

Update to the Board of Trustees  
Unitarian Church in Westport  
December, 2015

What a great time for our community! I can still feel the glow of Reverend John's installation ceremony, which was such a perfect melding of pomp and circumstance with our community's warm intimacy. What a perfect note to have our old friends return, and to feel that connection to both the local extended religious community and to our larger UU community. It was a great day to belong here – transitioning immediately to Thanksgiving and the whirlwind that is our holiday season.

I am grateful to Mary Money for agreeing to co-chair YRSC, and to David Smith for co-chairing with her, in this truly critical time for stewardship and community generosity. I'll also take a moment here to thank Deborah Quinn for her service chairing this committee for the past few years; we appreciate the hard work and dedication she brought to this tremendously important responsibility. Even as we appreciate the work of the past, we look to the future and to the new energy and direction and expanded work of the Stewardship team in all its manifestations – fundraising, legacy giving, and the upcoming canvass as facets of the culture of generosity that they nurture. Thanks to Steve Axthelm for improving the quality of the assisted hearing sound system – it's already noticed and appreciated, and how wonderful that you and Lynda Shannon are working to improve hearing accessibility more broadly in our buildings. And every time I drive away from church, I appreciate anew the work of the Buildings and Grounds committee with that smooth-as-silk exit drive now. Our community is truly blessed with the passion and energy of our volunteers.

So we look forward now to the Christmas season of giving – to our “elves” being Santa for some of the neediest families at Beardsley, to the gifts for children of the incarcerated, to the ongoing collections for the food bank, and all our other good works that so many of us just DO, somehow, amidst all the job and family and personal responsibilities – to the Christmas pageant, and the candlelight service, and our new year's resolutions.

We have a lot of work to do at our next meeting. Let's do it with love.

And for the spirit of the season:

“It's not how much we give but how much love we put into giving.”  
– [Mother Teresa](#)

“No one is useless in this world who lightens the burdens of another.”  
– [Charles Dickens](#)

“We make a living by what we get. We make a life by what we give.”  
– [Winston S. Churchill](#)

See you Tuesday!  
Michelle