

## **Senior Minister's Report to the Board of Trustees**

February 2017

Much of my focus over the last month has been devoted to providing a safe and spiritually nurturing place for our congregants to refresh and recharge. If we are to face the moral issues of our time with resilience we will need our church to strengthen our resolve. Amidst all the discord of our national life are the usual and painful struggles of our own lives including illness and death. We have had four deaths in the last month in our church and we mourn the loss of those beloved.

David Vita and I meet weekly to steer our energy towards constructive and lasting change. Our three major issues, besides the many affiliate organizations we support, are still immigrant rights, racial justice and gun control. For those of us who are involved in other social action causes we offer our moral support and invite them to work with us around these issues. We are being very careful to not be partisan and put our tax exempt status in jeopardy.

Worship and music continue to be strong for us. Attendance, especially at the 11 am service has been high. I anticipate this will continue for the time being.

Our adult programming is quite vibrant with several courses being taught by me and others as well as several new meditation groups which are now starting. We continue to monitor our entire faith development program for increased impact and efficiency realizing that we are trying to serve many different kinds of people and their needs.

Work has begun on our Annual Budget Drive and a training for visiting stewards will be held on March 11<sup>th</sup>. The Leadership Event is March 18<sup>th</sup> and the general budget drive begins April 1, no fooling.

I continue to work closely with Dorothy, our Executive Director, on staff and financial management issues.

Thanks to all of you for completing your first draft of ends statements. This will help me and the staff focus our ministry on what matters most to our congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Rev. Dr. John Morehouse