

September 2011

# Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church  
Of Brunswick



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*Our Mission is  
To be a spiritual community  
To welcome all  
To nurture one another  
To work for justice  
And to care for the earth.*

**ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER**

Please note: On September 11, we move to the Minnie Brown Center in Bath. Because the space there is bigger than our sanctuary was, we will be returning to one service at 10:00. We ask people to carpool to Minnie Brown to reduce our carbon footprint and to maximize parking spaces.

**The Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Brunswick**

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister

Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell,  
Minister Emeritus

Nicole Shanks,  
Director of Religious Education

Stephanie Bernier,  
Music Coordinator

Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director

David Dean, Accompanist

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Bill Burke, Sexton

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**NEXT DEADLINE**  
**for October issue is**  
**Fri, Sept.17, 2011, 5 pm**  
*Rare exceptions: 729-4857*

**September 4 – NO SERVICE.** In the tradition of taking a break from our laboring, there will be no service today to observe the holiday.

**September 11 (Homecoming Sunday) - “A Blast from the Past.”**  
This year, on Homecoming Sunday, we will start meeting in a whole new space, the Minnie Brown Center in Bath. So is that a homecoming? Or not? Sylvia suspects it is – and in some surprising ways, too. Come find out the full story in this intergenerational service. As is our tradition on Homecoming Sunday, we will ask the congregation to reflect on a question and write or draw responses to compile in a notebook for all to see. This year’s question “What makes this congregation feel like home to you? (Or what would make this congregation feel like home to you?)” Sylvia Stocker and Nicole Shanks will lead the service. Music provided by Grace Lewis-McLaren.

**September 18 – “Finding Balance.”**  
In a world increasingly out of kilter, how do we find balance? Rev. Stocker preaching.. Music by Larry Lemmel.

**September 25 –** This service will be organized by the Worship Committee. Music to be announced.  
*Rev. Stocker will be filling the pulpit for Rev. Chandler in Saco-Biddeford today, as part of a district-wide agreement that churches will “loan out” their ministers for one Sunday during a ministerial sabbatical. Someday when Sylvia goes on sabbatical (none planned at this time), ministers from other churches will, in turn, help us out.*

**SEE PAGE 8 FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER**

## FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Welcome back! We start our 2011/2012 program year in a new place- the Minnie Brown Center in Bath. Change and transition can be difficult but they also give the opportunity for new possibilities. I think you'll find our new space adequate to meet RE needs. One bonus of the new location is the large and beautiful green space right across the street. I'm sure that our RE teachers will appreciate the ability to take the children outside to expend some of that wonderful energy they come with many Sunday mornings! You'll have the chance to take a look at the RE classrooms following our homecoming service on September 11<sup>th</sup>- I hope to see you there.

This year RE will focus on Unitarian Universalist identity and history. Grades PreK-K will use the *Chalice Children* curriculum which is designed to foster a connection to the UU community through rhymes, games, stories, and crafts. Grades 1-3 will follow the *Picture Book UU*

curriculum which uses stories to present the concepts in our principles and sources, as well as some UU historical figures. The grades 4-6 class will use *Travel In Time* which introduces participants UU history in North America and leads them on a journey to understanding their own religious identity as young UUs. The 7-12<sup>th</sup> grade youth group will focus on UU history, community building, and a social justice project. Throughout the year we'll have multi-age activities, intergenerational services, and fun intergenerational events in addition to our classes (a calendar of activities will be posted on the church website). I can't wait to see you all!

Blessings, *nicole*

### HOW TO REACH US

The Unitarian Universalist  
Church of Brunswick  
PO Box 129  
Brunswick ME 04011

**The church office**, (at 7 Middle Street) is open from Tuesday to Friday, 10 am to 4 pm. The office administrator is Shirley Bernier.

**The Director of Religious Education**, Nicole Shanks, is in her office at 7 Middle Street, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am - 1 pm and by appointment. Contact her by telephone at the church office: 729-8515.

**The Minister**, Rev. Sylvia Stocker, has office hours Tuesday and Thursday 1-4 pm and by appointment. In an emergency, do not hesitate to call her anywhere or any time. (Consult the church directory for her home number.) For routine church business, please call her at the church.

Monday is the Sabbath for the Minister, the DRE, and the office.

**Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515**

**E-mail: [uubruns@zwi](mailto:uubruns@zwi)**

**Website: <http://www.uubrunswick.org>**

### IMPORTANT RE DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

**September 10 Homecoming Potluck**- We'll join with the rest of the church community for this year's RE kick-off. RE registration forms will be available to fill out and the curricula for this year will be available for families to peruse. There will be games and crafts for the children. Please see the announcement elsewhere in this newsletter for details such as time and location.

**September 11 Homecoming Service**- I hope to see you at this child-friendly intergenerational service. Following the service families are invited to check out our RE classrooms for this year.

**September 18**- Our first day of RE classes!

## ... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



**W**e lost much in the fire. Undoubtedly each of us grieves different things. Among many things, I grieve the notebooks in which we have captured our summer reflections for the past two years. Last year people reflected on the question, "After your summer journeys and reflections, what wisdom or inspiration do you bring to your community?" Two years ago we responded to the question "After your summer journeys, what truth can you share from your heart?" We collected the answers in colorful notebooks that we displayed during hospitality for the first few weeks of church. I really loved those snapshots of our congregation. But then the fire destroyed the notebooks.

This year, I am asking for new reflections so that we can begin compiling new notebook. On September 11, we face the irony of conducting our Homecoming service in a different space that probably will not feel like home. So I ponder what makes a congregation feel like a home. What creates that feeling for you? Physical space certainly provides some of that feeling for many, but people seldom join congregations because of the buildings in which they meet. So what makes a home? How do we feel

at home with each other? How do we feel at home in the world? As we recover from the fire, we will be creating "home" in much more intentional ways than before - both as we settle into the Minnie Brown Center and as we think about what and where to rebuild. So I ask you to give those questions some thought and come prepared to jot down a brief comment or illustration for us on Sunday, September 11.

Meanwhile, life goes on. During the summer, many people remained active to help the church to heal from the trauma of the fire. The Recovery Team met nearly every week and provided regular updates to the congregation. We had two potlucks at St. Paul's church, an annual meeting, and a special congregational meeting. The Membership Committee helped people to settle in at the library and created Circle Suppers to draw small groups of people together. Chalice Circle facilitators offered special, open chalice circles for anyone who wanted to reflect on church memories and dreams.

The Worship Committee helped the wonderful volunteer service leaders to produce high quality, well attended services - and at such short notice, pulling things together seamlessly in a completely new worship space. Volunteers kept the church office running smoothly during my vacation and in the wake of Elizabeth Moore's retirement. A Search Committee waded through heaps of resumes and found our new Church Office Administrator, Shirley Bernier, who started on August 17. (Welcome, Shirley!) Volunteers weeded the butterfly garden, mowed the lawn, and tended to other physical needs on our campus. Our congregation is healthy and strong, even without our church building. Thank you, all of you, who make

this congregation special.

Many people outside our congregation helped, too. So far over \$16,000 has been donated to our recovery fund. Only a small percentage came from our congregation. Much of it came from the wider community, including UU congregations in our Northern New England District (NNED) and across the nation.

Just as other UUs have joined together to help us, we now have an opportunity to join with NNED congregations to help others. **From September 25 to October 2, NNED is asking congregations to organize a special food collection for local food banks.** Even in the midst of the internal work we engage this year, I feel it important not to lose our focus on the wider world. We are not concerned solely with ourselves. We have work to do to heal our world. Now we are asked to link hands with our neighboring UUs, many of whom have so generously reached out to us - to accomplish some of that work.



So, we will collect food on Sunday, September 25, and Sunday, October 2, to be delivered to Midcoast Hunger Prevention. I am asking for one or two people to take charge of this short-term, time-limited project. I know it's rash to announce a program without yet having the volunteers to lead it, but I am confident one or two of you will be honored to step forward. **Please let me know you will take charge of this.** See you soon!

Love,  
Sylvia

## LOOKING BACK AND LOOKING AHEAD... A MESSAGE FROM YOUR WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The summer has flown, but the five of us have been busy shepherding the summer services along to their successful completion. Working in pairs, we have learned all the ins and outs of the Morrill Room at Curtis Memorial Library. From collecting the key (which to my horror I forgot to do one Saturday!!), to schlepping our pulpit-in-a-bag, to transforming the space into a "sanctuary" – we've learned to do it all. I have so much appreciation for the efforts of Stephanie Bernier, Heidi Neufeld, Mary Pat Conroy and Anne Heberger Marino. Thanks also to our sexton, Bill Burke, who always has the piano moved and the distribution of chairs and books well under way by the time we arrive. And of course, tremendous gratitude goes out to all the guests in our pulpit this summer – your contributions made this series of summer services possible. I know first-hand that it is hard work to create a meaningful service of worship. Last but not least, a huge round of applause for all our talented musicians who donated their time and energy to grace our services with their gifts. The reward for all of us is that week after week, despite a few glitches here and there, we have had many new visitors, and a loyal group of summer attendees.

Each Sunday, the Membership Committee and its summer volunteers have faithfully kept a very visible and welcoming presence at the entrance to the Morrill Room. Debbie Zorach, Andrea Sinclair, Alene Staley and others were ready with nametags, smiles, and current information about our church. Many thanks to Debbie for her rapid response to the destruction of our nametags. By the first service following the fire, she had recreated everyone's tag and invented a very creative way to display them...and has carted them around

in the back seat of her car all summer long!! That one small gesture makes our congregation seem stable and grounded. By this, we recognize who we are ... literally and figuratively!

The list of thanks must be extended to include the 2010-11 Chalice Circle whose service project was to provide simple refreshments every single Sunday all summer long. Hospitality makes our members, friends and guests feel cared for. Thank you to Nancy Dorian, Connie and Robie Seidner, Connie and Betty Wurtz, Mary Ann Gesner and Hannah Trowbridge, Robin Hansen and Jane Danielson, and Steve Wellcome and Delsa Wilson for all of your generous contributions week after week. We also wish to thank Mike Heath for his patience and support in the early part of the summer when we were trying to find our way around the Morrill Room facilities. And finally, to the wonderful members of the congregation who, week after week, pitched in and picked up hymnals and put away chairs. Our committee REALLY thanks you for that, because it would have been our job if you hadn't help us out!

So, as our lay summer service schedule drew to a close last week (8/14), we turn our attention to the fall and our imminent move to the Minnie Brown Center in Bath. We might want to think like students going off to college for the first time. What will we need? What must we take? What must we leave behind at least for the time being? What will it feel like to be away from home? Will we be homesick? How will we cope with the things that aren't easy and can't be changed or done differently in the short term? We have choices. We can choose to go with the flow, knowing that this situation is temporary; or we can spend moments of our precious life bemoaning what is difficult but

can't be changed. I'm a glass half full person. I choose to move forward acknowledging the obstacles, but not allowing the obstacles to control my life or my attitude. Our challenge as your Worship Committee is to help our minister and our congregation make as smooth a transition as possible into this new facility. We still pledge to provide you all with the quality worship experiences you are accustomed to. We will try to be responsive to the needs of the congregation as we go forward. Please recognize that it may take a little time to get it just right...but we will be doing the best we can. Lucky for us, we have a wonderful minister, terrific musicians, a large dedicated and talented choir, and a great church family. We have much to be thankful for, so let us go forward with hopeful hearts and open minds, remembering, as the Rev. Philip Giles says, "*to let the quality of our lives be our benediction.*" Blessed be.

In fellowship,  
Pat Harris, 2011-12 WC Chair

### WE NEED HELP!

Here is a marvelous opportunity for some of you out there to join a small but dedicated group of energetic people who bring you quality worship each Sunday throughout the year. We are the Worship Associates, and we need to enlarge our little group so we can continue to meet the needs of a growing congregation. We are more than just a committee that meets once a month, we are a regular presence at your worship services. We serve because we feel moved and honored to do so. Our tasks are simple but important - we prepare the sanctuary for worship. We provide whatever assistance the

*(continued on page 3)*

## CALLING ALL SINGERS!

The **choir** will start up again on **September 15** and will be practicing at the Minnie Brown Center in Bath from 7 to 8:30. **Anyone is welcome to come and sing with us.** If you're new to the congregation, this is the perfect time to join. We are a non-audition group. If you love to sing, you are welcome. The choir practices every Thursday and sings for the congregation on Sunday morning generally once a month. That being said, I am starting the year off with an exception to the rule. Due to the timing of Labor Day this year and the minister's schedule, we will not sing in September. **Our first Sunday will be October 2<sup>nd</sup>.** We will also sing on October 30. We have occasional additional duties that you are encouraged to attend, notably the Festival of Ecumenical Lessons and Carols (on December 4<sup>th</sup> this year) and our Christmas Eve Services. I am hoping we might have a spring concert this year as well. If you have additional questions (or need encouragement) you may email me at [hvneufeld@gmail.com](mailto:hvneufeld@gmail.com).

A note about the fire: Although protected from burning by the metal file cabinets, all of our choir music was rendered unusable by the smoke. As luck would have it, I had a single copy of everything in the library at home, so I have music to work with for planning and reordering purposes. I've ordered up several new pieces, have replaced a few favorites, and we'll go from there. If you have any music at home from last season, please bring it with you to practice. I'll be setting up a new library here at my house for the interim.

Looking forward to being with all of you again in a new and different way.

*Heidi Neufeld*

## DEVELOPMENT CONVERSATION

**UUCB FINANCIAL HEALTH AND STABILITY:  
A THOUGHTFUL AND ENERGIZED TALK**

**S**eventeen people of all ages and levels of engagement at UUCB gathered on August 11 to discuss how members and friends might move the congregation towards a generosity of spirit that would assure UUCB financial health and stability.

As the church year begins, we will all be asked to reflect on the interrelationship among generosity, mission and spiritual community.

Consider this quote from Erik Walker Wikstrom's book, *Serving with Grace*...

*"...I am a person who has something to give... whose presence matters in the world... whose life has meaning because I am connected to and care about things larger than myself...."*

..and consider serving with the UUCB Development Committee to help oversee the Annual Canvass, the Planned Giving Program, Fundraising Events or the anticipated Capital Campaign.

For more information, see Cathey Cyrus, Jim Michaud, Paul Schaffner or Ann Spencer: *members of the Nominating Committee.*



## WORSHIP COMMITTEE... WE NEED HELP! (CONTINUED)

minister may need on Sunday mornings. We assist inexperienced lay speakers and guest ministers as they prepare their services. We train, mentor and support new members of our group. Together, we develop and support the summer services for our congregation while the minister takes a well-deserved rest.

The reality of our current situation is that what one person used to be able to do now requires two – and this

small but dedicated group needs to add some man and woman power to its ranks! Could you be one of those people? Would you like to play an integral part in the worship aspect of your church? No special talents, training or experience required except a willingness to be part of our Worship Associates team. Remember: we train, support and mentor our members. No need to write a sermon or lead a lay service... simply come on board and be a

willing pair of helping hands. The members of your worship team will be very grateful! Just in case you don't know us, we are: Heidi Neufeld, Stephanie Bernier, Anne Heberger Marino, Mary Pat Conroy, and Pat Harris. Please feel free to speak to any of us about this opportunity or call Pat Harris at 725-7772 or email her at [pjbharris@aol.com](mailto:pjbharris@aol.com). Could this be the year you step outside the box and try something new?

## GREEN SANCTUARY FOOTPRINT



*Green Sanctuary Footprint is an open mic on the environment, climate change, carbon footprints, relationships with other species—all that good stuff. You — yes, YOU—are invited to submit a short essay (50 to 200 words) to it.*

*To do so, email or call Green Sanctuary chair, Robin Hansen at [robinoh@comcast.net](mailto:robinoh@comcast.net) to reserve a month.*

A friend asked me last Sunday at church if Green Sanctuary shouldn't be tending to plantings around the church building. After all, the member reasoned, you are *Green Sanctuary*.

It must be time for Green Sanctuary to define itself to the church at large.

**Green:** a color on the spectrum between yellow and blue—the yellow of the sun and the moon, the blue of the sky: the green growth on planet Earth.

The “green” in Green Sanctuary is a politicized term to invoke Earth care and environmentalism. Its popularity in the sense of saving the Earth has led to it being co-opted by any and everyone who wants support, from toothpaste manufacturers to Central Maine Power to the US National Guard. It's a convenient, overused word on its way to losing impact.

**Sanctuary:** Hm, we don't seem to have one right now. But wait: A “sanctuary” is a consecrated, sacred place — This can be a building, a grove, a community. It can be the sanctuary of our hearts, joined together.

The last line of our UUCB mission statement is “—to care for the Earth.” Our Seventh Principle in the UU Church is “—respect for the interconnected web of existence of which we are a part.”

The Green Sanctuary Committee exists to keep those two lines clearly in the hearts of the congregation and the community. Its jobs are to draw attention to the illness civilization has foisted on the Earth and to learn and invent ways to lessen this; to introduce its members and youth to the Earth and its many species; to encourage a less exploitive lifestyle; and (this is a biggie) to think of ways our church — congregation, building, and image — can begin to mean “Earth Care” to the community.

Don't forget your nametags.

## UUCB TABLE AT 2011 PEACE FAIR

This year the UUCB Working for Justice Steering Group set up a table at the Peace Fair - August 6 - with members of that group and former members of the Social Justice Committee sharing the duties throughout the day of talking with fair goers about our theme of preventing hate and prejudice; actions of UUA and UUSC.

The fair organizers, Greater Brunswick Area PeaceWorks, came up with the idea of a passport that people could have stamped at each table. Each page had action steps on them. The UUCB page listed the following two actions:

- ♦ I will reach out in friendship to newcomers in my school, neighborhood and community.
- ♦ I will voice my concern when I hear words or observe actions that make fun of or threaten others.

The goal was that by agreeing to take an action you would further the work of the group at each table.

The annual Peace Fair is always held the first weekend in August in commemoration of the bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki. The goal of the fair is to promote possibilities for creating a peaceful world. This year's fair wove three strands of peace - Being peaceful - Speaking out clearly - Supporting sustainable initiatives - creating a braided strand that when worked together creates something strong yet flexible.

Lynn Ellis for the Working for Justice Steering Group

**peaceworks**  
BRUNSWICK • MAINE

## CHARITIES WITH SOUL

### September Charity

This month's plate offerings are split 50/50 with Peace Action Maine. This is a new charity for UUCB and chosen by the Charities with Soul Task Force as one of several organizations meeting the criteria of social change/social justice groups.

Peace Action Maine is committed to nonviolent and creative responses to conflict through community action for justice. PAM also serves to educate and inspire through opportunities to hear speakers and read materials in their library. The Meg Perry Center in Portland serves as office and meeting space. Many newcomers to Portland from war torn countries have found welcome at this center and it helps to unify with this fast growing diversity of culture in Portland and surrounding areas.

Peace Action Maine is a 501c3 corporation supporting goals and activities in public education and broad based advocacy around disarmament and peace-keeping. For more information go to their website [www.peaceactionme.org](http://www.peaceactionme.org).

The Charities With Soul Task Force:  
*Jane Danielson, Steve Eagles, Lynn Ellis & Rich Knox*



*September's Charity with Soul*

## JUUST DESSERTS



The Membership Committee cordially invites everyone to join us for **jUust desserts** on Friday, September 23, (the fall equinox) from 7 pm to 9 pm, location to be determined. This will be an opportunity for newcomers, friends, new members, and old-timers to get to know one another better. Sylvia will be on hand for chatting and answering questions about our UU church community and the UU denomination. And, yes, there will be some yummy desserts available to feed our soul - or- sweet tooth! Join us for the entire two hours or drop in when you are able to. If you plan to come, an RSVP to the church office 207-729-8515 is helpful for our planning, but if Friday comes around and you would like to come without having RSVP'd, please come anyway. We would love to see you. And if there are dessert divas who would like to supply a few desserts, please let Debbie Zorach know by email at [dszorach@gwi.net](mailto:dszorach@gwi.net) or by phone at 207-729-8103.

## A SEPTEMBER POTPOURRI OF EVENTS FOR MEMBERS AND FRIENDS

Saturday, Sept. 10 **UUCB Homecoming Pot Luck**, St Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 132 McKeen Street, Brunswick. 5:30 to 9 pm. Cooks' Alert! Newcomers, friends, and members are cordially invited to this all church, intergenerational gathering celebrating the start of our 2011 to 2012 church year. See you in church the next morning!

Friday, Sept. 23 **jUust desserts**, location TBD. 7 to 9:00 pm. Gourmet desserts and community conversations for newcomers, new members, longtime members. Come one, come all.

Sunday, Sept. 25 **Newcomers Corner**, Minnie Brown Center, following the service. This casual conversation after the Sunday service is for newcomers who have questions about our church and who might like to get acquainted in a small group setting. Sylvia will join us she can.

## NEW MEMBER CHRISTOPHER KAN



Born and raised in one of the most conservative towns in the Los Angeles area, Chris's interest in politics and community service began in high school where he was active in environmental groups and the Gay-Straight Alliance. He organized the first student-run, teacher workshop in the district to bring tolerance to the classroom. He helped get a grant to put solar panels on the school roof, and he also set up a school recycling program. He has a sister in the seventh grade.

A sophomore at Bowdoin College, Chris will be majoring in Biology and Anthropology, with research in ecology his long-term goal. He is a leader in the Outing Club and says that biology and the outdoors are his passion.

Chris is active in volunteering at Bowdoin. He is pleased that Bowdoin has committed four full-time staff to help students commit to the common good by volunteering in the community. The students allocate \$200,000 a year for community service. With other Bowdoin students, he is involved in running a volunteer tax preparation program for low income residents in the Brunswick area, and is certified by the IRS. This program brought \$800,000 in tax refunds for 300 area people. In his spare time he runs the Yellow Bike Club, which makes bikes available to students. Chris also works with the Bowdoin IT department to

help develop policy and to set up equipment for campus presenters.

Before attending UUCB, Chris says he hadn't thought much about spirituality. After visiting our church at the invitation of a friend, he decided he liked the atmosphere and the openness of the congregation. He loves Sylvia's sermons and how she reframes life in a more constructive way.

Please say hello to Chris when you see him!

## DIRECTIONS TO THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER - 906 Washington Street, Bath, Maine

### From the North

- ◆ As you travel across the Sagadahoc Bridge from Woolwich into Bath look for the sign "to 209 / Bath Phippsburg / right lane / exit only." Stay in the right lane. There will be a stop sign at the beginning of the exit.
- ◆ Continue straight onto Vine Street and travel 1/10 mile. Bear right just before the traffic lights.
- ◆ Turn right onto Washington Street. Travel 3/10 mile. (You will be passing one set of traffic lights and the Chocolate Church Arts Center on your left.)
- ◆ The Minnie Brown Center is a white and red brick building on your left. There is parking behind the building as well

### From the South

- ◆ As you enter Bath along Rt.1 look for the sign "Bath Right Lane." As you move to the right lane, look for the sign "Historic Bath." Travel down the exit for 3/10 mile until you reach Washington Street at the traffic lights.
- ◆ Turn left at the traffic lights onto Washington Street. Travel 3/10. (You will be passing one set of traffic lights and the Chocolate Church Arts Center on your left.)
- ◆ The Minnie Brown Center is a white and red brick building on your left. There is parking behind the building as well as on the street.

## UUCB HOMECOMING INTERGENERATIONAL POTLUCK SUPPER

The Membership Committee and the Church Council are delighted to host our homecoming intergenerational potluck supper on Saturday, September 10, at St. Charles Borromeo Catholic Church, 132 McKeen Street in Brunswick. All newcomers, friends, and members of UUCB are cordially invited to attend. Child care will be provided at St. Charles and transportation will be available for folks who do not drive. Last year's supper was hugely popular.

Final details are being tweaked at this writing, but the evening will begin with a social time at 5:30 pm, followed by supper at 6 pm and a short musical program after dessert and coffee. Watch for further details in a post card to be mailed to everyone, as well as in email reminders (and phone calls to those without email)

If you would like to RSVP right now, please call Debbie Zorach at 729-8103 or our new church office administrator, Shirley Bernier, in the church office at 729-8515. If you need to leave a message, be sure to mention how many people will be coming from your household and your need for either childcare or transportation.

We hope this will be a terrific evening and a chance to enjoy one another's company and conversation (and wonderful food) as we start the new church year.

## HOST HOMES FOR TEENS NEEDED

The Family Services Coordinator at New Beginnings based out of Lewiston is developing a Host Home Program in Cumberland and York Counties to temporarily house teens. Unfortunately, there is a need for safe, short-term shelter in those areas. New Beginnings is looking for caring and responsible adults who might be interested in being part of this program. A Host Home applicant can have previous experience with teens or they could be someone who has always wanted to work with young adults. New Beginnings will provide the families with some financial support and 24-hour crisis intervention support through the Emergency Shelter in Lewiston.

If you know of anyone who may be interested in this program, please have them contact Jada Caron at 795-4070 or [jada@newbeginmaine.org](mailto:jada@newbeginmaine.org).



**New Beginnings**

## MEET OUR NEW ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT !!



### SHIRLEY BERNIER

Shirley Bernier was chosen from a slate of many fine candidates to be our new Administrative Assistant. She began working for us on August 17th. (Joy!)

Shirley has worked as an Administrative Assistant for many years. She lives in Lisbon with her husband, Ray Siegler. In her spare time, she can be seen acting and singing on stage with many of the area community theaters.

**Welcome, Shirley!!**

## UU FAITH INTO ACTION

### New England UU Gathering/Training on Congregation-Based Community Organizing

Saturday, Sept. 24, 2011, 11am-3pm

UU Church of Nashua NH, 58 Lowell Street, Nashua NH

Registration is now open for this workshop and gathering on Congregation-Based Community Organizing (CBCO) and how this model empowers us to put our UU faith into action for social justice. CBCO is coalitional, multi-issue, and grounded in faith, congregations, and democratic principles. CBCOs are grassroots led, non-partisan, and funded by member organizations. Now more than ever we need a non-partisan organizing movement, rooted in our faith and our communities, that can build power for social change.

This four-hour workshop includes lunch and will provide training from InterValley Project organizers on:

- ♦ How to build relationships through one-on-one interviews—the core element of this approach to organizing—and how to develop a process for conducting a relationship building campaign in your congregation and community.
- ♦ The role of story telling in organizing, in our culture and faith tradition, and as a tool for leadership development.
- ♦ Why, what, and how to organize? We will learn about the cycle of organizing from conducting one-on-one listening campaigns, to choosing issues, researching the issues, to developing an action plan.
- ♦ We will hear testimonials and learn from UUs and others about what they have achieved in their organizing campaigns and how it has strengthened their faith community.
- ♦ Susan Leslie, UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director, will share information on resources and funding and help coordinate a UU organizing network.

Registration is \$25 per person. Congregations are encouraged (but not required) to send teams. Checks can be made payable to the UUA (put "CBCO Workshop" in the memo line) and sent to Susan Leslie, UUA, 25 Beacon St., Boston MA 02108.

Please register at [http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1272/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event\\_KEY=70051](http://salsa.democracyinaction.org/o/1272/p/salsa/event/common/public/?event_KEY=70051) **by September 1<sup>st</sup>**. (We will allow registrations after September 1<sup>st</sup> but for our planning purposes, please let us know as soon as possible.) Once you register we will send you driving and parking instructions, along with a workshop packet.

We look forward to seeing you at a gathering that will provide training and help build an organizing culture and community grounded in our faith tradition and values.

In faith,

Susan Leslie, UUA Congregational Advocacy & Witness Director  
Rev. Steve Edington, UU Church of Nashua

#### More Opportunities for Lifelong Learning

Online courses from the Church of the Larger Fellowship (Adult Ed):

[http://www.uua.org/documents/clf/110721\\_adulted.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/clf/110721_adulted.pdf)

## NORTHEAST GUILD FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

### WISDOM WEEKEND WITH CHRISTOPHER PRAMUK: THE HEART OF WISDOM IN THE PRAYER OF THOMAS MERTON

Fri, Sept 9, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
at St. Andrew Church, Seal Cove, Maine  
Cost: \$50 (Includes refreshments & snacks;  
please bring your lunch)

Sat, Sept 10, 9:00 am - Sun, Sept 11, 12:00 pm  
at The Alcyon Center, Seal Cove  
Cost: \$100 tuition (Room & Board available  
for an additional cost; see [www.alcyoncenter.org](http://www.alcyoncenter.org))

### WISDOM WEEKEND WITH MARTIN LAIRD: RECEIVING WISDOM IN THE SILENCE

Fri, Oct 14, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm  
at St. Andrew Church, Seal Cove, Maine  
Cost: \$50 (Includes refreshments and snacks;  
please bring your lunch)

Sat, Oct 15, 9:00 am - Sunday, Oct 16, 12:00 pm  
at The Alcyon Center, Seal Cove  
Cost: \$100 tuition (Room & Board available  
for an additional cost; see [www.alcyoncenter.org](http://www.alcyoncenter.org))

**FOR EACH WEEKEND, YOU ARE WELCOME  
TO ATTEND ONE DAY OR BOTH DAYS**



*The Northeast Guild for Spiritual Formation is an ecumenical community called to encourage and empower all persons who seek to open to the ever available presence and guidance of the Holy in their lives, by providing hospitality for spiritual deepening and by teaching transformative wisdom and practices.*

*The Guild respects the unique spiritual path of each person. Grounded in the Christian contemplative tradition, we welcome all, from any faith tradition or no tradition, who seek to live and learn from the way of self-emptying Love.*

### Books on Sale

10% off the most popular books that were sold at GA:  
[http://www.uua.org/documents/  
beacon/110721\\_beacon\\_discount.pdf](http://www.uua.org/documents/beacon/110721_beacon_discount.pdf)

THE BRUNSWICK AREA  
INTERFAITH COUNCIL  
invites all to

9/11  
+ 10



HEALING • REMEMBERING • HOPING

## AN INTERFAITH SERVICE OF PRAYERS FOR HEALING AND PEACE

SEPTEMBER 11, 2011

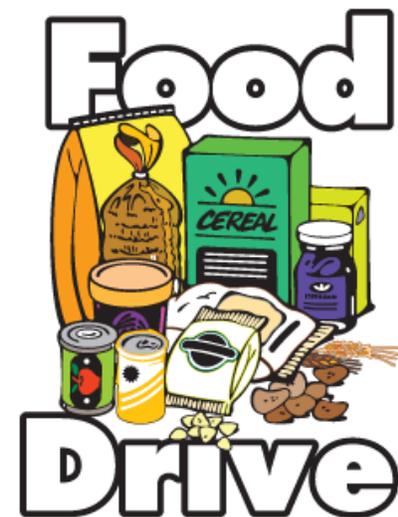
2:30 P.M.

at

First Parish Church of Brunswick

207 MAINE STREET

## NNED FOOD DRIVE



September 25th & October 2nd  
for Midcoast Hunger Prevention

## FROM THE BOARD CHAIR .....

This has been an unusually busy summer for many of us at UUCB. But beyond the tasks dictated by the fire and Elizabeth's retirement, much has gone into the day-to-day work of the Church. I am thinking particularly of the wonderful summer Sunday services, Circle Suppers and open Chalice Circles that have made this such a productive July and August. Thanks especially to the efforts of the Worship and Membership Committees, our ongoing summer activities have brought new people into our circle and helped everyone make and keep connections with each other and the wider community. Our church is strong, and getting stronger, perhaps in part because of the challenges thrown our way.

The Board hasn't taken much of a summer break either. Minutes before the copy deadline for this edition of the Parish Messenger, the Board wrapped up its annual retreat where we organized schedules and set our goals for the year. The central discussion focused on our expectations of each other as Trustees, and how we can best serve the Congregation in our leadership role. Nancy Dorian generously offered her time to facilitate this discussion and helped the Board clarify several issues. We came away with a revised Board Covenant which helps guide us in our work together. The Church Council and some committees already have covenants, and we hope our collective experience can serve as a model for upcoming congregation-wide covenanting work we have planned for the fall.

What is a covenant, in the UU sense of the word? According to Eunice Benton, District Exec. of the Mid-South District of the UUA, "It's about making respectful behavior the norm.... It's about good manners, what your momma taught you when you were small.... It's about valuing your religious community."

As described by Benton and her colleague, Connie Goodbread of the Florida District, Unitarian Universalists directly inherit the definition of covenant set forth in *The Cambridge Platform*, a document drawn up by Puritans in Massachusetts in 1648. "The piece we understand completely," said Goodbread, speaking of the definition of covenant set forth in the Cambridge Platform, "is that you're not the boss of me." But the Cambridge Platform also defined covenant to include promises for mutual support. Goodbread said that means that covenant also means "We are all in this together, building a better world."

Simply put, the Board's covenant helps us define how we should act toward each other, support each other, and do our best work. I share the covenant here to give the congregation some insight in how we are trying to honor the spirit of our work and commitment to the church.

*We, the Board of Trustees of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, hereby covenant and agree to:*

- ♦ Practice the spiritual nature of our work together
- ♦ Make attendance a priority; be prepared for meetings
- ♦ Limit discussion to the agenda; keep in mind our responsibilities to our Church, our Congregation and our Mission
- ♦ Listen with an open mind, discuss with respect and be honest in all communication
- ♦ Make room for all perspectives to be heard without repeating discussion
- ♦ Take personal initiative to get clarification and ensure clear understanding of issues
- ♦ Work with and speak directly to other Board members; maintain

connection and communication even when we disagree

- ♦ Use email to communicate facts and information, not to make decisions
- ♦ After deliberations are complete, support and uphold the decisions of the Board
- ♦ Actively practice forgiveness

The Board is indeed committed to working for the congregation. We want to ensure that the Board is aware of the congregation's ideas and concerns. Board meetings are open to the congregation. We meet on the third Tuesday of each month at 6:30 pm. For the time being we are meeting at Curtis Memorial Library. Minutes of the meetings are posted on the website, and when we have one, on a bulletin board. Please share your thoughts with any Trustee, we will do our best to channel comments to the best place for action.

One action step that the Board tried unsuccessfully to resolve at the Retreat was the potluck salad jammed forcefully into the storage compartment under Steve Eagle's cycle seat.\* Periodically during the day teams of Trustees worked to free the salad. We await word as to the final fate of the much anticipated dinner dish. Amid all the work, the Board managed to have a little fun. It is summer, after all.

Blessings,  
Michael Heath



## NEW UU ORIENTATION CLASSES OFFERED

### SAVE THE DATES

If you are new to the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick (UUCB) or new to the Unitarian Universalist denomination, you are invited to attend a New UU Orientation class in late October and early November. Sylvia will lead the classes which will include a mix of UU local history, denominational history, and time to get acquainted with other participants.

Because the class has been very popular in the past, the membership committee is offering two options for the class this fall. One option will be a four hour Saturday morning class from 9 am to 1 pm on Saturday, October 29th. Location to be determined.

For those who would prefer an evening class, Sylvia will be offering the same orientation class but held over two evenings on Tuesday, October 25 and Tuesday, November 8, from 7 pm to 9 pm. Location to be determined.

Look for more information in the October Parish Messenger or on the visitor table in the Minnie Brown Center in September. If you would like to sign up now, just call Debbie Zorach at 729-8103!

## NEWCOMERS CORNER

Newcomers Corner, Minnie Brown Center, following the service.



This casual gathering of newcomers and old-timers was formerly held once a month at the back of our Pleasant Street sanctuary near the display case protecting our Henry Wadsworth Longfellow Bible. The Membership Committee is expanding the conversation to the second and fourth Sundays of the month. All are welcome to join us for a discussion of Unitarian Universalist values and UUCB history. We miss you, Henry, but we know your bible is safe in the Bowdoin College Rare Book Collection and we'll meet again in a year or so.



*\* Mechanics R Us, but Dave Roundy has his doubts. Board Chair Emeritus Judy Chamberlain tries to free the salad.*

### DON'T FORGET YOUR MONEY ON SUNDAYS

Don't forget that Sue Michaud is selling Hannaford cards (for \$25, \$50 or \$100) and wooden replicas of our church (for a minimum of \$25) after each Sunday service.



## FROM THE TREASURER .....

**W**elcome Back!! We need you!

We have finished one fiscal year and are into the next. There is a lot of uncertainty and yet we continue to gather as a spiritual community, to nurture each other as we journey forward to find our new place in the world. Whether we are at the Library, the Minnie Brown Center in Bath or in a new building in the future, the fundamental issues of finances continue.

We closed the books last year with a deficit.

<b>2010-2011</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Budget</b>
Income	\$222,008	\$232,780
Expenses	\$229,813	\$241,482
Delta	(\$7,805)	(\$8,702)

### **2010-2011**

Fire Donations	\$9,377
Fire Expenses	\$ 234

There were about 20 pledges for last year that were not fulfilled. We will be sending reminders to those people in that hope that they were just forgotten and that they may still be fulfilled.

As for the new church year, we have more pledges than we have in the past. We have a very challenging year ahead of us as we have to work to replace our facilities, as well as the ongoing cost of staff and programming. In June we passed an unbalanced budget based on the expenses that we knew of in June. There will be more work on the budget as the year progresses.

<b>2011-2012</b>	<b>Actuals</b>	<b>Budget (so far)</b>
Income	\$7,353	\$224,708
Expense	\$19,360	\$235,706
Delta	(\$12,007)	(\$10,998)

### **2011-2012**

Fire Donations	\$7,537
Fire Expenses	\$1,355 -- billed to the Church directly

Friends and fellow UU churches have been generous with their checks and their concern for us. We are strong and we need to stretch ourselves to meet our commitments – even without a fire to recover from. Our pledge dollars have grown and need to continue growing. We hope that anyone who has not already pledged, or who is moved to increase their pledge, will do so. Pledges are the primary method of funding the work of the church. If you are interested in having your pledge deducted automatically from your bank account, please contact Shirley in the office.

“Blessed are those who support the church  
and its work by their regular, sustained  
and generous giving, and who give  
of themselves no less than their money.”

*John Buehrens – excerpt from # 728 in Singing the Living Tradition*

*Laura Jackson*  
Treasurer

## IN MEMORIAM



**Howard E. Jones** died May 28 at age 90 at a retirement home in Whiting, New Jersey, after several weeks of declining health. He is survived by his wife of 63 years, Harriet, and three sons, Edmund, Daniel, and Kenneth, and four grandchildren. Howard and Harriet found a lifelong religious community in the Unitarian Universalist denomination. Joining the Brunswick Church after they moved into a retirement home in Topsham, Maine in 1996, he sang in the choir, was treasurer for a few years, and by general acknowledgment left the church finances in much improved state. A memorial service will be held at the First Unitarian Church of Wilmington on Saturday, September 17.

*For more information, call Dan Jones at 215-576-7284.*



## ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY

A meeting led by Aaron Payson of the UUA Trauma Ministry was held after church on August 21st. Noel Smith and Stephanie Lull from the architecture firm we are working with were also there. The purpose of the meeting was to get everyone's input as the Recovery Team moves forward! They need to know very soon whether the standing church should be retrofitted for winter, or should it be torn down. This meeting was for discussion and questions only; NO votes or polls were taken. If you missed the meeting you can still ask questions or comment to anyone on the recovery team. See the various methods of contacting them on the right.

Keep **September 18** open on your calendars as a possible date for a very important Congregational meeting. At that point there should be enough information to begin voting on details of our recovery path.



Continue to follow the news that you get each week from the recovery team through email or snail mail. You can also see all the past Recovery Team reports on the church web site.

### HOW TO CONTACT THE RECOVERY TEAM:

- \* Email: [uucbrecovery@gmail.com](mailto:uucbrecovery@gmail.com)
- \* Suggestion boxes at each service
- \* In person

Judy Chamberlain, Tom Rumpf,  
Heidi Neufeld, Grace Lewis McLaren,  
Dexter Kamilewicz, Jessica Tracy;  
Sylvia Stocker, Nicole Shanks and  
Mike Heath Ex officio.

The Recovery Team web page  
is now part of the UUCB web site:

[http://www.uubrunswick.org/  
fire-recovery-team.aspx](http://www.uubrunswick.org/fire-recovery-team.aspx).

# SEPTEMBER 2011

Sun      Mon      Tue      Wed      Thu      Fri      Sat

				1 2:30 -6:45 violin : Parlor	2 9:30 AA : Pen	3
4 <b>NO SERVICES</b>	5 	6 2:15-6:45 violin : Parlor	7 3:30 - 5:45 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Group: 7 Pen	8 2:30 -6:45 violin : Parlor	9 9:30 AA : Pen	10 <b>5:30-9 Homecoming Potluck: St. Charles</b>
11 <b>Homecoming Sunday 10:00 Service: MBC</b>  2:30 Interfaith Service for Healing and Peace: First Parish	12	13 2:15-6:45 violin : Par  <b>6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor</b>	14 3:30 - 5:45 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Group: 7 Pen	15 <b>12-2 Strategic Planning: Parlor</b> 2:30 -6:45 violin : Parlor	16 9:30 AA: Pennell	17
18 <b>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</b>  <i>First day of RE</i>  <b>Tentative: Important Congregational Meeting</b>	19	20 2:15-6:45 violin : Par	21 3:30 - 5:45 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 	22 2:30 -6:45 violin : Parlor	23 9:30 AA : Pennell <b>7-9 pm: jUust desserts</b> 	24
25 <b>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</b>  <b>Newcomers Corner: MBC following the service</b>  <b>Food Drive</b>	26	27 2:15-6:45 violin : Par  <b>6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor</b>	28 3:30 - 5:45 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Group: 7 Pen 	29 2:30 -6:45 violin : Parlor	30 9:30 AA : Pennell	

Church events are in **bold** type.  
Guest events are in regular

**CO** - Church Office  
**MBC** - Minnie Brown Center  
**MR** - Morell Room, Library  
**MH** - Member's Home  
**MO** - Minister's Office  
**PAR** - Parlor in 5 Pennell (downstairs)  
**PEN** - 7 Pennell House Upstairs  
**SP** - Saint Paul's