



Three special gifts were presented to Nancy after the toasting ceremony. The first was a beautiful ceramic flaming-fountain chalice that stands about 16 inches tall and was especially created by a local artist for the occasion of Nancy's retirement. The second was an amazing quilt designed and quilted by UU members of the Quilting Bee. Each square is a colorful and beautifully unique flaming chalice. The third gift was a beautiful quilted table runner made by choir members especially for Nancy's retirement.

The dinner ended with powerful closing words from Rev. Judith Walker-Riggs reminding us that there is a time for endings and a time for new beginnings. She invoked blessings on the end of Nancy's ministry with us and the new beginnings for Nancy in retirement and our congregation in moving into the future with new leadership.



On Sunday morning the celebration continued with two very special worship services that included Nancy's final sermon to the congregation reminding us that hope calls us on as a faith community to keep making a difference in the world. The Choir outdid itself with a musical performance designed "to rock" Nancy right into retirement. The great highlight of the worship music, and a complete surprise to Nancy, was a very special commissioned hymn entitled "Life Calls us On." The music was written by the famous Unitarian Universalist composer, Reverend Jason Shelton, Associate Minister for Music at the First Universalist Church of Nashville.

The lyrics were written by the renowned Reverend Dr. Kendyl Gibbons. She is a life-long Unitarian, recognized leader in our Association and senior minister of the First Unitarian Society of Minneapolis.

This hymn will now carry with it Universalist Church Reverend Nancy J.

The two worship prepared by the everyone came back the church keys by letters and special the congregation



be sung in congregations across the country and will always the inscription, "Commissioned by the Unitarian of Las Cruces, NM, on the occasion of the retirement of the Anderson, named Minister Emerita, June 20, 2010."

services were followed by a delicious light luncheon Fellowship Committee, complete with wine. At the end together in the sanctuary for a ceremonial handing over of Nancy and presentation of her final gift, a book full of remembrances from members and friends of including special artwork from the children. This

remarkable weekend was planned by the Celebration Committee chaired by Sarah Heartson. The members included Lyn Pearson, Irene & J. D. Schlutz, Karen West, Peggy Brown, Marian O'Connell and Traci Conner, with special assistance on the gala weekend by Allyson & Stephanie Richins and Trianna Valigura.