



## From the Minister

Our children take swimming lessons—like I did at their age. The process now is similar to what it was back then. One takes classes to progress from one level to the next. Years ago the progression was Beginners, Advanced Beginners, Intermediates, Swimmers, Advanced Swimmers, Junior Life Saving, Senior Life Saving and Water Safety Instructor. I was in swimming classes from second grade into high school. The span of time was long because there usually was an age/development requirement associated with a level, and sometimes it took two or three tries to pass a class.

As I sit and watch my kids I am struck by how straightforward the process is. There are certain skills one is supposed to learn, and when one has achieved a certain proficiency in those skills he/she receives a card (some of which I still have) and then moves on to the next level.

As I finish this thought I am immediately struck by how few of our life skills are acquired in such a deliberate and organized way. For the most part there are no teachers guiding us through exercises so that we can master many of life's essential lessons. Furthermore, I realized that there is a loss with that. There are so many important skills in life that we develop quite haphazardly and often inadequately—skills that make all the difference in the quality of our lives. The skills I am thinking of include parenting, companionship, using conflict constructively, and helping others in crisis—relational skills. Granted, acquiring these skills isn't like taking swimming lessons at the Centre or the "Y". Relational skills are more complicated to learn, they ask greater intimacy of us, and they often require personal change. It is also true that you would be hard pressed to find classes offered by our mainstream institutions that directly attempt to teach such skills. But wouldn't it be nice if....

Long ago I learned to swim pretty well. Years later I am still trying to master the basics of relationship.



Rev. Dan Brosier

### **SECOND SERVICE TASK FORCE UPDATE**

*(continued from page 1)*

We have contacted several other UU churches to get information regarding their experiences adding additional services, and we plan to do more of this research. We spoke with people from the Geneva, IL and Appleton, WI churches (each has three services), the Brookfield, WI, Oak Park, IL, and 2nd Unitarian/Chicago churches (two services each). All of these churches have successfully integrated the additional service(s), and have grown in membership as a result.

At this time, we are seeking input from members and friends of UUCE who have been involved with a church which has transitioned from one service to two. If you have had this experience, we would love to hear from you! Please contact Andrea Schmidlin.

### **FROM YOUR CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR**

When planning a church sponsored event at UUCE, we ask that you advertise in at least three different locations: the Unichord, the Sunday order of service, and through our [uus@uuce.org](mailto:uus@uuce.org) e-mail list. All church-related activities should also be put on the church calendar. Procedures for placing announcements follow: 1) To place an article in the Unichord, send it via e-mail to [newsletter@uuce.org](mailto:newsletter@uuce.org) or put a printed copy in the newsletter mailbox at church. The Unichord deadline is the third Sunday of each month. 2) To place an announcement in the order of service, e-mail it to [office@uuce.org](mailto:office@uuce.org) by the Thursday beforehand, or place a hard copy in the office mailbox. 3) To post an announcement to the uus e-list, join the e-list by contacting Kevin Webster at [mailmonitor@uuce.org](mailto:mailmonitor@uuce.org) or send it to Linda Porter at [administrator@uuce.org](mailto:administrator@uuce.org). 4) Calendar entries should also be sent to [office@uuce.org](mailto:office@uuce.org) by the third Friday of the month to ensure that they appear on the calendar in the Unichord. 5) Other ways to announce your event include placing a written announcement in the announcement basket in the Fellowship Hall for reading in the church service or writing the announcement on the white board by the second floor elevator. Sign up to reserve the white board in the church office. Don't forget to create a sign-up sheet for your event and post it on a clipboard in the Fellowship Hall—especially if you need to know how many people plan on attending.

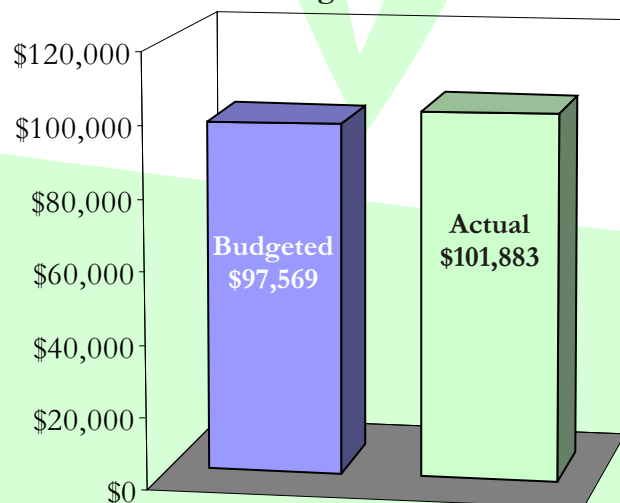
*-Linda Porter, Church Administrator*

### **CANVASS UPDATE**

The Canvass Committee wishes to thank all of our members and friends who have generously pledged to financially support the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin for the 2005-2006 church year. Our Canvass theme, "Tending our Roots—A Prairie Revival," challenged us to "tend our roots" and contribute more money than ever before. As of March 20, with a majority of our members and friends canvassed, we had received \$85,781 in pledges, still considerably short of our goal of \$150,000 needed to operate our church this year. If you have not yet been contacted by a canvasser, please contact Rusty Winchel or Joe Masonick. Thank you.

*-Joe Masonick, Canvass Committee Co-chair*

### **Member Pledges—Year to Date**



The 2004-2005 budget calls for \$106,400 in pledges; eleven months' worth of this figure is \$97,569. Questions? Contact your treasurer, Alice Macy, at [treasurer@uuce.org](mailto:treasurer@uuce.org).

# UUCE Calendar

## April

### 2005



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					<b>1</b> 6:30p Women Cooking for Women	<b>2</b>
<b>3</b> 9:00a Unichords 9:30a Worship Com. -102 9:30a Adult RE 12:30p Race Discussion	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 6:45p Barn Bells 1 7:00p COM -102 7:00p PR 7:15p Barn Bells 2	<b>7</b> 6:30p SSTF 6:30p Interweave 7:00p Covenant Group	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 9:30a Prairie Burn
<b>10</b> 9:00a Unichords 9:30a RE Council 9:30a Adult RE 12:30p Intentional Living 12:30p New U 6:30p Newcomers Covenant Group	<b>11</b> 7:00p Finance Com. -FH	<b>12</b> 7:00p Covenant Group	<b>13</b> 6:45p Barn Bells 1 7:15p Barn Bells 2	<b>14</b> 6:30p Peace Study Group	<b>15</b> 9:00a Staff Mtg. 10:00a DEADLINE Annual Reports	<b>16</b> 9:00a qUilters 9:30a Prairie Burn Rain Date 6:00p Circle Supper
<b>17</b> 9:00a Unichords at CMwD 9:30a Adult RE 12:30p New U 12:30p Race Disc. 12:30p Green Sanctuary Newsletter Deadline	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>20</b> 6:45p Barn Bells 1 7:00p Board of Trustees 7:15p Barn Bells 2	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b> 7:00p Interweave -O	<b>23</b> 9:00a Landscape and Grounds
<b>24</b> 9:00a Unichords 9:30a Adult RE 12:30p Birthday Potluck 6:30p Newcomers Covenant Group	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b> 7:00p Covenant Group	<b>27</b> 6:45p Barn Bells 1 7:00p Intentional Living -O 7:15p Barn Bells 2	<b>28</b> 6:30p Peace Study Group	<b>29</b> 9:00a Staff Mtg. 7:00p Book Group -O	<b>30</b>

## Month of Sundays

### April

#### 3 Biography of a Dress

A story written by Jamaica Kincaid that touches on how our perceived reality is different than our actual reality as represented through the photographs of our past. *Service led by Karen Olesch-Williams and Susan Anderson.*

#### 10 Walking Close to the Edge

To live religiously calls us at times to wrestle with issues we are uncomfortable with that take us to the edge of our comfort zone. Although I wouldn't want to live on the edge, a periodic visit is good for the soul. *Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.*

#### 17 Let Justice Flow

The Unitarian Universalist Service Committee acts in the world according to our UU principles in order to create more justice. Our guest, P.D. Wadler, will explain the mission and some of the current programs of the UUSC. There will be an opportunity for people to make a donation to support the work of the UUSC. *Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.*

#### 24 Postcards from the Journey

In this service the Rev. Clare Butterfield will explore how various faiths approach the issue of caring for the Earth. *Service led by the Rev. Dan Brosier.*

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

### PROGRESSIVE DINNER MAY 21

We are planning a progressive dinner for May. We will start with an appetizer course at one house, then 'progress' to another house for the entree and salad—each provided by different participants. Group size same as Circle Suppers: Maximum of eight each. We'll form as many groups as participant count dictates. The date for this gala event is Saturday, May 21. To encourage participation by people who live 'far away,' we will all gather at UUCE for dessert. And, those 'far travelers' will have first chance to choose to provide salad or dessert. Result: a large, noisy group consuming calories together in the Fellowship Hall. Sound familiar?

If this appeals to you, sign up on the clipboard in the Fellowship Hall. Let us know your course preference (some adjustments may be necessary). We will assign groups based on where people live. Please respond by April 15—an easy deadline to remember. For more information contact Bonnie or Dennis Schwank.

This event is for EVERYBODY, whether or not you are participating in Circle Suppers this church year. It is open to singles, couples, members and friends. This is your chance to get involved on a one-time basis with no long-term commitment! We hope to see some new faces.

### PRAIRIE BURN EXPERTISE/VOLUNTEERS SOUGHT

Spring is a fine time to burn a prairie if the weather cooperates! The Landscape and Grounds Committee hopes to burn the section of our prairie next to the cemetery on Saturday, April 9 or 16. If you would like to help out, please contact Mary Alice Masonick or Jim Porter. We are also seeking experienced prairie burners to help us plan for and conduct the burn.

### DISTRICT ASSEMBLY 2005

The 2005 District Assembly for the UUA Central Midwest District will be April 15-17 at the Sheraton Hotel in Arlington Heights. The theme for this year will be Creating Beloved Community: The Challenge and the Promise. A number of interesting workshops are planned. Contact Linda Porter for more information. A brochure is posted on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. Late registration is still possible but a late fee of \$35.00 will be applied.

### LANDSCAPE AND GROUNDS WORK PARTY

Help celebrate Earth Day by planting a tree or a shrub on our church grounds. There will be a work party on April 23 at 9:00 to plant trees and shrubs purchased from Kane County Conservation District. If the weather and time permit, we will also work on clearing brush from the fence row. Bring your favorite shovel and sturdy work gloves and join us. Questions? contact Linda Porter.

### MEN'S BIKE TRIP

Any interested men from the congregation are invited to join us in a northwestern Illinois bicycling adventure from July 14-16. It will involve two days of riding approximately fifty miles a day along the Mississippi River on the Great River Trail. For further information, contact Paul Anderson, Dan Brosier, Tim Davis, Joe Masonick, Eric Prebys or Todd Underwood.

## Announcements

### NEW MEMBERS

Since our last Unichord, Aroon Chaddha, Andy Garman, and Debbie Whiston-Garman have signed the membership book. We joyfully welcome them into our 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.

April 29 - "The Time Traveler's Wife" by Audrey Niffenegger. At the home of Barbara Sugden.

June 10 - "Holy Cow" by Sarah MacDonald. At the home of Alice Macy.

June 24 - "Girl in Hyacinth Blue" by Susan Vreeland. At the home of Shirley Wolin.

July 29 - "Cane River" by Lalita Tademy. At the home of Margot Cusimano.

August 26 - "Easter Island" by Jennifer Vanderbes. At the home of Pat Pecho.

### MAY 1 ANNUAL CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

Our annual congregational meeting will be held on Sunday, May 1 after the service. At this meeting the congregation will be electing new members to the Board, RE Council, and Endowment Fund Committee, and approving a budget for the coming fiscal year. All members are encouraged to attend.

### NEW POLICY

The Board of Trustees has developed a Disruptive Behavior Policy. The policy describes expectations and guidelines for members and friends to help ensure a safe and nurturing environment at UUCE. Comfort and personal safety are vital concerns, especially in order that a diverse group of individuals may enjoy the personal freedom to grow and express unique spiritual paths while at the same time nurturing strong bonds of fellowship. Members and friends will find the complete written policy posted on the kiosk in the Fellowship Hall. You are welcome to request a copy.

### BIRTHDAY POTLUCK/MAYPOLE

The RE Council is sponsoring the annual Birthday Potluck on April 24 after the service. This potluck is to celebrate all our birthdays throughout the year. Everyone is invited to share in the fun. Please join us by bringing a dish to share for the meal. Punch and birthday cake will be provided. We will also have a Maypole Dance and celebration.

### RUMMAGE SALE

The annual church-wide Rummage Sale happens in June, but planning is beginning now. This year, we are looking for several people to fill key planning roles. We need at least one person to be in charge of each of the following areas: volunteers, signs, set-up, pricing, clean-up, UUnique Boutique, sale days. If you are interested, or have questions, please contact Andrea Schmidlin.

### SOMETHING DIFFERENT

You can bring all the usual donations, such as peanut butter, canned meats, juice, laundry soap, etc., on Pantry Sunday, April 3rd. If you're looking for something a little different to donate,

### Kudos to:

**Jameel Abdur-Rafia** for starting the Race Discussion Group; **Kim Cecil** for starting Interweave; **Laurie Kiese Wetter** and **Andrea Schmidlin** for sponsoring Women Cooking for Women; **Todd Underwood** for taking photos for the on-line directory; **Kevin Webster**, **Janeen Vanko**, and **Todd Underwood** for chaperoning the Burnidge Woods nature hike; everyone who contributed candy for the Easter Egg Hunt; **Mila Brinker**, **Trisha Dean**, and **Debbie Prebys** for coordinating the Easter Egg Hunt; **Andrea Schmidlin** for chaperoning at the youth mini-con; **all the RE classes** who made fleece blankets for the early intervention program.



the staff mentioned that children really like the cereals that are marketed/created for them. Also, video watching snack foods, such as popcorn, Raisinettes, etc., are special treats for the recipients.

Please make an effort to bring your donations on Pantry Sunday, but your donations are welcome anytime during the month. If you keep forgetting to contribute and would like to make a donation, you can write a check made out to the Interfaith Food Pantry and give it to me. -*Henny DuBois*

### RACE DISCUSSION GROUP

An interesting new program has started at UUCE—the Race Discussion Group. At its initial meeting, the group members decided that they want to provide a safe and open forum for people to discuss issues around race. So far, we have had several very interesting discussions. We have talked about why we're interested in this discussion group, when we first realized there were differences in skin color/race/ethnicity, and how much and what type of contact we currently have with people from other races. We have each benefitted from hearing several different perspectives on each question. Won't you join us and tell us YOUR perspective? We meet bi-weekly at 12:30 on the third floor at the church. Our April meeting dates are on the 3rd and 17th. If you have questions, contact Jameel Abdur-Rafia or Andrea Schmidlin.

### BECOMING A MEMBER OF UUCE

Membership in the Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin is open to all persons sixteen years or over who agree with the purpose of this church—which is the study and practice of religion in freedom and fellowship. Membership is also a statement of commitment to the principles which underlie our denomination, to growth of the movement, to the health and well-being of this church community, and to the individual's search for truth. Members agree to contribute to the church through participation, authenticity and concern in relations with other members, and financial support. An annual contribution of record or not less than \$50.00 is required to maintain voting member status. The act of becoming a member is accomplished through signing our Membership Book. See the Minister, Dan Brosier, or Membership Chair, Linda Porter, for more information about becoming a member. Our next welcoming ceremony for new members is May 15, 2005.

## Religious Education

I recently read Dori Davenport's article in our district newsletter concerning lifelong learning and growth. For those of you who may not know, Dori is the district's Religious Educator and Growth Consultant. In part she says, "Lifespan religious education is not about what responsibilities the paid religious educator may have in her or his job description; rather it is about how a congregation views its educational ministry. Does a congregation seize opportunities to educate religiously in every activity that happens? Is there an intentional effort to bring together members of all ages to learn about and process all aspects of life through a religious lens? Are there formal and informal opportunities for people of all ages to learn, worship and celebrate together in an interactive way?"



Kathy Underwood, DRE

While I have given this considerable thought and attended workshops about it over the past year or so, I have yet to do more with it. Dori's article has put it back in my face, so to speak. How can I raise awareness here at UUCE beyond the small meetings and informal conversations? Is this approach for lifelong learning what we want?

I think we touch on many of Dori's points. We offer a lot of opportunities for all ages. To me, the challenge is how do we build on this. I believe that in doing so we can minister to each other even better. Imagine...

I invite you to begin a dialog with me. What is your vision of lifespan faith development? How can we make it a part of our very being as a community? Let's begin!

Here's what will be happening in the classrooms this month:

- April 3   Preschool: "Wondering About Stars"  
          K-2: "Wondering About God"  
          3-5: "The Friendship of David & Jonathan"  
          6-8: "The Black Church"  
          High School: Discuss a topic of choice
- April 10   Preschool: "Rainbows"  
          K-2: "Everybody's Birthday"  
          3-5: "Some Sayings of Jesus"  
          6-8: "Fundamentalism"  
          High School: Discuss a topic of choice
- April 17   Preschool: "A Visit From a Baby"  
          K-2: "Love Your Neighbor"  
          3-5: "The Parables of the Lost Sheep & Lost Coins"  
          6-8: "Fundamentalism 2"  
          High School: Discuss a topic of choice
- April 24   Preschool: "Passover"  
          K-2: "Pesah/Passover"  
          3-5: "Mary & Martha"  
          6-8: "Fundamentalism 3"  
          High School: Discuss a topic of choice

## SEX OFFENDER DECISION-MAKING SLOWED

Two of the series of three services on child sexual abuse are complete and we have heard the warnings clearly about the implications of having a known sex offender in our midst. We have decided to wait and have the third service on the issue at a later date so that some of our discussions can take place in the meantime. We definitely need time to process the information we have so far.

We will have a large group discussion on April 10 after the service for people to attend and discuss their thoughts and concerns about the possibility that a sex offender would return. We are seeking other venues for adults to have conversations about this and will be announcing them later. We encourage covenant groups to consider the topic in the context of their meetings if they wish. Kim Cecil and Dan Brosier would try to make themselves available to participate in the discussions if that would be helpful to the membership.

A small group discussion for youth will be held on April 24 at 12:30 pm so that the young people can have their own place to talk about the issues around the possibility of the sex offender returning. This group will be co-facilitated by Kim Cecil and Kathy Underwood. If you think your teenager might be appropriate to attend, please contact Kathy Underwood. Youth will be asked to bring a lunch so we can talk and eat together. Parents should decide if their teens are mature enough to handle the subject and ready to hear what the church is considering.

There are still many questions to be answered before we proceed past discussion. We hope that everyone will find a venue that suits them to discuss thoughts and concerns. If you feel you prefer a private meeting, please contact Kim or Dan. The only way that this can hurt our community is if we let it divide us. At this point, we just need everyone to be sure to use their voice and be heard and everyone to listen and honor one another.

## WOMEN COOKING FOR WOMEN

The next "Women Cooking For Women" dinner will be held on Friday, April 1, 2005. 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.

The monies collected in April will benefit The Larkin Center Creekside Home. Roberta Naumann will tell us a little bit about the girls who live at the Creekside Home. We will discuss how our gifts can help these young women.

We will gather at 6:30pm with dinner ready to be served by 7:00. Friends and family members are welcome to attend. Please sign up on the clipboard or R.S.V.P. (yes, you must!) to Laurie Kiesewetter or Andrea Schmidlin.

In Faith,  
Kathy

## Co-Presidents' Report

The church year is drawing to a close and we are just starting to prepare for the UUCE annual meeting on the first Sunday in May. You may not be aware but a great deal of effort has been expended by your Board of Trustees in reshaping the governance policies for directing the business, programs, and activities of the church. We cannot overstate how much time and energy they have invested trying to ensure that the church will be run in an organized, effective manner for what is now a midsize church while maintaining the friendly atmosphere of a smaller church. We extend a special thank you to Kim Cecil, Lydia Larrabee, and Linda Porter for their time, energy and expertise. They researched; they distilled; they synthesized; they presented; they explained; they facilitated; and they did it all with patience and a sense of humor. Without them the Board would still be swimming in a sea of paper.



*Dan and Kathy Hislip  
Board Co-Presidents*

Another matter that has been in the forefront of our church life the past several weeks is the request of Andrew Voross to return to the UU Church of Elgin. We're certain you are aware of the services, discussions, and information concerning this request and the concerns that surround it. We have no idea what the final outcome will be, but we do know that one of the qualities we both admire about this church community is its openness to process. As UUs we consider ourselves rational, logical freethinkers which implies that we educate ourselves, hear all sides, and then come to our decisions. Our human nature encourages us to make decisions quickly, then move on. But as UUs we hold ourselves to a higher standard when it comes to honoring the process of decision-making. As we make our way through this process, let us remember who we are and emerge intact as a church community which hears and honors each other in challenging moments.

In peace and good will,  
Dan and Kathy

## GREEN CORNER

GREEN TAGS ARE BLOWIN' IN THE WIND!

On April 24, the Green Sanctuary Committee will kick off the annual Spring sale of Green Tags to fund wind energy in Illinois. We welcome the Rev. Clare Butterfield, who will give a talk, "Postcards from the Journey," at Sunday morning worship. Rev. Butterfield, Executive Director of Faith In Place, will describe her work with the faiths of our region in caring for the earth.

Faith In Place runs a program, Illinois Interfaith Power and Light, that promotes the transition from fossil fuels to wind energy through the sale of wind certificates, or Green Tags. Rev. Butterfield explains that, "Wind certificates cost 2.5 cents per kilowatt hour and are certified to guarantee that for each 1,000 kilowatt hour certificate you buy, 1,000 kilowatt hours of wind power will be put into the Com Ed grid from the Gamesa facility at Mendota Hills."

Last year UUCE was honored for raising roughly 20% of our current electric bill, or \$67 each month, from the sale of "Green Tags," thus contributing funds for the construction of wind turbine farms in the state. While the 20% surcharge may be needed now to urge the state to convert to wind energy, the real cost of using conventional fossil fuels (the leading cause of poor air quality) will gradually convince everyone that wind energy is far more cost effective.

### Ways to Get in Touch

Church Office	847-888-0668
Web site	www.uuce.org
Newsletter Submissions	newsletter@uuce.org

### **Board Co-Presidents**

Dan & Kathy Hislip

### **Newsletter Editor:**

Todd Underwood

### **Deadlines**

Order of Service	Thursday PM
Unichord	April 17

## April Birthdays

1 Daniel Hislip	14 Dan Brosier
4 Eric Prebys	15 Brianna Bedard
5 Sheena John	15 Reve Rogers-Bottino
6 Katherine Lucas	17 Bob Hamill
6 Bob Bedard	18 Charmaine Hamill
7 Donn Branstrator	19 Margot Cusimano
7 Marjorie Osborne	20 Ron Williams
7 Andrew Russel III	20 Kim Cecil
11 Mitch King	24 Chris Laux
12 Mark Braun	27 Karen Leyba
13 Nick Prebys.	29 Emily Webster
14 Donna Askins	



### Who Am I?

This famous UU author wrote her most famous novel beginning in the summer of 1816. She took a challenge, set by Lord Byron, to write a ghost story. With her husband's encouragement, she completed the novel within a year.

*(answer will appear in the next Unichord)  
March's Who Am I was Thomas Jefferson.*



# The Unitarian Universalist Church of Elgin

P.O. Box 1032  
Elgin, IL 60121 (847) 888-0668

[www.uuce.org](http://www.uuce.org)

CHANGE SERVICE REQUESTED

## *Ways to get involved*

- Help out at the Landscape and Grounds work parties
- Participate in Adopt-a-Highway
- Come to the Peace Study Group discussions



*Two new youngsters were welcomed into our congregation in a ceremony led by Rev. Dan Brosier on March 27.*



*Tim Davis received a UU fridge magnet for co-winning a round of Rev. Dan Brosier's UU trivia contest during the service on March 13.*



*The first semester Religious Education teachers were recognized by the congregation during the service on March 13.*