lessons from Stelle"; **Mila Brinker** for coordinating Alice DuBois's Art Exhibit; **Andy Carey** for hanging the new activity bulletin board in the church office; **Sandy Russel** for coordinating the Winter Solstice celebration; **Bob Sandidge** and **Anne Ward** for sharing their AV and facilitation skills during special presentations; RE Teachers from fall: **Katherine Brosier, Trisha Dean, Noreen Halberstadt, Jim Hermann, Ann Kremer, Doug Pratt, Trent Sherrell, Brandi Talaga, Betsy Thrasher, Janeen Vanko, Cheren Waller, Kevin Webster**; Assistants: **Kim Cecil, Sharon Fincher, Laurie Keisewetter, Chris Leyba, Louette Rogers, Stacey Reynolds, and Todd Underwood**; Adult Sunday School: **Dan Hislip, Bob Sandidge, and Anne Ward.**



WISH LIST

A 50-60 cup stainless steel coffee urn.

INTERFAITH EARTH STEWARDSHIP WORKSHOP

UUCE is the proud host of an interfaith workshop taking place on March 4! The dynamic Elgin-based Interfaith Green Team has invited area faith groups to a program featuring three religious speakers, including UU minister Clare Butterfield, a Lutheran pastor and a Jesuit priest. These three share a passion for raising environmental awareness and promoting Earth stewardship.

The workshop is from 9 am to 4 pm. Lunch will be provided and there will be breakout sessions on energy conservation, native plant propagation, fair trade and others. There will be vendors of ecologically related items and services and representatives from environmental organizations making a difference in our area.

Three UUCE groups stepped forward to co-sponsor the event: the Green Sanctuary Committee, the Intentional Living Covenant Group, and the Alliance for a Post Petroleum Local Economy (APPLE).

You are invited to attend and meet members of other faith groups who share a concern for the Earth. Together we can do great things! The cost to attend is \$12.00, including a great lunch. Registration forms are on the Green Sanctuary table.

If you would like to help with the endeavor by bringing a pot of soup or baked item or by helping with set up before or clean up afterward, please contact Mary Alice Masonick.

PRAIRIE FEST TEAM MEETING

The Prairie Fest Planning Team will meet on February 12 at 12:30 pm in room 302 to evaluate the 2005 Prairie Fest and to begin planning for 2006. If you would like to attend the meeting or have suggestions to share with the team, please contact Linda Porter, administrator@uuce.org or 847-888-0668.

DIRECTORY ASSISTANCE REQUESTED

We will be publishing a new church directory in March. A copy of the directory will be placed in the church entry on February 12 for corrections, changes or additions. Please check your entry in the directory to ensure that the information provided is correct.

Religious Education

As of this writing, we are just beginning our Secret Friends program. This is something that not only the kids look forward to, but the adults do too! If you signed up to be a Secret Friend, you should have contacted your Secret Friend once by the time you read this. Over the next week or so, you will contact him or her two more times. Then on February 12, you will go directly to Fellowship Hall (do not pass "Go" or collect \$200) after the service, where a gift bag will be waiting with your name on it to give to your Secret Friend. Your true identity will then be revealed, if it hasn't already been!

February 5 is also a day of transition in the religious education program: the spring semester teachers begin their term. We say "Good-bye, and thanks" to all of our teachers from the fall semester, and "Welcome" to our new teachers. On February 12, the Religious Education Council will officially recognize our teachers during the worship service. There is not enough we can do to show our appreciation to them!

Here is what is happening in religious education this month:

- February 5 Preschool: "Alexander & the Terrible, Horrible, No Good, Very Bad Day"
 K-2nd: "Finding God in Silence"
 3rd-5th: "Susan B. Anthony Day"
 6th-8th: "The Natural World of Hinduism"
 High School: Discussion of movie "Born Into Brothels"
- February 12 Preschool: "The Runaway Bunny"
 K-2nd: "God Is Like Light"
 3rd-5th: "Huichol Indian Day"
 6th-8th: "Hindu Family Worship"
 High School: Discussion of movie "Born Into Brothels"
- February 19 Preschool: "I Have Four Names"
 K-2nd: "God Is Like Darkness"
 3rd-5th: "Powamu"
 6th-8th: "Rites of Passage"
 High School: Discussion of movie "Born Into Brothels"
- February 26 Preschool: "My Island Grandma"
 K-2nd: "Ever-flowing Forgiveness"
 3rd-5th: "Mardi Gras"
 6th-8th: "Non-Violence in Hinduism"
 High School: Discussion of movie "Born Into Brothels"

In Faith,
Kathy Underwood

Rev. Dan Brosier led the ceremony to welcome Amy Hill and Jameel Abdur-Rafia's youngest daughter into the congregation during the service on January 15th



*Kathy Underwood
Director of Religious Education*

WOMEN COOKING FOR WOMEN

The next "Women Cooking For Women" dinner will be held on Friday, February 3, 2006. Women 13 and older are invited, asked to bring a dish to share (anything goes!), and to donate \$5 (or more) to the focus cause or project of the evening. You can come and not cook, but then we ask that you donate \$10 (or more). We also welcome donations from those of you unable to attend. Donations may be put in the soup pot on the Social Justice table in Fellowship Hall.



Doors open at 6:30, dinner is served at 7:00 and we will end our evening at 9:00. Friends and family members are welcome to attend. No reservations are necessary. Please direct questions to Laurie Kiesewetter or Andrea Schmidlin. HOPE YOU'LL JOIN US!

COMPASSION FOR ANIMALS DOCUMENTARY

SERIES: An Eat & Meet Activity

"The Witness and Peaceable Kingdom" are the first two volumes of the Animal People Anthology, a series of documentaries about individuals helping animals in unique and inspiring ways. In sharing the life-changing journeys that brought these individuals to their calling, these documentaries demonstrate how one person can make a difference, and how each of us can play a role in creating a kinder world for both animals and people.

Wednesday, February 8th - "The Witness:" Tells the story of a construction contractor's journey to compassion, from the unexpected love of a kitten, to his actions in awakening the public to the injustice of animal exploitation.

Wednesday, March 8th "Peaceable Kingdom:" Explores the interconnected life journeys of farm animals, former farmers, and animal rescuers struggling against an out-of-control factory farming system.

These films will be shown in the sanctuary at 7:00 following the optional "Meet & Eat" dinner at 6:00. Following the film, there will be time for open sharing and discussion. Church members, friends, and guests are welcome. There will be childcare available. Due to some sensitive material, this activity is not recommended for children under 13. Sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee and the Intentional Living Covenant Group. Questions can be directed to Leslie Sawyer.



Who Am I?

This famous UU TV producer was also a social activist. Speaking about the Vietnam War, he said "If survival calls for the bearing of arms, bear them you must. But the most important part of the challenge is for you to find another means that does not come with the killing of your fellow man."

*(Answer will appear in the next Unichord)
January's Who Am I was Henry David Thoreau*



Dan Hislip
Board President

President's Report

As I sat down to write this, I realized that I only have four more opportunities to communicate with you in this manner. I can hear many of you breathing sighs of relief after reading that statement. But, I am beginning to enjoy writing them and I really appreciate the positive feedback I've received from some of you out there, so bear with me for a little while longer.

This month I was pondering how much I enjoy January 1sts—not this one in particular, although I did, but all 1/1s in general. One of the reasons I like January 1st so much is that it comprises a chance to start again. You get new calendars with new pictures of puppies or cats or horses or whatever interests you and the slate is literally started clean anew. I always begin work on my newest New Year's resolutions and by the end of the day, I'm usually still on them. I can't say that for February 1sts or almost any other firsts of a month.

I'm reminded of a time that Kathy, Camilla (my then newly turned four-year-old granddaughter) and I were driving to Atlanta. Camilla had been asleep for a while and Kathy and I were listening to music in the front. Suddenly, from the rear seat, Camilla piped up and said, "You know, I made some mistakes when I was three years old but I'm perfect at being four." Needless to say, neither of us could respond for laughing but she made a point of how nice it is to feel perfect. I guess that's how it is for me. For, on January 1st and shortly thereafter, I'm perfect for some period in whatever year it happens to be. Of course, it doesn't generally last long but there is a genuine joy in being perfect for however long it lasts.

Why January 1st? Well, it is such an obvious beginning point in the year. But it's not the only one. Some folks like to begin things on their birthday; it being the first day of the year in their life. There are other beginning points like the summer or winter solstice, the beginning of a lunar period and others. If you're like most folks, you have special starting point of your own either listed here or special to you.

Whatever is the commencement point, it is nice to get a chance to start over—a kind of a free pass. And when you think about it, the Julian calendar is not the only way time is measured. Heck, they're not even sure when Jesus was born so how can we be certain that we are living in a year 2006 years afterward? So, if the date is so uncertain, what I'm having trouble figuring out is why I'm so stingy with my fresh starts to my own self? I mean, maybe I should look at each day in the same way I approach every January 1st of my life—a new chance to be perfect. Wow, the very idea of getting to be perfect everyday! And what if you tried it too? We might create a community of perfection. (But if we do and it turns out to be a big success, remember who had the idea first, there may be a patent available.)

So this year in this first article of the new year 2006, in keeping with the almost unlimited powers with which I have been imbued as your President, I hereby confer upon each of you who read this communication (see there is a reward for making yourself get through these articles) the right to treat every day of the remainder of my term as your very own personal January 1st. And, with the assistance of these free fresh starts, next time you see me, I'll probably still be perfect. And maybe so will you. I cannot be held responsible for the results.

Until next month, Dan

GREEN CORNER

Friendly Reminder about UUCE Environmental Policies

Please remember to use only environmentally-friendly products in the church kitchen and bathrooms. If you donate a product to the church, please stick with "green" products, considering the "cradle-to-grave" impact of that product. Toxic cleaners, detergents, polystyrene (styrofoam), and non recycled paper products are some of the things we are trying to steer clear of. A list of alternative products is available.

Being a Green Sanctuary means our congregation strives to reduce the impact of our actions on the Earth. To this end, two policies were developed three years ago, one guiding the purchasing done by and for the church and one encouraging reusable items rather than single use, "disposable", items. These policies are posted on the refrigerator and extra copies are on the Green Sanctuary table.

Which Fish to Eat?

In light of the recent media coverage on mercury contamination of fish, it is timely to offer guidance through the murky waters of fish eating.

Besides mercury contamination, other issues rear their ugly heads when one shops for fish: species depletion through over fishing, bycatch of non target species (such as dolphins), PCBs, dioxins, and pesticides.

Two guides are yours for the taking on the Green Sanctuary table in the Fellowship Hall: the Pocket Seafood Selector and the Fish Eating Guide from the UUs for Social Justice-Environmental Task Force.

Ways to Get in Touch

Church Office	847-888-0668
Web site	www.uuce.org
Newsletter Submissions	newsletter@uuce.org
Board President	
Dan Hislip	
Newsletter Editor	
Todd Underwood	

Deadlines

Order of Service	Thursday PM
Unichord	February 19

February Birthdays

1 Dotty Carrangi	16 Cheren Waller
2 Lydia Larabee	17 Bud Geister
5 Valerie Freeman	17 Kyle Brinker
6 Pat Segel	22 Sandy James
6 Anne Bedard	23 Savannah Underwood
7 Bob Jackson	24 Ayla Halberstadt
10 Anne Branstrator	24 Leslie Sawyer
13 Taylor Kremer	26 Greg Schmidlin
13 Aleks Lesiewicz	27 Kelly Wall
14 Bob Jones	29 Carl Deitrick



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P.O. Box 1032

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www.uuce.org

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

FEEDBACK WANTED: **UUs AND GLOBAL WARMING**

What should be our response, as Unitarian Universalists, to the threat of global warming? The UUA Commission on Social Witness has released a draft of a Statement of Conscience on the Threat of Global Warming, to be presented at the General Assembly of the UUA in June.

The document states, "Earth is our home. We are part of this world and its destiny is our own." It outlines how we, as human beings, contribute to global warming, and how "by our mindful deeds, Unitarian Universalists can become agents for positive change. UUs are called to transform our habits of life as a religious witness in a culture of economic privilege." The Statement goes on to issue a call to action of undertaking recommended personal practices, congregational actions, and advocacy goals.

The Commission on Social Witness is soliciting comments and input from UU congregations by March 1. For this purpose, the Green Sanctuary Committee of UUCE will hold a forum after church, at 12:30, on Sunday, February 5, in room 302. Copies of the Statement of Conscience are available on the Green Sanctuary table in Fellowship Hall, by e-mail, or on the UUCE website. Please join us on February 5 and share your thoughts on the Threat of Global Warming. Questions? Contact Mary Alice Masonick.

A PEACEFUL PARADISE: FEBRUARY 11, 2006



It is only a few more days until our annual Service Auction. We hope to create a feeling of being in paradise as you dine, bid, and enjoy each other's company. Put on your straw hats, sandals, and island clothing and enjoy an evening of Jimmy Buffett tunes mixed with incredible deals.

If you have not already done so, please RSVP so that we can plan for dinner and childcare. Also, even though bidding in the silent auction has begun, we are still accepting donations for both the silent auction and live auction. Please fill out a form located in fellowship hall or e-mail your donation to prebys@juno.com. Please include the following information in your e-mail: name, contact information, item description (as detailed as possible), and the approximate value (if this is an item/service that was donated last year, please let us know).

While many people have responded to our request for volunteers, we would like to recognize several people for accepting leadership roles in the auction:

- Silent Auction: Bob Sandidge and Anne Ward
- Food: Cheren Waller
- Decorations and Set-up: Kathy Hislip, Kathy Underwood, and Mila Brinker
- Data Guru and Catalog: Kevin Webster
- Childcare: Joy Shores

Contact Debbie or Eric Preby with any questions, suggestions or donations.