

April 2012

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

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ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

April 1 – “On the Road Again”

Rev. Stocker preaching. Music by Grace Lewis-McLaren, John McLaren, Kate Gray

April 5 – NO Maundy Thursday Service

Please note: This year we will not be holding a Maundy Thursday communion service. The Minnie Brown Center is unavailable that night. Other area churches where we might normally turn for space will be holding their own observances during that time. We look forward to being in our own space next year!

April 8 – Easter *and* Passover.

These two major religious holidays happen simultaneously this year. What can we learn by looking at them together? Rev. Stocker preaching. Music by the choir conducted by Heidi Neufeld, with accompanist David Dean.

April 15 – “Water, Water, Nowhere” – Justice Sunday.

Today we explore the work of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and take up a special collection to support that work. Rev. Stocker preaching. Music by Larry Lemmel and singers Janet Alexander, Marsey Caswell, Sue Michaud, and Louise Gephart.

April 22 – Special guest, the Rev. Harold Babcock

will be leading the service. A life-long Unitarian Universalist and a native of Castine, Maine, Rev. Babcock serves the First Religious Society of Newport, Massachusetts (Unitarian Universalist). Rev. Babcock is active in the Unitarian Universalist Association, serving as the UUA's Ambassador to the Transylvanian Unitarian Church in Romania, as a Director of the UU Society for Ministerial Relief, and as a Board member of the Unitarian Service Pension Society. Rev. Babcock is also the brother of our very own Pat Harris. Music by the choir conducted by Heidi Neufeld, with accompanist David Dean.

April 29 – Special guest, Jim Scott

Jim has recorded or shared the stage with luminaries from the jazz, classical, and folk music worlds. From Carnegie Hall and the Newport Jazz Festival with the Paul Winter Consort; to a concert at the end of the Great Peace March with folk legends Pete Seeger and Peter Yarrow, Jim's travels have taken him around the world, including a European tour with the Griffith Singers performing his choral music; recording in the gardens of Findhorn Scotland with jazz flautist Paul Horn; touring Nicaragua with Holly Near and performing in Australia for colleges and the Institute for Earth Education international conference. *Come hear the talented musician who has given a series of concerts at other UU churches in Maine to help raise money for our new building.*

*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

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



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 & 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: uubrunswick@gwi

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

I love April. It's the first full month of spring and with it comes an everyday awareness of nature: leaves budding, prepping garden beds, planting cold weather veggies, daffodils and crocuses in bloom, and greening grass. Come mid-summer I tend to take everything for granted, but in April everything is so anticipated after winter that I can't help but revel in the changes taking place - yes, even the mud!

Spring reminds me to engage my senses with the natural world. It reminds me to drop my every day technological gadgets (yes, after I write this on my laptop I will be heading straight outside instead of surfing the web!) and go look for deer tracks in the woods, sit on a warm rock and watch the slow path of the sun across the sky and how the shadows cast by objects change, or sit under a tree and think about how that immobile tree perceives the world through its branches, buds, and roots. As I examine my lifestyle in regards to the state of our environment - the evidence of degradation and climate change that is all around us - these types of activities help me feel a spiritual connection

with the earth of which I am a part. This spiritual connection helps me come to some understandings about choices that I make- Do I make that extra car trip to satisfy my craving of the moment or do I work to more carefully plan and consolidate trips? Do I remain silent as one more wild place is sold to be clear cut, used for resources, or otherwise developed, or do I take a stand do my best to work for systemic cultural change even though there may be personal risk?

When we provide ourselves and our children with opportunities for direct experience in nature, we equip ourselves and our children to make the hard choices that we have to make now and in the future- many of which will pit comfort and convenience against the health of our ecosystems. This spring, take some time to literally stop and smell the roses, or maybe in our region, daffodils. Head out to the woods and see what you find and what you can learn from that finding. Cultivate a connection with the land.

Blessings, *nicole*



IMPORTANT RE DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

April 1 - RE Classes, Youth Group

April 8 - Easter Service and Easter Egg Hunt (during the 2nd half of the service, outside at the park across the street, weather permitting)

April 15 - Multi-Age Activity- herb planting, please contact Nicole if your child will be attending

April 22 - Multi-Age Activity, please contact Nicole if your child will be attending

April 29 - RE teacher appreciation breakfast @9:20 am in the MBC RE area; RE Classes and Youth Group

... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



As I write, this second-to-last week in March, temperatures are in the eighties in Brunswick, Maine. Maine is the new South Carolina. People are heady with the warm, sunny weather. They are also jittery, for they know it can't mean anything good to have summer temperatures so soon.

On the world stage, I am reeling from the terrible news from Afghanistan. An Army soldier left his base alone, walked to a nearby town, and massacred 17 of the residents there, killing mostly women and children. News reports say he cannot remember his actions. They say that, now in his fourth deployment to a war zone, he had suffered a foot injury and partial amputation, and – most pertinent – a head injury in tours in Iraq. So many lives destroyed – the lives of the dead, the lives of their remaining loved ones, the life of the soldier himself.

Even for me, remote from this atrocity, news like this causes a part of the hope inside me to wither. I want so much to sweep the suffering away, to bring our troops home, to make peace blossom all over the world, and to somehow redeem our nation in the eyes of the world. Am I dreaming the impossible dream?

Is redemption possible? The great religions say it is. Our faith, so small compared to the giant faiths, holds out the hopeful promise that human beings have the capacity to live into their potential for deeper connection and understanding, peacemaking, and healing. Common cause can be found amongst the many faiths of the world, if only we make the effort to do that exploration. It seems a mighty effort is required.

Whether we are addressing our impact on the earth or doing the work of peacemaking, we get to create among one another the kind of world we would like to see on earth. “Think globally; act locally,” says the bumper sticker. I know it's far from easy, even in our small circle, to live as we want to the world to be. No, it's hard work, but it's the work we need to do continually.

Chances are my individual work to reduce, reuse, and recycle will have little impact on a global level. But when my efforts get added to those of others, they make a difference. Chances are I will never be in the presence of those Afghan villages who will forever mourn their massacred dead. But I am in the presence of other human beings all the time. In my chosen community, this congregation, each of us has the opportunity to grow into our best selves and to learn how to take our best selves out into the world.

I know that all by myself, I am small and insignificant. Joining forces with a few others who dare to dream and live into a different world, my strength increases. As our forces increase, so does our influence. Here's to ever widening circles of connection, understanding, and peace.

Marge Piercy writes in her poem *The Low Road*:

It goes on one at a time,
it starts when you care
to act, it starts when you do
it again after they said no,
it starts when you say We
and know who you mean, and each
day you mean one more.

Love,
Sylvia

Flowers and Focal Points



If you enjoy seeing fresh flowers or a focal point of beauty at our Sunday services, please sign up for a Sunday. (Sign-up sheet is located in the rear of the sanctuary on Sundays.) Except for Easter Sunday, our sign-up sheet is woefully filled with startlingly empty spaces. :-)

ORIENTATION CLASS

On Saturday, April 21, 2012, from 9 – 1, Sylvia and the Membership Committee will lead an orientation class for newcomers and friends who would like to deepen their knowledge of our church and Unitarian Universalism. Coffee, tea and treats will be served starting at 8:30 am. Location to be determined.

The class will present historical and theological underpinnings of Unitarian Universalism. We will consider the qualities and special stories of our church community and look toward our future. In addition we will introduce you to some of our church leaders. At the end of the class, you will have an opportunity to sign the Membership Book, if you so choose.

What does it mean to become a member of our congregation? When you sign our Membership Book you literally become counted as one who upholds the values of our liberal religious tradition – the search for truth, the practice of compassion, the use of reason, the work for peace and justice, and the hope that human beings learning to be together in relationship can chart a new path of healing in our world.

People often wonder what is required of members. Our expectations are simple but tangible evidence of the commitment we make to one another. We ask members to make a financial pledge to our operating budget so that we share in supporting the work of the congregation. A pledge should be commensurate with the ability to give. In addition, everyone's contributions of talent and time help to bring our congregations's dreams to fruition. You are the best judge of where to invest your time and talent, but if you need help making connections or are searching for ideas, please feel free to ask me.

To sign up for the Saturday orientation class, please call the church office at 729-8515. In addition, I would be happy to meet with you ahead of time to answer questions or simply get to know you better. I look forward to seeing you soon!

Warmly, *Sylvia*

ENVIRONMENTAL FORUM

April 5, 7 pm

Crooker Theater at Brunswick HS

9 students from Mt. Ararat, Brunswick, & Morse High Schools speak out on environmental issues in a forum moderated by a Bowdoin College environmental science student. Question and answer period to follow the forum.

Hosted by Brunswick High School and sponsored by 3-Churches Earth Care (UUCB, First Parish UCC, and St. Paul's Episcopal churches).

No charge; the public is invited. For more information, contact Shirley at the UUCB office. 729 8515.

SAD NEWS

Our gifted choir accompanist *extraordinaire* David Dean has given his notice that he will not be renewing his contract for the next church year. In the six years David has been with us, we have been blessed by his ability to play everything from Beethoven to the Beatles, sometimes providing vocals as well. We have been treated to some of his own compositions from time to time. We have been fortunate to have such a gifted musician to work with the choir and to play for the rest of us, too. To lose his music and his quiet, thoughtful presence among us is so sad to contemplate. David, we thank you for sharing your gifts with us, and we want you to know we will miss you tremendously!



NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER



The Brunswick UU Pagans group will be conducting a service on the National Day of Prayer, **May 3, 2012, at 6 PM.** The service will be held at the home of Connie and Betty Wurtz. 19 Megquier Rd., New Gloucester, ME 04260.

ALL ARE WELCOME.

APRIL CHARITY WITH SOUL

VETERANS FOR PEACE, THE TOM STURTEVANT CHAPTER, #1



The Tom Sturtevant Chapter, #1 is the founding chapter of Veterans For Peace, a national organization founded in Maine in 1985. There are now over 120 chapters active in communities throughout the United States, Puerto Rico, Canada, Mexico, Vietnam and other nations. National conventions

are held annually and members communicate through quarterly newsletters as well as daily list-serve news, on line discussions groups and the national and chapter websites.

We draw on our personal experiences and perspectives gained as veterans to raise public awareness of the true costs and consequences of militarism and war - and to seek peaceful, effective alternatives. Our collective experience tells us wars are easy to start and hard to stop and that those hurt are often the innocent. Thus, other means of problem solving are necessary.

The organization includes veterans of all eras and duty stations, men and women, spanning the Spanish Civil War (1936-39), World War II, the Korean, Vietnam, Gulf and current Iraq and Afghanistan wars as well as other conflicts.

Maine Veterans For Peace chapter activities include providing speakers and videos for Maine classroom teachers on alternatives to war, providing information about military recruiting and military budgets, and an annual symposium on the effects of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder.

For additional information, please see our website:

<http://www.vfpmaine.org/>

You can also talk with church member Dan Ellis who is Maine VFP Member Coordinator.

STATEMENT OF PURPOSE:

We, having dutifully served our nation, do hereby affirm our greater responsibility to serve the cause of world peace. To this end we will work, with others

- a. To increase public awareness of the costs of war
- b. To restrain our government from intervening, overtly and covertly, in the internal affairs of other nations
- c. To end the arms race and to reduce and eventually eliminate nuclear weapons
- d. To seek justice for veterans and victims of war
- e. To abolish war as an instrument of national policy.

NNED WORKSHOP REMINDER

JUSTICE MAKING TOGETHER

2012 NNED Annual Spring Conference

April 13-14, 2012

Red Jacket Inn North Conway, NH

For more info and to register: WWW>NNED.UUA.ORG

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE



Tuesday, April 24 at 10:30
at
Ellie Swanson's House
808 Merepoint Rd, Brunswick

Join the ladies of the church for a Victorian Tea.

Victorian costumes or hats are encouraged.

ATTENTION ALL YOU GARDENERS!!!

The Women's Alliance will hold their plant sale on Saturday, May 12, at the site of the old church. We are in need of plants for the sale so start digging. More information will following in the weekly updates.



Any questions, please call Gretchen Kamilewicz at 833-5125.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

ANNUAL FUNDRAISING WALK

The Habitat for Humanity Spring Run/Walk is the largest annual fundraiser for Habitat, our covenant organization. While we usually take part in H4H's home builds for low income families or in Step One Weatherization of low income homes, we've had other things to think about this year and have missed out on most of their Faith Relations activities.

We can still show our dedication to this worthy organization by taking part in the 5K walk or run, by providing some of the refreshments to greet returnees, collecting pledges for a walker/runner (or yourself), or by taking part by running or walking 5 K on April 22.

- The run will start with 8 am registration at a big tent by the REStore, Center Street in Bath. The run will start from the Chocolate Church on Center and Washington Streets at 9 am
- The traditional walk, separate, will start with registration at 1 pm by the ReStore on Center Street in Bath. The walk itself starts at 2 pm by the Chocolate Church on Washington Street.

Ask for more information at the Habitat for Humanity table at coffee hour the next four Sundays. There, you can

- Sign up to **sponsor** a runner or walker. (Even a few dollars from many sponsors adds up!)
- Sign up to **volunteer** at the event. (Help post signs in the morning, attend a way station, pass out water, call out split times, serve refreshments, help with parking, etc.)
- Sign up to provide one of three fruit plates UUCB has pledged to greet returning runners/walkers.

April 22 at the ReStore in Bath

Run: Registration 8:00 am, Start 9:00 am

Walk: Registration 1:00 pm, Start 2:00 pm



WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND IMMIGRATION

As part of the UUCB social justice mission to prevent prejudice and hate, Working for Justice is envisioning a June community conversation about issues immigrants face when building new lives in Maine. We hope to collaborate with UU social justice programs in Yarmouth and Auburn and consult with people in our congregation who can add to the conversation about the day to day challenges of immigrants in Maine.

The evening event will engage our church locally with the UUA Congregational Study Action Issue of Immigration - a focus of the UUA General Assemblé in Arizona.

Related to the UUCB effort, consider attending **the April 6 Somalis in Maine evening** (see flyer on next page), organized by our neighboring UU churches and *anticipating* our next UUCB Working for Justice event being planned for Tuesday evening, June 12 in the Curtis Library Morrell Room. We will update you as UUCB plans progress, but please put June 12 in your calendar today!

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



THE RADICAL SPIRIT

The Radical Spirit, a Unitarian Universalist blog spot, has launched and is gaining popularity! *The Radical Spirit* features short audio and video reflections intended to re-inspire Unitarian Universalism. All are delivered by individuals in ministerial formation. Accompanying each talk is an "archive," where submitters share additional materials related to the topic at hand.

<http://www.theradicalspirit.org>



Sponsored by **USM Muslim Student Association,**
Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta,
The First Parish Church in Portland,
Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church in Portland,
and the **USM Office of Multicultural Student Affairs**

Muslims in Maine

A Community Conversation

Friday, April 6, 2012

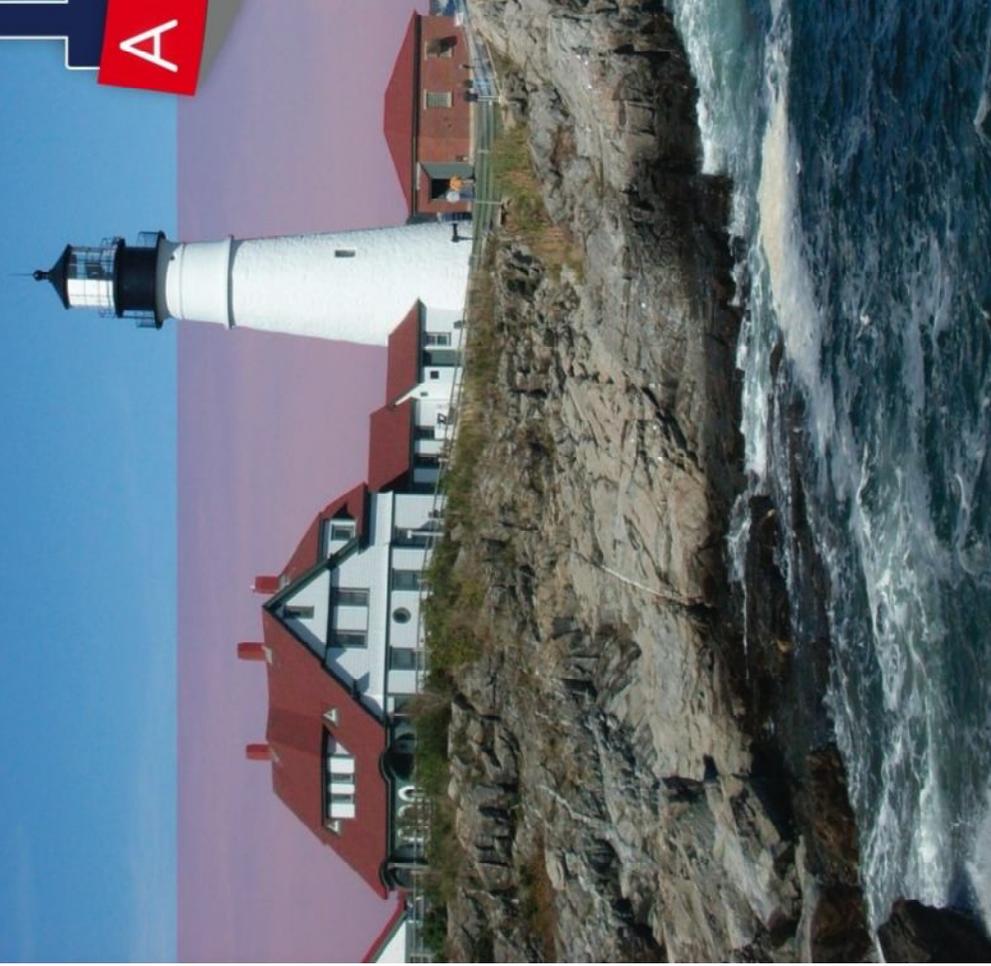
5:30 p.m. Dinner | 6:00 p.m. Conversation

The Wishcamper Center

Bedford St | USM Portland Campus

Open & Free to the Public

Reservations are requested. FMI, and
to RSVP, please call (207) 780-5798



UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS IN APRIL

GEORGE LOPEZ BENEFIT CONCERT



**Saturday, April 21
at 7:30 pm.**

**George Lopez, pianist,
will play a benefit concert
for the UUCB.**

Mr. Lopez is the Artist-in-Residence at Bowdoin College. He is a spectacular musician. A week following the church fire Mr. Lopez graciously offered to play a benefit for UUCB. The concert will be held at the Orion Performing Arts Center (50 Republic Drive) in Topsham which seats 900. Tickets are available at Gulf of Maine Books in Brunswick and at Music & Moore at the Topsham Fair Mall for a \$15 suggested donation. This is a HUGE fundraising opportunity!

We need to fill all 900 seats. UUCB's Music Committee will be asking for donations of baked goods to sell at intermission. Want some tickets to sell? More information? Contact:

Grace Lewis-McLaren,
6mainer6@gmail.com.

YOUR TICKET TO MORE DONATI\$NS FOR OUR NEW BUILDING

Dine out on April 21st before the George Lopez Concert and 20% of your meal ticket will be donated to our building fund by the following restaurants!!! You must eat EARLY (by 5pm) and show them your concert ticket. Please write on the back of your ticket where you ate.

**FAIRGROUND CAFE
GREAT IMPASTA
HENRY AND MARTY**

More restaurants may join this group, so watch for announcements or check out the list at Gulf of Maine Books and Music and Moore.

FUNDRAISING YARD SALES COMING

We have these **three great SPRING opportunities** to join in our FUNdraising efforts.

#1 – April 14th, 9 am-1 pm:

Hope Russell's @ 383 Maine Street – Brunswick

Hope is preparing a giant move and is offering to split her proceeds with us. In turn we will run her yard sale and bring whatever isn't sold for our tables at St. Charles's Sale.

#2 – April 28th, 8 am-1 pm:

St. Charles' Community Yard Sale

@ McKeen Street – Brunswick

Each year St. Charles runs a community sale in their parking lot. We ask you to bring items to contribute to this sale, which also helps by magically opening space in our lives.

#3 – May 16th - June 10th:

Bowdoin's GIVE and GO* @ the former Times Record building on Industry Rd – Brunswick

Now in its 11th year, this college sale is a great fundraiser for area non-profits! For every hour you work, we get a percentage of the total sale, which was \$52,000 in 2011.

Here are ways you can help:

- ◆ Save some boxes/large bags
- ◆ Bring your items for #2 to Pennell House for collection/pick up
- ◆ Pack up sale items
- ◆ Organize sale items for the sales into "categories" Help with pricing ahead of time
- ◆ Make food and drink to feed and lubricate the workers for sales #1 and #2
- ◆ Be part of Sales Crew on day of (for #1 and #2) and/or for any of the shifts for #3 *Give and Go*.
- ◆ Take leftovers for #2 to local Good Will, Salvation Army, etc.
- ◆ Use your truck to haul to and from an event.
(If you offer truck use for the Give and Go, they count your time twice: for you / for your truck.)

**Please take a moment right now to ~
Call Maryli (729.5311) to sign up to help out.**

*** NOTE:** The Give and Go sign up **has to be done** by the first week in April.

FUNDRAISING: RESULTS AND UPCOMING

Online Auction

RESULTS

Auction Income: \$14,464

- ◆ \$13,814 from the auction bids
- ◆ \$650 from sponsors

Auction Expenses: about \$7,915

- ◆ BiddingforGood Annual Subscription Fee: \$400
- ◆ 9% commission to BFG = \$1,192
- ◆ 1/3 commission for BFG Donated Items = \$184
- ◆ Cost of Consignment Items = \$5,572
- ◆ Credit Card Processing Fees = \$500
- ◆ Mailings & Supplies = \$167

Estimated Profit: \$6,368

The next online auction will not have the subscription fee, and we will charge postage to the winning bidders. If we do consignment items, we will look for less expensive items.

Our auction had **230 items** up for bid

- ◆ **57 were consignment items - which earned \$1,719 for us**
 - ◆ 8 sold
 - ◆ 49 not sold
- ◆ **173 were items solicited by church members - which earned us \$6,743**
 - ◆ Thanks to Gretchen Kamilewicz, Sue Ellen Damour, Robin Hansen, Karen Foley, Julia Dahmer, Janet Alexander, Andrea Brimlow, Vicki Simpson, Jim Michaud, and myself.
 - ◆ 166 sold
 - ◆ 7 not sold
- ◆ **There were 107 bidders, and 68 people who actually won items from the auction**
 - ◆ 22 were church members
 - ◆ 46 were NOT church members

People bid from all over the country: several counties in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, West Virginia, North Carolina, Missouri, Alabama, Florida, Illinois, Michigan, Colorado, Nevada, California, and Texas.

Thanks to ALL who participated in this FUN event!!

DELICIOUS WAY TO BUILD A CHURCH

Ruby Tuesday at the Topsham Fair Mall generously offers a great and painless opportunity for us to grow our building fund! The UU Church of Brunswick will have three days—**Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, May 8, 9, and 10**—in **Ruby Tuesday's "Community Give-Back"** program. All we have to do is have a meal or meals at Ruby Tuesday on those days. 20% of our bill will be given to UUCB by Ruby Tuesday! The manager says that some community organizations have garnered as much as \$3-4,000 through their Community Give-Back.

A Ruby Tuesday Give-Back flyer dedicated to UUCB's building fund will be made available sometime in April—1) in the May newsletter, 2) at Sunday morning worship services, and 3) as e-mail attachments to UUCB e-mails. Take, copy, print out, as many as you want. Remember, you have to take the flyer with you when you eat at Ruby Tuesday for UUCB to qualify for the 20% give-back.

And tell your friends—give them flyers too! If they'd go to Ruby Tuesday anyway, they have a unique opportunity to help us build our new church at no cost to them. Look for more in the May newsletter, and look for the Ruby Tuesday UUCB flyer in April.

Karen Foley



*Grab all your friends,
Eat at Ruby Tuesday on May 8-10,
and make money for UUCB!*

A BICENTENNIAL MOMENT

After the fire of 1884 that burned the Mason Street Universalist Church, the congregation purchased a double lot on the corner of Pleasant and Middle Streets from Lizzie Pennell for \$1000. In order to build the new church without debt, the congregation sold one of the lots that, over a hundred years later, became the Pennell House (5 and 7 Middle Street.)

Osborne R. Pennell, a brother to Lizzie, and his wife, Carrie, were a prominent and active couple in the Universalist Church. Former minister Sheldon Christian claims that Pennell kept the small congregation in being in the 1920s and 30s as he stood stubbornly against closing the church as the Unitarians had done earlier with their church. The fight for continued existence, uphill all the way, showed slow growth over the years. The tide began to turn when, in 1961, a number of strong Unitarians joined the Universalists and voted to join the continental merger of the two denominations.

Laurence Pennell and his sister, Alice Pennell Toothaker, were children of Osborne and Carrie Pennell. They were life-long Universalists and made a gift of \$200 to a fund, the income of which was to be available to purchase flowers for the Church School children on Children's Sunday each year.

Laurence attended Bowdoin College and remained in Brunswick. He served for some years as Church School Superintendent, and the children came to love him, and it was a mutual affection. At his death, Laurence left

the church almost \$25,000, the interest of which was later applied to religious education purposes. The Colorado Blue Spruce that existed on the front lawn of the church, until it was removed last year, was planted in his memory during Will Saunders' ministry.

After graduating from the Gorham Normal School, Alice Pennell moved to Quincy, Massachusetts to teach. In 1941 she married David Toothaker and eventually, they settled down in Brunswick. They had no children. Alice died in 1988 at the age of 86, David having passed before. Because the church school was full to overflowing and needed more space, the congregation, in 1989, voted to purchase the property at 5 Middle Street, which had just come on the market, using endowment funds. Shortly after the purchase, a bequest of \$100,000 from the Alice Pennell Toothaker Estate arrived enabling the church to pay back the endowment fund.

Two years later the church purchased the other unit of the duplex, 7 Middle Street, which was paid for through the loans of parishioners and later paid back through a Capital Campaign.

At the Annual Meeting of the congregation in May of 1990, the congregation voted to name the 5 Middle Street property "Pennell House" in honor of this extraordinary family who for several generations were "lovers of the church and its faith and were thoughtful of its needs and helped to provide for them."

By *Christine Mitchell*

BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP

Sylvia is still interested in holding a discussion of the book *Acts of Faith* by Eboo Patel, the UUA's common read for this year. But so far, only one person has purchased a copy of the books she has for sale at the discount price of \$13.50, so the March 28 discussion has been canceled. Before she puts another date on the church calendar, she would like to gauge interest in the congregation.



Eboo Patel is founder and executive director of the Interfaith Youth Core, an international, nonprofit, youth service leadership organization. The book describes the vulnerability of youth to violent, fundamentalist influences and makes a case for all of us, particularly youth, to promote pluralism by engaging in interfaith dialogue and social justice work.

Patel tells his own story as a Muslim man born in India and raised in the U. S. He describes his alienation as a young person and depicts some of the influences that helped him to choose peaceful ways over violent ones. He would argue that what made him different from youths who turn to terrorism and violence was his luck that other teachers and mentors influenced him first. He asks the question: What are we doing to teach our young people to follow the path of peace in this pluralistic world?

STRATEGIC PLANNING

AN APPRECIATION: KUDOS TO THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

All of our committees work hard to keep our spiritual community vital, but only a couple are on duty every Sunday without fail. Most of us just take it for granted that when we roll in the door at the Minnie Brown Center we receive our order of service, find a seat, and enjoy a wonderful service. But that's due in large part to the efforts of our Worship Committee. Everyone on the committee takes turns helping with the Sunday Service preparations.

Since the fire, this dedicated group of women has not missed a beat! Summer services went forward without a hitch and attendance hit record-breaking numbers. That's partly because the Worship Committee came together and created their "sanctuary-in-a-box" and its extensive check list, carried forward now to our services at the Minnie Brown Center.

Each Sunday, a team of two individuals arrives at church an hour early to set up. You would probably be quite surprised by all the numerous things that need to take place before the service begins. Everything from chairs, to collection plates, to hymnals, to the sound system must be set out.

At the conclusion of the service, when most congregants head to the back of the sanctuary to get coffee and socialize, the worship committee members are not done working. Electronic devices need to be unplugged; chairs, tables and lectern need to be returned to the hall or stage. Did you know that before our sexton Tony was hired, Sylvia would arrive at church with the orders of service and her vacuum cleaner!? Until then, Worship Committee members were also responsible for vacuuming the room and foyer.

Wow! We need to extend a big thank-you to this busy group of volunteers: Pat Harris (chair), Kate Chamberlin, Mary Pat Conroy, Sienna Dode, Anne Heberger-Marino, Catherine Knowles, Heidi Neufeld, Wendy Roundy, plus Stephanie Bernier, our Music Coordinator

Nancy Dorian, Chair
Strategic Planning Committee

QUEST FOR MEANING.ORG

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rites of passage

- * Coming of Age
- * Memorial Services

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Looking for words to mark a major transition?
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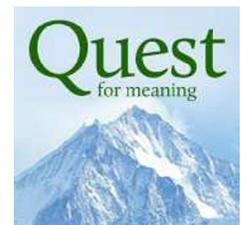
FAMILY CHALLENGES

- * Families under stress
- * Parenting
- * Relationship

HEALTH CHALLENGES

- * Spiritual Health

CLF membership & donations support the CLF's work to bring Unitarian Universalism to religious liberals throughout the world.



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BUILDING TEAM NOTES - MARCH 21, 2012

Welcome Spring

Our meeting was held on the hottest first day of Spring on record. Our first task was to decide on how much if any of our new buildings should be air-conditioned and hopefully our decision was not based on the current weather. A number of members have emailed in support of air conditioning and the team agrees. It is estimated that it will cost about \$35,000 to air condition the first floor of Pennell and the entire sanctuary and connector. Since the building will be very air tight and well insulated we do not anticipate the operating cost to be significant. Our new meeting space will be far more useable and rentable if it can be comfortable throughout the year.

Something New

We also voted to use LED lighting throughout the new building. This will make it possible to adjust and even dim the area lighting which is not easily done with standard fluorescent fixtures. The “bulbs” consume a fraction of the electricity to operate and will have a multi-year life which will be much appreciated with fixtures located high above the floor.

We anticipate that the architects will bring a fully developed plan for the general shape and outside appearance of our new church to our meeting next week. We will then have an opportunity to make more decisions.

Many things Old

Team members Erik Hanson, Steve Eagles, and recycler extraordinaire Robin Hanson spent a full day at the Service Master Elite warehouse in Saco examining and removing some of the many items which had been removed from the church. The Saco folks have been quite generous and patient about storing our things so it was good to give them back some space.

The Bell

Our bell survived the fire and demolition with minimal damage. One of the stands which cradles the bell and the large wheel which holds the bell chord and makes it possible to “ring” the bell were both broken. We were able to remove these parts and the Building Team has voted to spend up to \$1,500 to replace or repair them. We anticipate a building design which includes space for the bell to be elevated and functional.

The Pews

Your recycling crew worked hard and long to disassemble 9 of the 12’ long pews. These may have been built for the new building in 1882 since they are angled such that the aisles were parallel as well as being made of the same “golden” oak as the balance of the varnished wood in the old church. It is unlikely that we will have anything as well crafted as these in our new building. The fasteners showed that these have been repaired successfully a number of times over the years. Bob Whitney made a number of the repairs including the well-hidden metal bars holding the two parts of the pews together. Thank you, Bob!

Two of the single (about 6’ long) pews are to be used in the new building and eleven 12’ pews remain in Saco. A potential buyer has recently been identified so we do not expect to do any more demolition until we learn more.

The Gum

It was quite remarkable how many dried up and multiple colored pieces of already been chewed gum were found under the seats. These we do not expect to incorporate into our new building.

The Windows

There were 21 individual window sash sitting in Saco. We have transported the smaller units and hope to leave the larger stained glass in the warehouse until a final decision is made on if and where to display them. None of the glass will be going to a landfill but we will not know what is available until our building is finished.

Finished When?

Due to a variety of factors it is now anticipated that we will not be getting bids until early July (rather than early June). It is therefore unlikely that we will be in our new space until sometime in 2013. Our major deadline is to have all outside work completed in good weather meaning no later than December 2012. This may mean that a vote to accept bids and spend money will happen in the summer after our regular church year ends. Please be ready to attend a few summer meetings.



SERVING WITH GRACE OPPORTUNITIES

UU To-Do: Who do? You do!

Volunteer activities are the life-blood of our congregation. Many, many people contribute time and energy to the vitality of our church, day in and day out. Some of their activities (our activities!) are quite visible; others not so much; still others, invisible. Some people contribute much time and effort; others contribute in smaller ways. We contribute as we are able, and as we are inspired. It all counts. It is all needed. It is all good.

Your Nominating Committee is charged to accomplish four tasks, all intended to help the volunteer process work smoothly. First, we identify current needs for volunteer activity throughout our Church's array of ongoing activities. Second, we inform the congregation about current "service opportunities" that await someone to step up. Third, we assist anyone who may be interested in some opportunity, to decide if s/he is indeed ready, willing, and able contribute in that way (and if so, we can help 'make the connection.'). Fourth, we encourage everyone to appreciate their ongoing volunteer activities for the deeper value they can yield, as a form of spiritual practice.

In this light, we bring to your attention the following "open" service opportunities. If any of them interests you, please contact any member of the Committee.

1. **Elected positions** – Each year at our spring Annual Meeting, the congregation votes to fill the elected positions in the church. These positions include Board Trustees, the Church Moderator, and Nominating Committee members. We are now looking for people who might be interested to be nominated to serve the Church in one of these ways. People who have been Church members for at least one year are eligible to serve on the Board.
2. **Coordinate our website** - Now more than ever, we need our website to be a welcoming and accurate reflection of our church community. UUCB needs someone to oversee the gathering of current, relevant and appropriate information, and to pass on to our Webmaster, Steve Wellcome. Steve will then post the information in a timely manner on the website. If you might be that person, see Cathey Cyrus who will connect you with others who are thinking hard about this needed service.
3. **Coordinate publicity** - The Church continues to discuss best way to assure effective communication, both within UUCB and out into the wider community. We most immediately need someone who can oversee our communication with the "outside" – newspaper articles, posters about events, signs, etc. (For now the website will be overseen separately.) Please see Cathey Cyrus for more information.

Thank you.

Nominating Committee: Cathey Cyrus, Larry Lemmel, Jim Michaud, Paul Schaffner, Ann Spencer

HOSPITALITY HOUR

We're lucky enough to find wonderful food waiting for us after the service on Sunday mornings! Our gratitude to this month's hosts: Xanthe Belsky, Brad Mitchell, Gail Schen, Jean Tompkins, Andrea Sinclair, Skip Brimlow, Helen Johnson and Nancy Dorian.

MANY thanks to Jean Tompkins, the calm guide who's welcomed hosts before church, shown them where UUCB things are, helped set up and clear tables, and guided them through clean up. Jean is dealing with a knee problem and currently can't provide this service. We miss her very much in Hospitality World and wish her a speedy recovery.

For the time being, I'll step into this role until we can find someone able to take it on. Any volunteers? New guides will be guided in how to guide, and back-up will be available!

April, May and part of June are all that's left of the regular church year. PLEASE SIGN UP TO HELP WITH HOSPITALITY, if you haven't already. Many hands make light work, as Mom used to say!

Happy Spring,

Val

for the Hospitality Team

vheath@gwi.net

729-9254



UPDATE ON THE CAPITAL CAMPAIGN FOR OUR FUTURE CHURCH

Many of us have never been asked to think so hard or dig so deeply in considering our commitment to the church. We listen to architects, read weekly Building Team updates, and experience first-hand what it's like to worship and meet without a church building of our own. We make financial commitments to the Annual Budget Drive and consider what we can pledge to fund the future church of our dreams.

Some of us have a long history of UUCB intertwined with our families—baby dedications, weddings, memorial services - and others are just now finding new friends and partners as we engage more deeply in the life of the church. We hear again and again that our church community has never felt stronger or displayed more energy than in this post-fire year.

But can we raise the money necessary to build our dream church? The capital campaign team answers with a resounding **YES!** Here are the FAQs—frequently asked questions with answers—that hopefully will lead you to the same conclusion.

Q: What are we voting about on April 1st?

A: On April 1 the Capital Campaign Committee will ask the congregation to vote on a two-tiered campaign goal. The first—or **Foundation**—goal of \$750,000 is what we believe is the minimum amount we need to raise. The second—or **Legacy**—goal of \$850,000 is our stretch goal. We will also ask the congregation to approve donating 1% of the total money received to our Charities with Soul organizations. In addition, we are seeking approval for a \$13,000 capital campaign budget to pay for our consultant, printing, postage, Bicentennial/Capital Campaign celebration, and other miscellaneous costs.

Q: Why are you asking for two goal amounts - a Foundation goal of \$750,000 and a Legacy goal of \$850,000?

A: While the architects have been instructed to design a building that can be paid for with the insurance settlement plus the capital campaign funds, there are still many unknowns. Both the final amount of the insurance settlement and the construction cost won't be known until sometime this summer. Basic furnishings such as sanctuary chairs are included in the projected cost, but there are many other purchases and decisions that will be influenced by the size of the campaign proceeds. Reaching beyond the **Foundation** goal (\$750,000) towards the **Legacy** goal (\$850,000) will give us the flexibility to build, furnish, and equip our church in the best possible way.

Q: Is it feasible to raise this kind of money?

A: Peter Heinrichs, our campaign consultant, tells us that, realistically, we can already project commitments of nearly \$600,000—yes, \$600,000! He spoke with 38 pledging units who represent a cross-section of the church and asked each person for a dollar amount that they would be comfortable

pledging over a three-year period. Based on this information, he says that a capital campaign goal of \$750,000 is very realistic, and that reaching higher is attainable.

Q: Are we trying to get money from outside the congregation?

A: Absolutely. However, while we are pursuing grant funding and community donations which may represent as much as \$20,000-\$30,000, we need to acknowledge that a successful campaign will require most of the money to come from us. After all, we care the most about UUCB's future. Just as it will be *our* church to build as *our* legacy to the next generations, so too, will it require mostly *our* money, not other people's.

Q: What would be considered a "fair share" contribution?

We need everyone to think hard about the total pledge amount to commit to over the next *three* years. We understand that the very best financial commitment for each individual and family differs. We are asking that people reach towards that **Legacy** goal to help build a vital, vibrant spiritual community. In order to do that, we are asking you to consider a pledge amount that feels feasible, responsible, and generous.

Q: When does the campaign begin? Will someone call on me?

A: We will officially start the campaign at the Bicentennial/Capital Campaign Celebration on May 5 at the Methodist Church. Before then, visiting stewards will meet with members who have already indicated an interest in or willingness to pledge in advance. If you are anxious to hear from us, please contact anyone on the capital campaign committee and the right person will be in touch.

Q: When will I have to pay my campaign pledge?

A: Unlike the Annual Budget Drive that raises operating funds needed each and every year, the Capital Campaign extends over *three* years. The three years officially start on July 1, 2012 and end June 30, 2015. Payments may be made at any point during those three years. When you complete your pledge card, you will indicate when you expect to make your payment(s).

Q: Who is on the Capital Campaign Committee?

A: Sally Horne and Cindy Parker are the co-chairs of the committee; Cathey Cyrus and Diane Kew are focusing on lead gifts; Alex and Katherine Dauge-Roth are focusing on general gifts; Lisa Ledwidge and Anita Ruff are pursuing grants; Judy Chamberlain and Maryli Tiemann are working on community funding opportunities; Nancy Dorian and Rich Knox are in charge of publications; Keary Lay is the treasurer; Peter Heinrichs is the campaign consultant.

Bill, Cindy, Dave, Sally.

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

Oh, isn't it an exciting time in the life of UUCB? Spring has arrived feeling more like summer and I bet more than just me are anxious for those May flowers to bloom. Yet, the teasing weather of March reminds me that we shouldn't get too far ahead of ourselves; there is a proper order for most things and it takes time for them to fall into place properly.

This musing relates mostly to my own impatience in wanting our new church building to be built and for us to move into it. But I know that good results take good time, and getting the details right is critical for our project. The Building Team and architects had set out an aggressive timeline back in the fall. They are constantly monitoring progress against the timeline and soon will have a better sense of when the Congregation can approve a final bid for construction, and then to anticipate ground breaking and construction itself. Those announcements will come...I have to push back my own wish for it all to happen now. We have a conscientious and caring Building Team looking out for all the details; I try to remember the watchword: patience.

If you're looking for an enlightening and rewarding destination in June, consider attending the UUA General Assembly, or GA, to be held June 20-24 in Phoenix, Arizona. Everyone is welcome to attend, with voting at the UUA Annual meeting limited to up to four appointed members. The Board will approve a slate of delegates for UUCB from members interested in attending the conference. Find registration, financial aid, housing, travel and programming information at www.uua.org/ga. If you would like to represent the church, please let any trustee or Sylvia know.

One of the most exciting pieces of mail in March was notification from the UUA Northern New England District Awards Committee that our own Cathey Cyrus has been selected to receive a *Congregational Leadership Award* in honor of her many years of hard work and leadership for UUCB. On behalf of the Board, Laura Jackson and Maryli Tiemann composed an application of tribute summarizing Cathey's influence on our church, and details of a sampling of her notable contributions. The application began with these words: "The secret of a great congregational leader is that upon reflection, one can see their efforts have helped to sustain, build and create life within a congregation. This knowledge prompts us to write, nominating Brunswick's Cathey Cyrus for this Congregational Leadership Award."

Cathy will accept the award at the 2012 NNED Spring Conference in North Conway, NH on April 13th. The Board is delighted to have Cathey recognized for her contributions, and is planning a congratulatory presentation and cake after church soon. Doesn't she deserve every bit of it? Three Cheers!

And cheer for yourself, too. As I've mentioned in the past, we are moving forward on the wave of energy and hard work of many, many people. Take a minute to congratulate yourself for your own efforts and to thank the organizers and doers all around us. Thank you all!

In love and peace,
Mike Heath

BEQUESTS TO UUCB

Did you know that some members of UUCB have made bequests to the church, in addition to a Capital Campaign pledge?

A bequest can be made through a will in the form of cash, real estate, securities, an insurance policy or other property.

For additional information, please contact:

Mel Hodgkins
Planned Giving Coordinator



APRIL 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat	
<p>1</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC</p> <p>Congressional Meeting following the Service</p> <p>Green Sanctuary & Music Committee Mtgs</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p> <p>2:15-6:45 violin : Par</p> <p>Worship Committee</p> <p>Working for Justice 10 am-7 pm</p>	<p>4</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>5</p> <p>2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor</p> <p>6:00 Justice Steering Grp: 7 Pennell Upstairs</p> <p>7:00-8:30 Choir: MBC</p>	<p>6</p> <p>9:30 AA : 7 Pennell Upstairs</p>	<p>7</p> <p>Passover</p> 	
<p>8</p> <p>10:00 Easter Service: MBC, Beth Israel in Bath</p> 	<p>9</p> <p>7-9 CUUPS - Par</p>	<p>10</p> <p>2:15-6:45 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>9-1 Hope Russell Yard Sale 383 Maine St, Brunswick</p>	
<p>15</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</p>	<p>16</p> <p>Patriot's Day</p> 	<p>17</p> <p>2:15-6:45 violin : Par</p> <p>6:30 Board Mtg</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>5:30 Building Com: McLellan</p> <p>7:15 Songwriters Grp: Par</p> <p>Council: TBA</p>	<p>19</p> <p>2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor</p> <p>12-2 Strategic Planning: Parlor</p> <p>7-8:30 Choir: MBC</p>	<p>20</p> <p>9:30 AA : Pen</p> <p>7-10 Sidedoor Coffee House -MR</p> <p>Parish Messenger Deadline</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9-1 New UU Orientation Classes: Location TBD</p> <p>7:30 George Lopex Concert: Orion, Topsham</p> <p>Eat out before 5:00 at Great Impasta, Henry &</p>	
<p>22</p> <p>Walk for Habitat: 8 am Registration 9 am Walk</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</p> <p>New Comer's Comer</p>	<p>23</p> <p>7-9 CUUPS - Par</p>	<p>24</p> <p>10:30 Women's Alliance: Ellie Swanson's House</p> <p>2:15-5:45 violin : Par</p> <p>6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor</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>8-1 St. Charles Community Yard Sale</p>	
<p>29</p> <p>10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath</p>	<p>30</p>	<p style="background-color: #800080; color: white; padding: 5px; display: inline-block;">Church events are in bold type.</p>					
		<p>CO - Church Office</p> <p>MBC - Minnie Brown Center</p> <p>MR - Morell Room, Library</p> <p>MH - Member's Home</p>			<p>MO - Minister's Office</p> <p>PAR - Parlor in 5 Pennell (downstairs)</p> <p>PEN - 7 Pennell House Upstairs</p> <p>SP - Saint Paul's</p>		

Newsletter editor:
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NEXT DEADLINE
 for May issue is
Fri, April 20, 2011, 5 pm
Rare exceptions:729-4857

