

January 2012

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick

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ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

*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.*

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

Newsletter editor:
 Susan Michaud
michaud_susan@comcast.net
 NEXT DEADLINE
 for February issue is
Fri, January 20, 2011, 5 pm
Rare exceptions: 729-4857

January 1 – “The News from Lake MacIntosh”

Rev. Stocker will bring us up to date on the happenings in Lake MacIntosh, that mythical town somewhere between Cumberland and Falmouth where the best apples are grown. Music provided by Larry Lemmel.

January 8 – “Framing and Sheathing”

One in a series of sermons about buildings, Sylvia ponders things like walls and roofs, with the words of Robert Frost in mind: “Before I built a wall, I’d ask to know what I was walling in or walling out.” Music provided by Grace and John Lewis-McLaren.

January 15 – “Over My Head”

The great spiritual announces, “Above my head, I hear music in the air,” “Above my head, I hear singing in the air,” and so on. As the date of our bicentennial looms (January 20), Sylvia ponders what our charter members might have been hearing in the air 200 years ago. On this Martin Luther King Jr Sunday, she asks how some of the broader messages have carried through the years and are still relevant today. Music provided by the choir, directed by Heidi Neufeld, with accompanist David Dean.

January 22 – The Reverend Will Saunders preaching. Will was minister here from 1976 to 1985. Now recently retired, he returns to give us some of his thoughts. His sermon title is "Forgive Us Our Trespasses." Will says, “You may recognize the phrase! Over 35 years of ministry, forgiveness ranks second in the hierarchy of pastoral issues. I have found the formulation in the Prayer of Jesus to be helpful. And the first pastoral issue? Stay tuned.” Music provided by Larry Lemmel.



January 29 – “The Soul On Its Knees”

UUCB member and UU minister Rev. Karen Foley returns to the pulpit. Of her sermon, she says, “Victor Hugo wrote, 'There are times when, no matter what the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees.' What sends us to our knees in prayer – or not? For many years in my young adulthood, I ceased praying. Eventually I found I needed to again. It wasn't easy!” Music provided by Brad Mitchell.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Time to return your Guest at Your Table gifts!

On January 8, we'll close our Guest at Your Table program. In recent weeks, UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes and *Stories of Hope* have taught us about real people engaged in struggles for justice in the United States and around the world. It has also taught us about our power to change the world when we share our blessings to support the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and the many amazing people they partner with. **Before bringing back your Guest at Your Table donation, be sure to convert your cash and coins to a check made out to "UUSC" and complete the form on the box (or envelope).** We'll announce the results of our Guest at Your Table program as soon as possible. On behalf of UUSC, we thank and commend every person who has chosen to share their blessings through Guest at Your Table. If you miss bringing back your Guest at Your Table box on January 8, please return it to the church office during office hours or the DRE (on Sundays) at your earliest opportunity.



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 Tuesday, Thursday and Friday from 10-4 and on Wednesday from 12-4. 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@gwi

IMPORTANT RE DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

January 1 - No RE, nursery will be open

January 8 - RE classes; Don't forget to bring your UUSC Guest At Your Table boxes to church!

January 15 - Multi-Age Activity Henry Bergh Day: Come learn about the founder of the ASPCA and how you can make the world a better place for animals. Dress up as your favorite companion animal or bring a stuffed animal.

January 22 - Pool, Rock Climbing, and Pizza Party at the Bath area YMCA following the worship service/RE classes for RE families, volunteers, and youth group members!!! Please RSVP with Nicole.

January 29 - RE Classes



... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



Are you still breathing? Breathe deeply!
And again.

These are hardworking, hectic times of change for our congregation. We will need to keep breathing deeply to stay connected to our energy and strength.

In some ways, we are not unlike our forebears who 200 years ago created a Universalist church in Brunswick on January 20, 1812. They were embarking on a whole new journey together – one that is still ongoing. We, who follow in their footsteps, now take the next branch in the trail of that journey.

Before our church burned, I had been planning to spend the summer studying more of our history in anticipation of a gala bicentennial celebration that would have been carried out over many months. So much for making plans!

While our amazing birthday hasn't been forgotten (and indeed the Bicentennial Task Force is still working on plans), the immediate needs of the church changed in the wake of the fire. Now I think one of the best ways we can honor our history is to vow to carry it forward, leaving our church strong, vibrant, and healthy for those who will follow after us. That's what we're doing now.

With the New Year, we turn our eyes forward to rebuilding. A new Building Team now begins to work in earnest to create plans with the architects. A Capital Campaign Committee now partners with a consultant to help us establish the healthiest financial foothold our combined forces can create. What wonderful things to contemplate! We have energetic, creative, and wise people guiding us through this period. Out of our misfortune, amazing things have emerged. I think our forebears would be proud if they could see how resolute, committed, and energized we are in the face of adversity.

On December 20, our old building came down. I think of a building as strong and stable. Seeing ours quickly destroyed and the rubble hauled away was almost more than I could take in. The sounds, smells, and sights of that day provided a harsh, palpable closure for me. For many weeks now, I have known the building was about to come down. Having to wait and wait and wait felt like pulling a band-aid off one hair at a time – painful! I am grateful now for the closure, even as I recognize my swirl of emotions mixed in with it.

As the heavy machinery rolled over our past, I imagined myself back in that space, remembering how it felt to walk through the sanctuary, how the acoustics in the room made us sound like the Mormon Tabernacle Choir. I remembered the smell of the church, both before the fire and

after. I recounted countless meetings around the big table in the Community Room, and I envisioned kids swinging around on the poles.

The memories comforted me. So too did the knowledge that we are creating new memories while we are homeless, and creating more new memories is in store for us someday in our new sanctuary. For me, all of it is my church – the history, the memories, the present, and the dreams for the future.

We have much to grieve, much to anticipate, and much to be grateful for as the New Year greets us. We have journeyed far, and we still have far to go. May we remember that 200 years ago, our forebears embarked on a journey when they formed a new church, a Universalist church, in Brunswick. They couldn't know the outcome of their decisions then any more than we can know the outcome of our decisions now. They looked ahead and chose as best they could, guided by faith that their decisions were good and true. May we carry forward their legacy of bold dreams and actions and their confidence that our faith is a worthy guide to us now and a beautiful legacy to leave to those who follow us.

Take a deep breath. Happy New Year!

Love, *Sylvia*

Vacation

Sylvia will be on vacation from January 16 to January 30. She will resume her normal schedule on Tuesday, January 31. This is one of several periods of time off she is taking off during the church year, to make up for vacation time she was unable to take last summer (the small business of a church fire complicating her vacation plans!).

NEW MEMBERS - DEXTER AND GRETCHEN KAMILEWICZ



Dexter and Gretchen Kamilewicz were high school sweethearts in South Portland and married after college. Dexter graduated from Northeastern University and Gretchen from Boston University. They raised five children; two sons, two adopted daughters from Brazil, and one daughter from Zimbabwe

Neither of them are long-term UUs, having been members of several different denominations, including First Parish here in Brunswick, but both expressed a real affinity with our church community - "it's a good fit." When they began looking for a new church they looked for one with

a liberal theology where the minister was willing to "read the names" of the fallen soldiers. They also knew quite a few people in our church from their peace work, so it seemed like a natural transition for them. They began coming last Christmas, joined soon after, then jumped right in and started contributing their time and expertise!

Gretchen is active with the Women's Alliance and now is on the fundraising arm of the Development Committee. She also dove right in to help with the Christmas Fair, so many of us already feel that we know her.

Dexter is often drafted by Gretchen to

help out with various church events and he has been a valued member of the Recovery Team and will now be a member of the Building Task Force.

Gretchen is an avid gardener and has transformed much of her lawn into perennial gardens. As a Habitat Steward of the Maine Extension Service, she does several programs a year on creating a wildlife-friendly backyard, including one this year for the Women's Alliance. She also enjoys rug hooking and has hooked rugs for all of her children! Mostly a stay-at-home Mom, she also taught school, did editing work and helped with Dexter's business.

Dexter was in the co-op program at Northeastern and had the good luck to do a lot of real estate development and management; this became the basis of his career. He has owned his own property management company and just before retirement worked for the Boulos Company in Portland, a large commercial real estate company.

A board member of Goodwill Industries board and its finance committee, Dexter helps formulate retail and management policies. He also enjoys woodworking and painting when he has the time. They both love the outdoors and kayaking and hiking.

I suggest that you ask the Kamilewicz about Dexter's two arrests for civil disobedience and Gretchen's role as bail-lady - these are interesting stories...

Jessica Tracy

GET READY FOR AN ONLINE AUCTION (MARCH 5-18)... MORE INFO TO COME

To reach an audience outside of our own community, the UUCB will be holding an ONLINE auction at <http://biddingforgood.com/UUCB>. *BiddingForGood.com* is the leading online charity auction platform for non-profit organizations who want an easy way to raise money for their group. The auction site allows donors to make tax-deductible donations and bidders to donate to the non-profit of their choice.

To make this auction a financial success, we will need MANY volunteers soliciting donations from areas businesses. Please think of how YOU can help. We have the possibility of raising \$5,000 without a penny from our own pockets. If you have any ideas or questions, contact: *Maryli Tiemann, Gretchen Kamilewicz, Sue Ellen Damour, Debbie Zorach or Susan Michaud*.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE: Looking Beyond Ourselves...

Our church is hosting a community-wide discussion on January 31, inviting people of other faiths, ages and cultures to discuss and reflect on the reality of prejudice and hate in our community and in the state of Maine. Working with others we hope to envision and create opportunities to turn our UUCB principles into action.

Last spring our church learned of a series of incidents in Brunswick in which people of color felt threatened and unsafe. In response, Working for Justice organized for our congregation a spring workshop with nonviolent communications trainer, Peggy Smith, and, this November invited Steve Wessler, civil rights advocate and educator to speak at the November 13 Sunday worship service.

With Steve's guidance we have connected with Bowdoin College, local clergy, high schools and business people - receiving their interest, concern and enthusiastic support. We hope this community gathering will be the beginning of a commitment by UUCB to work with others in the community to assure that all people who work, study and live in Brunswick feel welcomed and safe.

On **Tuesday, January 31 from 5-7pm in the Curtis Library Morrell Room** Steve Wessler will give a presentation and oversee small group discussions co-facilitated by Bowdoin College students and community members. The organized discussions will be followed by a potluck and further informal conversation.

What you can do...

- ♦ Put the 1/31 evening on your calendar now, and plan to attend!
- ♦ When flyers are available, help to post them around town and show them to your friends.
- ♦ Make some tasty food to share (multi-cultural dishes encouraged!).
- ♦ Let us know if you can help set up and/or clean up on the 31st.

Many thanks!

Cathey Cyrus, Jane Danielson,
Ed McCartan, Hope Russell
Working for Justice Steering Group



Steve Wessler invites us to deepen our reflection on the issue of prejudice and hate by writing down a personal experience as an observer of an incident of prejudice, including the way we chose to respond. He plans to integrate those stories into the January 31 discussion. You can send your written responses to the church office or leave them in the rainbow box at the back of the sanctuary.

CHARITIES WITH SOUL

January Charity



Tedford Housing works in conjunction with others to end homelessness in Maine by providing shelter, housing and services to people in need in the greater Brunswick area. UUCB has long supported the efforts of this organization with financial support and volunteer hours. In 2003 their mission was expanded to include addressing core issues leading to homelessness, prevention services and developing permanent housing options. 86% of all donations go directly for shelter supplies, food and services.

www.tedfordhousing.org

PO Box 958, Brunswick, ME 04011

AVAILABLE FOR FREE

New 6 inch **peace sign magnets** for your car or fridge. Purple with IMAGINE PEACE printed in white.

New DVD's, "9/11, Blueprint for Truth by The Architects and Engineers for 9/11 Truth."

See Hannah Trowbridge after church
or call 319-7584

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

We've been working throughout December, and we are pleased to report that after interviewing and considering two strong candidates, we have chosen Rev. Peter Heinrichs as our UUCB fund-raising consultant for the combined Capital Campaign and Annual Budget Drive. Peter has a long history with both UU and UCC churches. References describe him as being a "gifted listener," "a superior coach at all levels," and "great at maintaining energy in those he works with." *More background about Rev. Heinrichs, below.**

Peter lives and works nearby, so he can be flexible regarding the hours he spends with us. He'll conduct our Feasibility Study - probably in late January - and in the meantime he'll meet with the Campaign and Annual Budget Drive committees, the Building Team, church leadership, and others. The Board approved payment of Peter's initial fees so that we can get started. Given that the full consultation costs will be more than \$5000 and thus require a vote, the Board anticipates seeking congregational approval in January, probably in conjunction with a vote on other costs and fees.

We expect that congregants still have questions about the timing of decision-making, construction, and fund-raising – we certainly do! Our Publications group of Rich Knox, Nancy Dorian, and Larry Lemmel will soon post an easy-to-read **TIMELINE** about UUCB

Recovery, Construction, and Campaign at the rear of the sanctuary each Sunday, and online, too. At the display, Campaign and Building Team folks will answer questions and help orient everyone as we progress through the year. We're also happy to speak with anyone individually - just email or call.



Rev. Peter Heinrichs

In the 1980's Peter served as minister for two UU congregations, then worked as Director of Development for the UUA, assisting congregations around the country in their fund-raising efforts. Later, he spent 22+ years as Senior Minister for a large UCC church in Springfield, MA. While there, he led the congregation's successful capital campaigns and strong annual budget drives. Peter decided to take a few deep breaths, and then opted for training and work as a Life Coach. Moving to Maine, he accepted a call to half-time ministry at First Parish Congregational Church (UCC) in Freeport, and now divides his time between that ministry and Life Coaching, primarily with clergy and other non-profit leaders.

<http://www.beloveinyourself.com/coach-peter.html>

*Sally Horne & Cindy Parker, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs
Bill Clark & David Kew, Annual Budget Drive Co-Chairs*

FAREWELL MESSAGE FROM REV. MARY HIGGINS, NNED DISTRICT EXECUTIVE

Five years we have been working together;
My time to retire is at hand.
Lines crease my face;
Lines of laughter; Lines of joy; Lines of profound gratitude at the way you have welcomed my ministry into your midst.
You will never be far from my heart as we move into an unknown future.
My faith in your capacities, courage and dedication does not waver.
Go in peace my friends. I will watch you from afar and smile in recognition at your successes and struggles. A life of purpose and meaning is worth every effort to create it.

In love and gratitude,
Mary



LEAVE-TAKING CEREMONY

December 3, 2011

Out of wood and brick, out of imagination and sacrifice, out of the ashes of their burned meeting house, our forebears built this church home. With the work of their hands, the commitment and courage of their hearts, and the creativity of their minds, our forebears crafted a sacred space where free religious thought prevailed and love guided the generations.

This house of worship has given us a center where hearts could meet: meeting one another over lifetimes and across the generations; meeting one another in warmth and joy and openness; meeting one another in times of joy and sorrow; meeting one another in times of success and failure; meeting one another in courage and love; meeting one another in thick times and thin; meeting one another in times of war and peace.

This house has been cradle to our growing and our loving. This building has been a center of trust and passion, of love and laughter, of misunderstanding leading to reconciliation and forgiveness, a place of soaring song and quiet contemplation. These walls have known the silence of the generations of hearts who have come here to search inward for the small sparks of hope that might otherwise have been snuffed out in the noise of the world. These rafters have heard the voices of

children, preachers, and singers, and witnessed tears and smiles of all. On these floors have trod the footsteps of dancers and musicians, sextons and committee members, visitors and long-time parishioners, and young and old across seven or more generations.

Today we gather to bless this house, to express our gratitude for its physical, emotional, and spiritual shelter, and to bid goodbye. We say goodbye knowing we follow the example of courage and determination of our forebears who built their jewel of a meeting house here on this corner after their own church had burned. We say goodbye knowing we follow in their footsteps, confident that we will rebuild a meeting house here worthy of the sacrifices they made.

We say goodbye, grieving for what has been lost and vowing to hold memories and dreams in our hearts until the day we return. We say goodbye, with gratitude that our lives have been touched here, our minds have been opened and filled here, and our hearts have been nurtured and filled here.

For those things and for so much more, we offer a deep bow of thanks and a vow to return again.

~Rev. Sylvia Stocker~



A BICENTENNIAL MOMENT

On January 20, 1812, 31 Brunswick men signed the first covenant of a new church legally incorporated as The First Universal Christian Society. 2012 being our bicentennial year, I will write a monthly historical piece telling some stories of our church.

The second Universalist church building in Brunswick, located on the corner of Mason and Maine Streets, was dedicated in December of 1846. Within its graceful landmark spire hung a bell. Col. Andrew Dennison was instrumental in raising the funds to purchase it, but he was dissatisfied with the impurity of tone of the bell that was delivered and returned it. The second bell was considered to be perfect and the story goes that Col. Dennison, who directed the church choir, forgetting his tuning fork upon occasion, used the tone of the bell for the pitch he needed. The bell was rung by a man hired by the town three times a day at 7 AM, noon and 9 PM.

The Mason Street Church was destroyed by fire in

1884 and is a story for another month. The bell was badly broken when the steeple toppled, and when the metal was dug out of the ruins, it was sent to a foundry to be recast. The resulting bell was 200 pounds smaller than the original 750 pounds. The elder Col. Dennison insisted that no new metal be added lest the purity of its tone be lost.

When the bell was installed in the new church on the corner of Pleasant and Middle Streets in 1885, and was rung for the first time, it was reported that business men on lower Maine Street were heard to say, "Why, there's the old Universalist bell a-ringin'."

The bell was removed on Tuesday, December 20, 2011, 126 years later, just before the church building was completely razed. On it is inscribed: "Ring joy and peace for the world."

By *Christine Mitchell*

FROM THE BICENTENNIAL TASK GROUP

Note: At our last meeting your Bicentennial Task Group decided to **postpone the Bicentennial Banquet kick-off event from January 14** to a date yet to be decided so as not to interfere with the Chocolate Buffet scheduled for January 15.

The new date will also be coordinated with the Capital Campaign Committee and the Board.

Two other decisions came out of the meeting:

1. A glossy bicentennial booklet, edited by Steve Wellcome, will be published in time to be passed out at the kick-off event.
2. Chris Mitchell will begin a monthly newsletter "A Bicentennial Moment" each month highlighting a story out of our two hundred year history.
3. Our only written history of the Universalist and Unitarian churches in Brunswick and Topsham, written by the Rev. Sheldon Christian in 1937, will be reprinted and ready for our final bicentennial year celebration in late 2012 or early 2013.

Other good things are in the idea stage and you may add your idea by telling it to one of the committee:

Debbie Zorach, Rev Sylvia Stocker. Steve Wellcome, Brad Mitchell, Albert Moore

CHURCH BELL INSCRIPTIONS

On December 20, when our building was taken down, the moment of highest drama occurred when the bell was finally lowered from the steeple. The bell sounded a few gentle chimes as it swung from the lip of the excavator. People clicked furiously away on their cameras as the bell descended from the sky. Once the bell was on the ground, the crowd gathered around it to touch it and to view the inscriptions, which read:

"Cast by William Blake & Co formerly H. N. Hooper & Co. Boston Mass A.D. 1885

*"Cast A. D. 1847 for
Universalist Church Brunswick.
Andrew Dennison. Committee
Broken by Fire A. D. 1884
Recast A. D. 1885 by order of
Andrew Dennisons. Children*

"Ring Joy and Peace to the World"

The history is interesting. The punctuation is odd. (As humorist Dave Barry would say, "I am *not* making this up!") In the midst of an emotionally wrenching day, the retrieval of the church bell provided an incredible lift. – *Sylvia Stocker*

UUCB BUILDING TEAM REPORT

21 December 2011

THE END

It will come as no news that our over 100 year old building has been reduced to rubble and the corner of Pleasant and Middle Streets will never look the same. Many members stopped by to watch and the local news coverage was extensive. The demolition workers were skilled, careful, and generally successful. The bell was removed with little damage, the steeple came down with a crash but the weather-vane survived with only minor damage, and the rubble has been crushed, removed, and will be recycled as much as possible. The long sought time capsule from 1982 was miraculously found in the rubble and it has yet to be opened. The success of the demolition seems to be a good omen for our future.

We have a complete list of all the items which were removed from the building and anticipate allowing Service Master in Saco to put the few pieces we do not

wish to keep on ebay and give us the proceeds. Please feel free to email us any questions about particular items. The old stained glass is being evaluated by "experts" which will give us more information to use in determining whether or not to use them in our new building.

THE FUTURE

The charge to the building team has been written and approved by the board and will be posted on the Building Team website. We also discussed and agreed upon a Covenant which will also be on the site. Much time and thought has been devoted to when and how much to communicate to the congregation as a whole. We look forward to sharing these plans when they are more fully developed. Our team will be spending many hours and the architects will be spending many days working on a design which fulfills many of our varied hopes so members of the congregation can feel secure that

their opinions and input have been fully considered.

The architects did present a very rough and unfinished model of how they have been thinking about the sanctuary and it was greeted with a range of responses from great enthusiasm to relief. I believe that the size, shape, and general appearance is a very well thought out combination of the many thoughts expressed by the congregation over the last 7 months. It is likely that there will be a tower (some do not wish to think of it as a steeple) on the same corner as the old steeple and the height of the building will be similar to our old building. It will be appropriate to our location and to our public presence. We are not likely to present many more details until the plans are more complete.

We feel optimistic about our team, our architects, our congregation and our future. Have faith and patience and a peaceful and restful holiday.



DO YOU HAVE YOUR TICKET YET?

On **Saturday, January 7th**, join us at the Minnie Brown Center, 906 Washington St., Bath, ME. for a family-friendly evening hosted by the Merrymeeting Singers and the Moving Spirit Dancers to celebrate the traditions of Epiphany and 12th Night. Our program ranges from sacred music, to playful Elizabethan madrigals to George Shearing's jazz and carols-- inter woven with dance, New England winter poetry, and Shakespeare. The Moving Spirit Dancers will perform new choreography by Peg Brightman set to music by Vivaldi and Billings. Children of all ages, come join in the fun and antics of the "*Twelve Days of Christmas!*" Help us taste the delicious traditional 12th Night Cakes and crown the KING AND QUEEN of TWELFTH NIGHT! Call 729-8515 for tickets.

Peggy Brightman



Third Annual

Twelfth Night Rebels

Sat, January 7th @ 7pm

Minnie Brown Center

\$10 advance reservations

\$12 at the door

Children under 12 FREE

Larry Lemmel, Peg Brightman, and the cast are putting out an **urgent call for volunteer help** for our annual fundraiser! * Especially needed are several able-bodied folk to move furniture at Minnie Brown for our tech rehearsal there on **Thurs. Jan. 5th at 6:30 pm** and to put it all back in place after our Sat. night show or before church on Sunday. • Bakers and cooks: to provide finger food for the reception on Sat., Jan. 7th. Please contact Peg (pbri@aol.com) if you can do either of these! Your help, as ever, is gratefully received!!!



CHOCOLATE BUFFET TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH

at

Wilbur's of Maine-Chocolate Confections-in Freeport!

The fundraising committee will be selling tickets from now until January 8th to this special event to benefit our church.

Why not make a day of it: church, lunch with friends, and then the chocolate buffet.

For more information and tickets, call Gretchen Kamilewicz at 833-5125 or see Maryli Tiemann, Sue Ellen Damour, or Gretchen after church.

PS. We have sold 35 tickets, so we will also be getting a tour of the factory.

P.P.S. Jud Caswell will be "serenading" us, too.



**Sun, January 15th
2 - 4:00 pm**

Tickets: \$20



UPCOMING RETREAT BY KAREN FOLEY

AGING WITH SPIRIT



As we age, everything shifts and changes including our spiritual lives. Some changes are subtle, some fairly dramatic. We will look at how aging, living the last part of our lives and facing their inevitable end, affects our spiritual lives. What becomes more □ and less □ important to us? What images of old age do we carry? What do we most deeply want in the last part of our lives, and what might God want for us? What does it mean to seek and find wholeness in the last years of our lives?

Karen will offer this retreat twice early in the new year:



Tuesday, February 7
(9:30-3:30, coffee at 9:00)
Rolling Ridge Retreat Center
North Andover, Massachusetts

\$53 early registration
\$60 after January 31.
Includes lunch

www.rollingridge.org
thestaff@rollingridge.org
978-682-8815



Friday-Saturday, March 2-3
(7 pm-4pm)
Living Water Spiritual Center
Winslow, Maine

\$85 (includes Sat breakfast & lunch)

www.retreatinmaine.com
info@retreatinmaine.com
207-872-2370

NNED WORKSHOP: SPIRITUALITY OF GRANDPARENTING

March 31, 2012, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Concord UU Church, Concord NH

Come take a day to talk about the joys of being a grandparent! We will talk about the roles grandparents play in their families and with their grandchildren. We'll talk about the complexities of being a local grandparent, and being a long distance grandparent. We will share ways in which we can pass on wisdom and tell our stories.

This workshop is for new grandparents, seasoned grandparents, and grandparents to be. It is also for any adult who has a special relationship with a child or youth as a grand-buddy.

Participants are encouraged to bring photos of their grandchildren to share.

There is a \$15 per person fee to cover the cost of lunch



Registration form in pdf format:
<http://nned.uua.org/pdf/RegistrationSOG.pdf>

“MEDITATION FOR WELL-BEING” AT PEOPLE PLUS

Guided meditation can :
bring you back to center
help to create more resource for living
quiet your nervous system to promote healing.

It is a way to help you function more calmly and become more intentionally present in your life.

Meditation for Well Being at People Plus is nondenominational and not connected with any specific religious practice.

Our facilitators Stephanie Batterman and Karen Foley have extensive experience, leading and teaching guided meditation.

Meditation for Well Being meets **Wednesdays** beginning January 4 from **3:30-4:30 pm** at **People Plus**, 35 Union Street, Brunswick

Cost: \$20. month for People Plus members
\$28. month non-members
for 4 sessions in January

Call People Plus at 729-0757 for details and to sign up.

UUCB STRATEGIC PLAN

Following the fire, the Strategic Planning Committee reviewed the 2009-2014 Strategic Plan goals (FMI, see the Nov Parish Messenger, page 6). We noted goals achieved, goals needing work, and goals no longer relevant. Now, you can see the revised Plan: download it at <http://www.UUBrunswick.org>, go to "SP Committee"); or a few copies are at the MBC on Sundays; or ask Shirley Bernier in the office to print you a copy. Have a look! Remind your- self how our beloved community, with your help, aims to bring our Mission Statement to life, fire notwithstanding.

Nancy Dorian, Chair
Strategic Planning Committee



LOVE &
LIGHT
FROM THE
MOUNTAINS
TO THE SEA

Justice Making Together

2012 NNED Annual Spring Conference
April 13-14, 2012
Red Jacket Inn North Conway, NH

Social Change work often focuses on problems rather than working from the excitement and inspiration of vision. People want to join a movement that is vibrant, hopeful and comes from their own hearts and dreams. We will learn the power of this truth together and ways to experience it here in the NNED through Linda's stories and guidance.

Keynote Address by Linda Stout:
"Creating the World We All Want to Live In"

For more information and to register:
WWW.NNED.UUA.ORG
10 Ferry Street Suite 318 Concord, NH 03301
603.228.8704



CUUPS

The Brunswick U.U. Pagans group meets
in the parlor of Pennell House
on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month
from 7 PM – 9 PM.

Please call Bill McElman at 443-9445
for more information.

FOR SALE: MEMORIES OF OUR OLD CHURCH



Individual **wooden pipes** and 5/4 inch **boards** (crescendo shutters) salvaged from the church organ.

Minimum donation is \$10 per pipe, \$25 per board. See *Erik Hansen*



Bricks from the old foundation, see *Skip Brimlow*, \$5 donation

Wooden Replicas of the Church created by *The Cat's Meow* and a free brick, \$25 donation. See *Skip Brimlow*.



SERVING WITH GRACE OPPORTUNITIES

How might you choose to serve our church at this important time in the life of our congregation?

Consider whether one of the following service opportunities might be right for you.

1. The UUCB Development Effort is looking for someone to review, renew and re-present to the congregation the church's **Planned Giving Program** so that members and friends will understand and be familiar with this particular option for making contributions to the church. Several people in the congregation have knowledge and wisdom about what already exists and will be pleased to offer consultation. The UUA offers a wealth of resources. Speak with Cathey Cyrus if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity.
2. As our church moves ahead post-fire, the UUCB website has become dramatically out of date in spite of the attentive efforts of our webmaster, Steve Wellcome. While the exact responsibilities of the role of **website coordinator** are still being discussed, it is clear that a person is needed to oversee the gathering of up to date, relevant and appropriate information about our church and to pass that information on to Steve who will post it in a timely manner. Now, more than ever we need our website to be a welcoming and accurate reflection of our current church community. If you might be that person, see Cathey Cyrus who will connect you with others who are thinking hard about this needed service.
3. **Nominating Committee is looking for a fifth member** (as advised in our UUCB bylaws) to add energy, wisdom and perspective to the present team of four. Nominating Committee has the privilege and responsibility of talking with people in the congregation about how they can best engage in the life of the church – both to nourish their own interests and spiritual growth and to contribute to making our church mission and ministry possible. Vacancies on the Nominating Committee are filled by Board “appointment” until the following Annual Meeting at which time the congregation votes to fill the position. For more information speak with any member of the Committee.

Thanks!

Nominating Committee: *Cathey Cyrus; Jim Michaud; Paul Schaffner; Ann Spencer*

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Happy New Year

We're on the move. Our beloved church has come down and the building team is working to move us to the next church. In the mean time, we have the regular operation of the church community to be involved with and to fund. Please continue to fulfill your pledges. That is what keeps us solvent. For pledges paid by check, please be sure to indicate in the memo line that it is for a specific pledge year. If you are paying in cash, please put it in an envelope with the pledge year and your name indicated on the outside or inside.

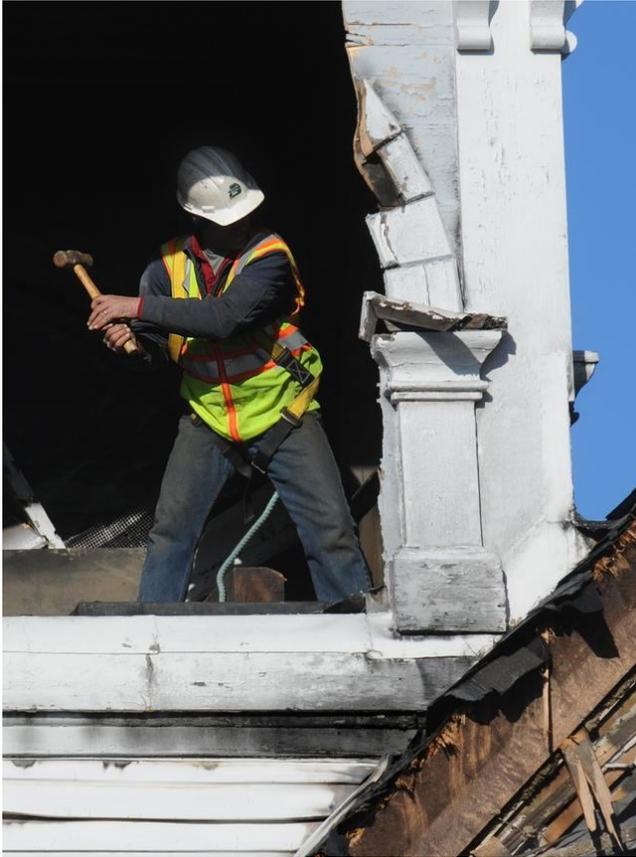
As you can see below, our income is exceeding our expenses at the time these numbers were pulled from the accounting system. This is great, but as we know, there continue to be expenses and payrolls to be paid.

2011- 2012	Actuals	Budget
Income	\$ 98,288	\$ 242,084
Expense	\$ 87,440	\$ 242,084
Delta	\$ 10,848	\$ 0

Pledge letters will be sent in January of all contributions made in 2011, for those who need the information for their taxes. If you receive a letter and your records do not agree, please contact me or Shirley in the office.

Laura Jackson
Treasurer





HOSPITALITY HOUR

Wrapping Up 2011



THANKS to our latest crew of Coffee Hosts: Jean and Keary Lay, Faye Whitney, Caroline Bean, the Dauge-Roth family, Gretchen and Dexter Kamilewicz (again!) and Robin and Erik Hansen.

We've had hot drinks and great food to "tide us over" on Sundays with after-service meetings AND add a touch of caring and comfort to our time in conversation with friends and friends to be.

Exciting news: in early 2012 we'll have a sexton who will make the coffee and bring it upstairs for us!

Hosting responsibilities will be fewer and much less physically challenging – hopefully enlarging the pool of people who are willing and able to volunteer.

Wishing you all a lovely holiday season,
Val, for the Hospitality Team

Eat your vegetables!

(Thoughts for study and further reflection...)



With the questions below, we are each asked to revisit our connection to UUCB and to reconsider our expectations of each other as people who belong to and care about the UUCB spiritual community.

1. Reflect on a time when you gave to the UUCB community (time, treasure, and/or talent) and experienced being given to in return.
2. In what ways does your association with the UUCB community touch (change, impact) your life - you, your family, your work, your thinking, your visions, etc.? For instance, this community ...empowers me to act on my conscience; provides a network of support over time; offers time for reflection & meditation; includes my children in a community we share, etc.
3. What distinguishes a spiritual community of scarcity from a spiritual community of abundance/ generosity (the spiritual community of our dream; fantasy; vision)? Consider behaviors, attitudes, images and how time, treasure and talent are involved.
4. What must each of us do to create a culture of abundance, a spiritual community of generosity at UUCB? (What should we expect or ask of each other?)
5. Make for yourself a prioritized list of the causes and concerns (including UUCB) to which you contribute your time and energy. Make a second prioritized list of causes and concerns (also including UUCB) to which you give financially. Does the order of your lists reflect the importance of these causes and concerns in your life?



Reflect on these questions (yes, they're good for you, just like your veggies!); share your thoughts and experiences with others. Speak with Cathey Cyrus or Rebecca Darr if you would like to join others in a small group discussion

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

Our congregation has certainly passed a milestone on the road to rebuilding from the fire. Watching the heavy machinery smash through the charred frame, and seeing the building's guts ripped out and wires dangling from the teeth of the backhoe, I had to keep my focus on the heart of our church. Our heart is "us". Sylvia was eloquent during the "bell ceremony" on the old church steps, and her words spoke to us all of the past and the opportunities for the future. She speaks to and for our heart.

The Wayside Pulpit now presides over an empty lot. Its message tells the community we are rebuilding, though it doesn't look like much, yet. One of the Board's most important responsibilities in the past month has been in guiding the transition from the Recovery Team to the new Building Team. We can't say enough good things about the effectiveness of the Recovery Team's work. We owe the team our continued thanks for bringing us through the very difficult reorganization and planning stages after the fire. They set a high standard for the Building Team to match in their openness, deliberation, timeliness and efficiency.

At the December Board meeting, we approved the charge to the Building Team with a long list of responsibilities and cautions. The full charge is posted on the Building Team's pages on the website and copies are available in the church office. The essence of the charge as stated in the Purpose is:

"... the Building Team, acting as an agent of the Board, is to provide overall direction and support for the processes and activities necessary to complete the building project for (1) a new church building on Pleasant Street, and (2) the possible rebuilding of Pennell House. This work includes responsibility for planning, budgeting, design, timeline and implementation through to occupation of the new space.

The ultimate responsibility for entering into contracts and making financial obligations resides in the Board of Trustees and the Congregation. However, the Building Team is charged with conducting due diligence in negotiating contracts, working with contractors making timely decisions, and managing project finances while keeping the Board and Congregation informed of activities and progress on a regular basis."

The first bullet in the charge specifies that the Building

Team will "work with the Architect in the design process to provide direction consistent with input from the Congregation and the church's financial resources." The full text of the charge lists responsibilities and focus areas for Decision Making, Operational Oversight, Financial Oversight and Communications. As your Board acting on behalf of the Congregation, we have entrusted the Building Committee to sort out many of the details and make basic decisions so that the congregation can reasonably weigh in on the major decisions rather than slog through the weeds and act as a "committee of the whole".

I know I'm not alone in looking forward to the discussions at gatherings with the architects and Congregation as we look over the ideas taking shape. But in the meantime, we should all continue to get ideas and thoughts to the Building Team by email or in face-to-face discussions with Team members. The Board is placing trust in the Building Team, along with the architects, to pare down and focus discussion before we get to large group meetings. The planning is fluid for now, but soon pieces of the plan will become firmer and lead to more and more definition. I urge patience, and for all of us to remember that the only ones who will get the church of their dreams are us, the Congregation.

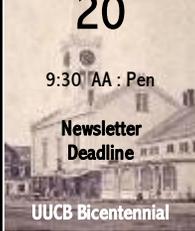
In other business in December, the Board approved the hiring of Peter Heinrichs as the Capital Campaign consultant. We are enthusiastic about these "developments". Much more information will be coming out soon to spread enthusiasm for the many possibilities in fundraising. The Board also approved the hire of our new Sexton, Tony Sulkoski, who will begin work on January 8th. We look forward to having Tony take some of the load off the faithful volunteers who have filled in at Minnie Brown on Sundays. The Board also appreciates all the committees as they continue to work on behalf of the Congregation.

As many have said, the church coming down reminds us of what we've lost, and yet we move ahead with a real sense of purpose. Our heart is the "us" of the church. Our church is doing good work, and so many are working hard to continue our service to the community in support of our mission. This is a vibrant and growing Congregation of which we can all be proud. I congratulate and thank everyone for their contribution to this vital effort!

Love and peace,
Mike Heath

JANUARY 2012

Sun Mon Tue Wed Thu Fri Sat

<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC</p> 	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2:15 -6:45 violin : Parlor</p> <p>Worship Committee</p>	<p>4</p> <p>3:45-7:30 Violin Parlor</p> <p>5-7:30 Counseling Grp: 7 Pennell</p> <p>5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld</p>	<p>5</p> <p>2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor</p> <p>6:00 Justice Steering Grp: 7 Pennell Upstairs</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs</p>	<p>7</p> <p>7:00 Twelfth Night Revels MBC</p>
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</p> <p>Newcomer's Comer after service</p> <p>Committee Fair??</p>	<p>9</p> <p>10-12: Chalice Circle: Par 1-3: Chalice Circle: Par</p> <p>7-9 CUUPS: Par</p> <p>7 Chalice Circle: Karen Foley's House</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2:15-5:45 violin : Par</p> <p>6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor</p>	<p>11</p> <p>3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor</p> <p>5-7:30 Counseling Grp: 7 Pen</p> <p>5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld</p>	<p>12</p> <p>2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor</p> <p>7-8:30 Choir: MBC</p>	<p>13</p> <p>9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs</p>	<p>14</p> <p>Bicentennial Banquet Postponed</p>
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</p> <p>2-4: Chocolate Buffet Wilbur's Candy, Freeport</p>		<p>17</p> <p>2:15-5:45 violin : Par</p> <p>6:30 Board Meeting</p>	<p>18</p> <p>3:45 - 6:30 violin : Parlor</p> <p>6:30-7:30 violin: Office</p> <p>5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen</p> <p>6:30 Songwriters Grp: Par</p> <p>5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld</p> <p>Council: TBD</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor</p> <p>12-2 pm Strategic Planning Committee: Parlor</p> <p>7-8:30 Choir: MBC</p>	<p>20</p>  <p>9:30' AA : Pen</p> <p>Newsletter Deadline</p> <p>UUCB Bicenennial</p>	<p>21</p>
<p>22</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</p> <p>Newcomer's Comer after service</p>		<p>24</p> <p>9:30-1 Alliance/Mens Luncheon: St. Paul's</p> <p>1-3 Chalice Circle</p> <p>2:15-5:45 violin : Par</p> <p>3-5 Chalice Circle: Pen (Cathy Cyrus)</p> <p>6:30 Stories with Soul: Par</p>	<p>25</p> <p>3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor</p> <p>5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen</p> <p>5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld</p>	<p>26</p> <p>2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor</p> <p>7-8:30 Choir: MBC</p>	<p>27</p> <p>9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <p>2:15-6:45 violin : Par</p> <p>5-8 Working for Justice Steering Group: Parlor</p>	<p>CO - Church Office MBC - Minnie Brown Center MR - Morell Room, Library MH - Member's Home</p>		<p>MO - Minister's Office PAR - Parlor in 5 Pennell (downstairs) PEN - 7 Pennell House Upstairs SP - Saint Paul's</p>	

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

