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**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

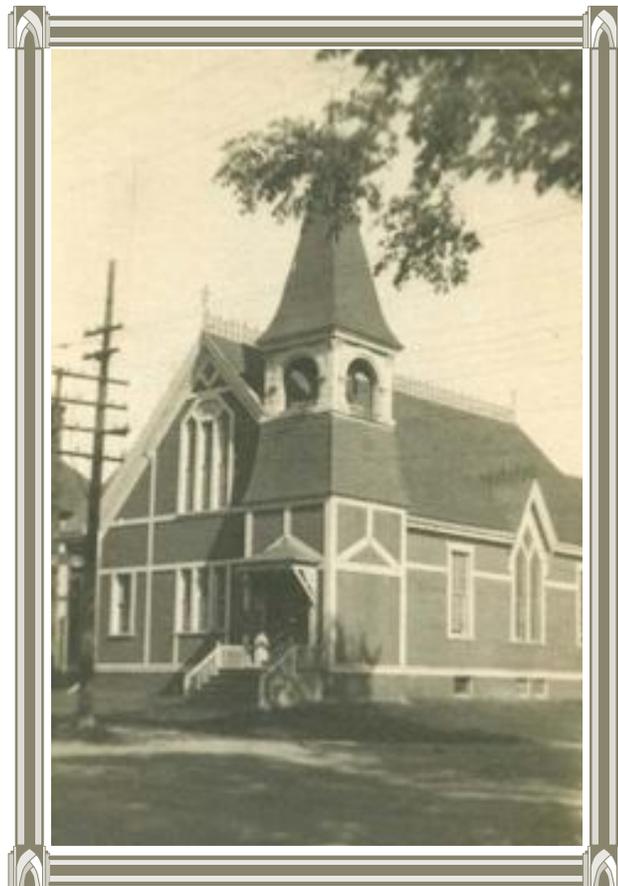
Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director

David Dean, Accompanist

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick



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

ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

May 6 – “El Cinco de Mayo and the Fifth Principle”

Rev. Stocker preaching. Music provided by Brad Mitchell.

May 13 – Mother’s Day

Rev. Stocker preaching, in collaboration with Catherine Knowles, a seminarian at Bangor Theological School. Music provided by the choir, directed by Heidi Neufeld and accompanied by David Dean.

May 20 – Religious Education Sunday

Religious Education Sunday, led by Nicole Shanks, Rev. Stocker, and our UU kids and teachers. Music provided by Grace Lewis-McLaren (hymns) and Jud Caswell, Carter Ruff, Kate Gray, Marsey Caswell, Daphne McCoy (vocal & instrumental)

May 27 – 7th Principle Sunday

Special service led by the Green Sanctuary Committee. Music TBA.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

On May 20th the RE program will culminate with an intergenerational celebration. Our RE classes explored themes of Unitarian Universalism through picture books, crafts, projects, and songs this year. We faced the challenge of holding our program in an alternate space and found that it was fun to share a building with the rest of the congregation. So maybe it hasn't been so fun to deal with totes full of supplies and I won't mention how many times I left something in Pennell that we needed at the Minnie Brown Center, but there's been such a sense of community in our program this year as we share a central space there in the basement and hear the sounds of the worship service overhead.

Last summer when we accepted the offer of the Beth Israel Synagogue to hold services at the MBC, I wondered how we would make everything work. I worried that volunteers would burn out before the year finished, that the noise of the children downstairs would disrupt worship services, that families would find it difficult to make it to a new location, that the amount of supplies in the storage room would become so large and out of control that it would take on a life of its own, and the list goes on. Looking back on the year I have to say that I'm truly impressed. Our congregation rallied together and made this year happen. Attendance didn't suffer, volunteers stayed strong, and although it was reported to me that people upstairs could sometimes hear the children in RE classes it was always to say how much they enjoyed knowing that the children were there having fun. My worries about the supplies in the storage room, however, have proven to be well founded!



Many thanks to everyone for patience, flexibility, and hard work- it truly took an entire congregation working together to make this year possible.

Blessings, *nicole*

HOW TO REACH US

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

The church office, (at 7 Middle Street) is open 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>

IMPORTANT RE DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

May 6 - RE Classes, Youth Group

May 13 - Last Sunday of RE Classes, Youth Group

May 20 - Intergenerational Celebration, Social Event Following Service (TBA)

May 27 - No RE, Memorial Day Weekend

Flowers and Focal Points



*Have you offered to bring in
flowers or a beautiful focal
point
for a service?*

... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



When Alice Rossiter died on April 10, she left instructions that she did not want a memorial service. But she didn't say I had to refrain from writing about her in the newsletter!

Her obituary will tell you she was a graduate of Buckingham School in Cambridge, MA, and Radcliff College, that she lived in New York City for most of her adult life, and that she worked in the national office of the American Heart Association. It will tell you she married Peter Rossiter in 1974 and moved up to Maine in 1976. But those are just the bare facts. Her obituary neglects to mention what an amazing woman Alice was.

Humble, utterly lacking in self-interest, Alice was compassionate and generous. Even when she was on her deathbed, she spent her time with visitors by asking what was happening in their lives and focusing little on herself. And did you know that whenever someone gave her a ride to church, she sent them a hand-written thank you note?

Alice was great because she cared so deeply, but didn't want to call attention to her contributions to the world. Some years ago, for instance, she befriended an inmate in the Maine prison system. She visited and corresponded with him over the years and provided the funds for him to continue his education while he was incarcerated. In her will she left him enough money to study for his Ph. D. when he gets out of prison in a couple of years. This she did quietly, without bragging or grandstanding.

Alice was funny and smart and a well-studied theologian in her own right. Whether she was talking about Buddha or Jesus, she could back up her theology with her studying. An inveterate and life-long Unitarian Universalist, Alice was open-minded about theology, even as she was willing to share her own thoughts and feelings. Shortly before she died, she gifted our church library with a collection of books and published sermons she has collected over the years.

Alice was a spitfire, a ball of energy. In her nineties, she was still moving about with speed and precision, even with the use of her cane. Once, when asked how she remained so limber, she replied, "When I am standing at the sink doing my dishes, I dance!"

A couple of years ago, our RE kids created a booklet about our church elders. Here is what they said about Alice:

"Alice Rossiter has been attending our church since 1979. She was born into a Unitarian family but did not attend a Unitarian church as a child because there wasn't one where she lived. She remembers that what she liked most about church as a child was the children's library because she looked forward to checking out a book or two every week.

"Alice has been involved in our church in many ways. Alice served on the UUCB mailing team and sent out cards to people who were ill. For a couple of years she even sent out cards to all the RE children on their birthdays! Alice taught RE for a short time, served as chair of the Parish Care Network, and participated in the Fish Chowder luncheon – a tradition in the Women's Alliance. She loved to cook and remembers making cake and nut bread for many church suppers.

"Alice believes that church is important because it's a place to meet people with similar values – values of freedom, equality, justice, and peace. She says that the music, readings, and the sermon give us something to think about and introduce us to new ideas. New ideas are very important. Alice remembers the many changes that have taken place at the UUCB and in the UU religion because of new ideas – the Unitarian and Universalist denominations merged, our religion uses a new language, and our hymn book has been rewritten in the years that Alice has been involved in church. Alice stated that, "Change is the law of life." She thinks that church is exciting because there's always something new and different. Alice's message to the children in the RE program is that church is important because they are learning things in religious education that they wouldn't learn in school – about right and wrong and religion. Alice firmly believes that one learns all throughout life and that learning is very important."

The last time I visited Alice – on Easter Sunday evening – she asked about the church and gave me a pledge check she had prepared for us. There she was, in hospice and a day and a half away from dying, and her first thought was not of herself, but of the church. That gesture was emblematic of her amazing caring for others.

I adored Alice – her positive spirit, her gift of encouragement and generosity, her unbridled enthusiasm. Farewell, dear Sister. We will carry you with us in our hearts.

Love, *Sylvia*

NEW MEMBER - JEAN TOMKINS



Jean Tompkins moved to Maine a year ago February from a small town in the Catskills. She joined our church last fall after meeting Cindy Parker at her son's house in Richmond. She has gone to various churches throughout her life, and was looking for something different— something with a theology that allowed her to believe what she wanted to believe.

Jean was born and raised in Yonkers, NY, and raised her own family in Brewster before moving to the Catskills. Jean's husband passed away three years ago after a 58 year marriage. They raised five children and delighted in their six grandchildren. Jean asserts that she will soon have two great- grandchildren as well! Jean says she loves living in Bath and walking her dog, Trixie, (a rescue

dog), on the Hyde School grounds. Trixie is a very sweet, friendly dog, who immediately jumped up in my lap for a cuddle.

When I arrived, Jean had just arrived home from her job at the Restore where she volunteers once a week. In addition, she also volunteers at the Bath Soup Kitchen and at the hospital gift shop. One of her proudest past achievements was managing a community run thrift shop in the Catskills. The shop grew until they were able to buy their own building. Jean says she managed 50-60 volunteers and is happy that the shop is still thriving. The shop donates \$60,000 to the community every year and is truly a community effort!

In addition to her many current volunteer efforts, Jean sews, belongs to a knitting circle, quilts, and enjoys reading non-fiction.

You may have met her as she has been helping to make sure that we have coffee every Sunday. She is also a member of our Women's Alliance and worked on Hope's yard sale last week. I hope next time you fill your coffee mug that you will say hello and get to know her.

Jessica Tracy



Carrie Eagles and Luis Ottley's Wedding Ceremony

CELEBRATE!

Steve Eagles and Cindy Parker just returned from the steamy tropics of Panama after spending 22 hours en route. They were there to celebrate the wedding of their daughter Carrie who married Luis Ottley. The wedding was a delight, performed by the Rt. Rev. James Ottley, father of the groom. The ceremony was at the chapel of the Lemuel Shirley Campamento where many Ottleys went to church summer camp.

Congratulations to the beaming couple!

JOYS AND CONCERNS

Congratulations to **Cathey Cyrus**, who received a Congregational Leadership award at the Northern New England District meeting in April.

Congratulations to **Carrie Eagles**, who was married to Luis Ottley on April 12th in Panama. Carrie is the daughter of Steve and Sally Eagles and the step-daughter of Cindy Parker.

Longtime member **Alice Rossiter** died on April 10th at the age of 96. We will miss her dearly.



Alice Rossiter and Gretchen Shaw

MAY CHARITY WITH SOUL



UUCB has been supporting Habitat for Humanity/ 7 Rivers Maine for many years and will do so again this month through our Charities With Soul offering.

Habitat is a worldwide, grassroots movement. In Maine it began in 1991 and offers successful homeownership opportunities for families with limited incomes by building sustainable housing and repairing and weatherizing existing homes.

In 2006, a decision was made to expand the service area to include towns in Lincoln County and now serves that area as well as Brunswick & Harpswell in Cumberland County, all of Sagadahoc County for a total service area of 31 towns with more than 98,000 individuals (comprising more than 41,000 households.)

7 Rivers Maine is a derivation of seven of the service area's rivers: Cathance, Androscoggin, Kennebec, Sheepscot, Damariscotta, New Meadows and Medomak.

For more information go to website www.habitat7rivers.org or call 386-5081.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND IMMIGRATION

Working for Justice continues its planning of a *second* Community Conversation to further our UUCB social justice mission of working together to prevent prejudice and hate. This conversation will focus on immigration issues in Maine.

On **June 12, 6:30-8pm in the Morrell Room at Curtis Library**, our church will host a discussion about newcomers in Maine and reflect on the question of just who IS our community? We anticipate sharing experiences common to all those who leave behind a known world to build a new life in an unknown place. *How do we create a community together?*

We are inviting local churches to join us and hope to collaborate with them as we think about our shared role in creating a more welcoming community. We will bring news of the immigration efforts in UU churches in Portland, Yarmouth and Augusta and provide information on opportunities locally for further learning and collective action. We will also make available UUA Congregational Study Action Issue resources, the UUA curriculum on Immigration, information about the upcoming UUA Justice General Assembly in Phoenix and materials from the UUA project - *Standing on the Side of Love*.

Put June 12 in your calendars now; plan to help distribute flyers as soon as they are available; consider what delicious dessert you can bring to share!

We will update you as plans progress.

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



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.

Please call Bill McElman (443-9445) or Dorothy Sousa (371-9087) for further info.

UPCOMING FUNDRAISERS IN MAY

PLANT SALE



The Women's Alliance will be holding a plant sale on **Saturday, May 12**, from 10:00am to 1:00pm on the site of our burned church. Come and choose from a supply of perennials, annuals, and shrubs. Remember: Mother's Day is the next day so buy your gift at the sale.

If you would like to contribute some plants, please have them at the sale by 9:00am on that Saturday. Questions, please call Gretchen at 833-5125.

JEWELRY FOR SALE

As a benefit for our new building Nancy's Glass Art fused/dichroic glass jewelry (created by UUCB member Nancy Whiteside) is being sold from **April through May** (and probably again in November and December) at Starz hair salon. Profits from sales will go to the new building (and Ann Thomas, the owner of Starz is waiving any commission).

Please tell others who might be interested in buying glass art earrings and necklaces and helping UUCB at the same time.

Starz, 64 Maine Street, Brunswick
(to the left of Morning Glory)



RUBY TUESDAY GIVES BACK

DELICIOUS WAY TO BUILD A CHURCH

We can raise money for our new church building by simply having a meal (or more than one) at Ruby Tuesday (Topsham Fair Mall) on **Tuesday-Thursday, May 8, 9, and 10!**

With your newsletter is Ruby Tuesday's "Community Give-Back" flyer dedicated to "rebuilding Brunswick's UU church." It will also be attached to this and subsequent "This Week at UUCB" e-mail notices. Just print it out and take it with you on one of the designated days for lunch or dinner at Ruby Tuesday in Topsham Fair Mall. AND for those who don't use e-mail, hard copies will be available at church services.

For each diner presenting a flyer, **20% of the bill will be given to UUCB by Ruby Tuesday!** In fact, the manager says that if you happen to forget to bring your flyer, just mention that you are participating in the UU church rebuilding give-back program, and that 20% will still come to UUCB.

Tell your friends as well and make flyers available to them—UUCB has many friends who do not receive our newsletter but wish us well, and if they eat at Ruby Tuesday anyway, this is a completely painless way for them to help our fundraising effort.

Questions? Call Dan or Karen Foley—725-1379
(revKLFoley@comcast.net)



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

FUNDRAISING

ST. CHARLES GIANT YARD SALE

Saturday, April 28th on McKeen Street in Brunswick, All Saints' Church (St. Charles) will be hosting a YARD SALE in their parking lot. We'll be there with three tables full of stuff, including great leftovers from Hope Russell's yard sale on the 7th.

If you want/need well priced goods or just enjoy the ambiance and "hunt" of a great yard sale, be sure to come on by St. Charles from 8-1.

Now, if you have contributions for the sale, be sure to bring them by the church Tuesday-Friday when Shirley is there, so she can give you the key to Pennell House, and you can put your goods in our former nursery area.

We'll pack up on Friday night to set up wicked early at St. Charles Saturday morning. If you have things you can only get to us on Saturday morning, please come by Pennell House before 8 am, and Jean Lay will be there with a van to bring your things over to the sale.

Thanks everyone! And remember, this a great recycling action as well!

BOWDOIN'S GIVE AND GO

The Bowdoin College Give and Go sale will be held on **June 9, 2012 at the old Times Record Building**. Non profits will collect, sort, price, & sell the items that the college students leave behind (donate) for the sale at the end of the school

We're one of 22 area non-profits who will again work to make Bowdoin College's Give and Go happen on June 9th. Volunteers had to sign up early to work at collecting, sorting, pricing and setting up the sale. We have a whopping 23 slots where folks from our UU Church signed up to assist in these preparations.

If you missed the sign up, you can still help by offering to be a "stand by" who could work if someone is unable to attend at the time for which they've signed up. (It happens.) Just contact Maryli at 319.6940 or tiemann@comcast.net, and she will see that you are on the "stand by" call list.

Oh, you can also come and purchase goods at the sale. Funds from this HUGE sale go to help each participating non-profit in our area. Last year this sale made over \$50,000!



GEORGE LOPEZ CONCERT

Last Saturday evening about 350 people gathered at ORION Performing Arts Center in Topsham to hear a concert by pianist George Lopez. Mr. Lopez is the Artist-in-Residence with Bowdoin College's Music Department. He is an amazing musician. He approaches the piano with astounding mastery. The driving dance rhythms of Ginastera, the delicate silken ripples of Chopin, the bluesy deliciousness of Gershwin: he makes them his own, and we respond with delight.

But this particular concert was something more. It was a gift from the artist. Last June, less than a week after the Brunswick Unitarian Universalist Church was destroyed by fire, George Lopez offered to play a benefit concert to help fund the rebuilding of our church. To say he leads a busy life would be an understatement. Still he made this benefit concert seem, to his audience, as if it had been the only commitment of his weekend. It was not. He had spent the day as a judge in a piano competition in New Hampshire. On Sunday he had to return to New Hampshire where he is the Director of Music for a church. Then he went to Boston where on Sunday evening he played a concert at B.U.

George Lopez understands the power of music to gather people in community. He shared this understanding with us on Saturday evening. It is a blessing indeed to come together for an experience such as we shared in Topsham. If you were part of that evening's audience, thank you for being there. If you were part of the team of UUCB folk who worked to place flyers, posters, recruit bakers, bake goodies, usher, copy photos, arrange for flowers, staff the ticket table, and more legwork than I care to remember, THANK YOU. And a deep, heartfelt thank you to gracious artist and community builder, George Lopez.

~ Grace Lewis-McLaren

*Thank
You!!*

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*

THANKS FROM THE FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

Many thanks to ALL who made the Lopez Concert such a lovely evening.

To all who baked goodies, who worked setting up, making it happen and taking down, to those who came, who encouraged friends to come, who sent out the email poster, who put up posters: THANK YOU.

Special thanks to Steve Wellcome and Bill Kunitz for making video slide shows of our pivotal building event: the fire and its aftermath. And to Jud Caswell for "When the UU Burned Down" with those slides. To Kathy Robinson of Robinson Rose for the lovely presentation bouquet and Mr. Lopez's boutonniere. To Grace Lewis-McLaren for booking the Orion and moving us forward and onward. And of course, to **George Lopez** for a brilliant, heartfelt concert which inspired, entertained, and moved us again and again to celebrate the magic of remarkable music shared.



FROM THE TREASURER

This year has been going very well, although we still have lots of big issues to deal with related to the building of a new church, and there are still lots of unknowns. Our pledged income is strong. Our fundraising efforts have been strong and our expenses have been less than we budgeted so far. So we are in good shape.

We are working on the budget for the next year. It too is a project in creative guess work. We don't know yet when the building project will be start and thus be completed, we makes the building expenses harder to figure out. But we are giving it our best shot and we will hold three meetings to discuss it with the congregation. These will be on Sunday May 20th before church, Tuesday May 29th in the evening at Pennell and Sunday June 3rd after church. The annual meeting is scheduled for June 10th.

2011- 2012	Actuals	Budget
Pledge Income	\$176,236	\$185,981
Other Income	\$ 49,084	\$ 56,103
Total Income	\$ 225,320	\$ 242,084
Expense	\$ 166,610	\$ 242,084
Delta	\$ 58,710	\$ 0

Keep up the good work on meeting your pledges. We are looking out at this time and hope to have all pledges completed before the end of the year. If our expenses continue to lag behind the income received, some funds will be put into reserve accounts for planned future expenses and some will be contributed to the new building fund.

Thank you
Laura Jackson, Treasurer

YOUR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN IS SOON TO GO LIVE!

After months of planning, we will launch the campaign on **May 5th** amid remembrances from the past two hundred years and hopes and dreams for continuing our legacy. We will gather from 4-6 p.m. at the United Methodist Church, 320 Church Road, Brunswick for a program and refreshments.

- ✠ We'll hear messages from Sylvia, Board Chair Mike Heath, Architect Noel Smith, and Consultant Peter Heinrichs
- ✠ We'll watch a video created by Rich Knox and his son, Xander
- ✠ The Bicentennial Committee will entertain us with historical vignettes
- ✠ Jud Caswell and our RE children will provide music
- ✠ We'll look at displays by the Bicentennial Committee, the Building Team, and Capital Campaign Committee
- ✠ We'll complete the celebration with hearty hors d'oeuvres by Simply Elegant Catering and a celebratory cake by Mae's Café Bakery

At the May 5 event, your Capital Campaign Committee will announce the total received to date by members who pledged early to jump-start our campaign. We are confident that this impressive start to our campaign will be inspiring to us all.

As you're considering your gift to the Capital Campaign, please think about what the church means to you and why our church life is important to you. Share your heartfelt dreams and concerns with your visiting steward who will receive your pledges during the month of May.

Remember that your gifts may be paid over the upcoming three fiscal years, July 1, 2012 – June 30, 2014.

Thanks for your support in this crucial work of our church! Together, we will rebuild!

ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

Celebrate! Together. Right Now.

Together, we did it! The total for the 2012-2013 Annual Budget Drive is a bit more than our \$205,000 RIGHT NOW goal. RIGHT NOW is UUCB’s most successful annual budget drive ever – well, at least in our memories! We are delighted to have experienced a UUCB surge in the spirit of abundance during the RIGHT NOW drive.

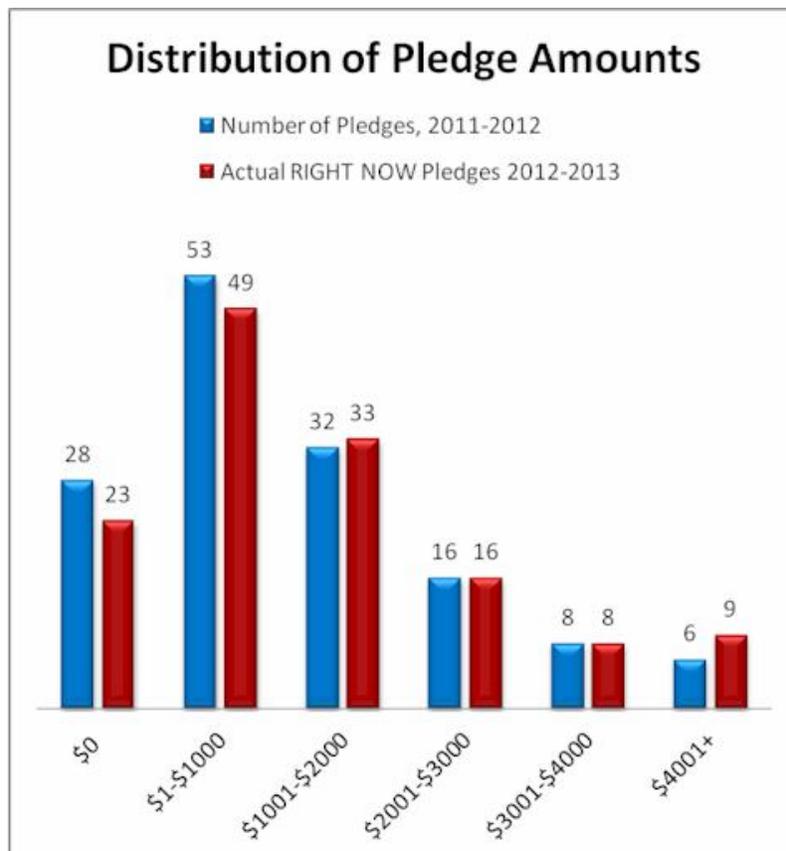
The Congregation’s generous financial contributions express clearly our confidence in the UUCB mission and in our daily operations. UUCB is well-positioned to move forward, fulfill our mission and build a new home as well! With this strengthening of our spiritual community, our congregants, including our vital younger generation, nurture one another. UUCB will continue to be a beacon of liberal religion in our community and in Maine, working for justice and growing “greener”.

Everyone got involved, in one way or another. Helpers stepped up, not only for simple tasks, but also for com-

plex and lengthy ones. Sylvia, Peter Heinrichs and others brought forward superb ideas and advice. Congregants responded to letters, to phone calls, to the appeal to keep it simple, and to the attractiveness of the one day “Celebration Sunday“ campaign. Thank you, each and every Member and Friend, for your support of UUCB operations.

David and Bill intend to work on the ABD again next year, and Michael Cain has volunteered to work with us. We need another person or two to take a major role in the coming year, as David and/or Bill will be rotating after that. Let us know of your interest, so that we can launch the next drive early and smoothly.

In gratitude, *Bill Clark, David Kew.*
Co-Chairs RIGHT NOW, 2012-2013.



BUILDING TEAM NOTES - APRIL 18, 2012

Decisions this Week:

This week, after much deliberation, and with input from our architects, the Building Team passed three motions:

First was to begin the process of hiring a part-time Clerk of the Works to oversee construction. This position ensures that we will get value for our dollars and is achieved through detailed inspection of materials and workmanship throughout the actual building process. A Clerk of the Works is experienced in construction and must be impartial. That individual works for the owner (us), they have no decision making power. A clerk's job is to keep us informed and ensure that all specifications are being met.

Second was to hire a General Contractor rather than a Contractor at Risk or a Construction Manager.

Third was to eliminate a windmill from our green options as it needs too much wind to make it a viable consideration for our site. We are still gathering information on solar panels and a green roof option and are committed to demonstrating our green values to the larger community if finances permit.

Moving Along:

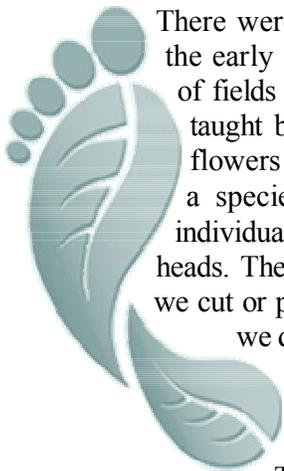
The architects brought an exciting model that further refines the Middle Street side of the building and comes closer to the final design. (We find it much easier to actually get a sense of what the building will look like from the model rather than from the elevations.) This revised model should be ready to display at our May 5th celebration! We also saw the architects' initial construction documents/drawings and had preliminary discussions about locks, phone lines and fax, interior finishes, window placement and flooring. All in all, things are moving along very nicely at this point and it looks as though there might actually be a building plan to put out to bid the first of June!

District Meeting Enthusiasm:

Mike Heath, Steve Wellcome and Sylvia went to the District Meeting with pictures of our proposed building and a slide show with Jud's song. People were most enthusiastic about the direction we're going with our design. They expressed continued enthusiasm and concern for us as we move ahead after the fire. We have received a \$5000 chalice Lighter's grant and separate funds raised through the district of \$12,000. The world at large continues to support our efforts with encouragement and money. We are blessed indeed.



A GREEN FOOTPRINT by Christine Mitchell



There were seven of us Johnson kids in the early fifties ranging the countryside of fields and woods. We were carefully taught by our father not to pick wildflowers unless we could stand before a species and count at least twenty individual plants without moving our heads. Then we could take one, provided we cut or pinched the stem to be sure that we did not disturb the roots.

In those days there were no protection laws for species. There are many species which, carelessly picked, come up root and all. Lady Slippers and Trailing Arbutus are examples, which are now endangered.

Our father taught us by example. One late summer afternoon, we were playing in our back yard and Dad was gardening, when a man, a stranger, came out of our woods with an armful of flowers. He said "hello" and wasn't it a great day for a walk and showed us the beautiful flowers he had found, a large armful of Wood Lillies. They grow one or two orange, open-petalled flowers at the top of a 2 or 3-foot single stalk. They were very beautiful and grew scattered throughout our woods.

When the man left, our Dad, who was very angry, said that he hoped we got a good look at the Wood Lillies because we wouldn't be seeing them again. The stranger had picked every one, and the roots had come up in the picking. Dad was right. The Wood Lillies were gone, never to be seen in our woods again.

SERVING WITH GRACE OPPORTUNITIES

“Imagine how your work for the congregation might be transformed if you approached it primarily as your spiritual practice, and secondarily as helping the church fulfill its mission.” Serving with Grace by Erik Walker Wikstrom, p. 6

Planned Giving Coordinator - Many thanks to Mel Hodgkins who will coordinate the UUCB Planned Giving program.

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, Board Officers, Church Moderator and Nominating Committee members. Nominating Committee is now looking for people who might be interested to be nominated to serve the church in one of these positions. In order to serve on the Board, it is necessary to have been a church member for a minimum of one year. Please see a member of the Nominating Committee if you are interested.

Publicity Coordinator - The church continues to discuss the best way to assure effective communication within UUCB and out into the wider community. We are most immediately looking for someone who can oversee our church 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.

Website Coordinator - 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 to pass on to our Webmaster, Steve Wellcome, who 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.

Consider where you might serve.

Thank you from the Nominating Committee:

*Cathey Cyrus, Larry Lemmel,
Jim Michaud, Paul Schaffner,
Ann Spencer*



CIRCLE SUPPERS

Many thanks to our host families and guests who attended Circle Suppers on the last evening of March. Much fun and fellowship was enjoyed by all who participated. The host families this time were Robin and Erik Hansen, Reinhard Adler and Donna Owen, and Gretchen and Dexter Kamilewicz.



Guest and hosts alike shared their joys and special entertainment of the evening and gathered with some people for the first time.

The Membership Committee will be coordinating Circle Suppers again in the summer and fall.

Thanks again for participating and helping with the wonderful evening celebrations of friendship.

Kathy Stehle

The Music Committee

**will meet via email this month,
due to the heavy schedule
of competing events.**

SIDE DOOR COFFEE HOUSE

When was the last time you went to the Side Door Coffee House? Since 1993, the Coffee House has provided professional and amateur entertainment for the mid-coast area every 3rd Friday, except in July. A fundraiser for the church, the "Side Door" is entirely volunteer-run. An open-mic set precedes the evening's featured performer. The Coffee House offers live music, poetry, storytelling and other performance in an intimate setting, and is always entertaining. Refreshments are available for purchase.

On Friday, May 18th, the featured performers will be longtime favorites **Simons and Goodwin**. Simons and Goodwin perform soft rock, country, blues, pop standards and, of course, both traditional and contemporary folk. A Simons and Goodwin performance is always unpredictable in terms of the set list, always keeping the audience on its toes and anticipating the next song.

The predictable part of each performance is the tightness that comes from years of friendship and beautiful, intricate harmonies.

STRATEGIC PLANNING

HOSPITALITY: How Do We Do It?

Back in the fall of 2009 when the congregation met for a Mission brainstorming session, there were a lot of thoughtful suggestions about coffee hour. In fact we were so eager to make every single person welcome that some of our suggestions actually contradicted one another.

Some brainstormers wanted to initiate conversations with people they didn't already know, seek out anyone who was standing alone, make sure newcomers were greeted, and generally be as friendly as possible. With our old Community Room in mind, one very practical brainstormer suggested placing the milk and sugar on the opposite side of the room from the coffee urn, so that people couldn't avoid circulating through the room.

Other brainstormers were concerned about overwhelming newcomers with excessive friendliness, forcing conversation on folks who were retiring by nature, and pushing beyond other people's comfort zones.

Who was right? Both, of course, the trick being to tell which approach would be congenial to the other person. But what really stood out was how much thought

members of the congregation were giving to how we "do" hospitality.

The Mission Statement we created about a year after we put our Strategic Plan together placed "nurturing one another" and "welcoming all" very high among its goals. The dilemma is that coffee hour is when we can see people we need to discuss UUCB business with, but it's also when we can make a little more connection with visitors and with people sitting nearby whom we don't know well.

As guests in the MBC, we have to remove all the traces of our Sunday morning presence each week. This is challenging for Sylvia, Worship Committee members, the RE folks, and everyone else who puts our Sunday program together, but it also means that we tend to be in the MBC a little longer after the service than we used to be in the Community Room at our old church. Time enough, maybe, to speak to someone new and then still meet friends at the back of the room for business that needs to be taken care of?

Nancy Dorian, Chair
Strategic Planning Committee

HOSPITALITY HOUR

Winding Down

We send heartfelt thanks to April's hosts: Esther and Barclay Palmer, Monique and Sandy Sondheim, and Gretchen and Dexter Kamilevich. There are some very familiar names in Hospitality, aren't there?

We're lucky to have folks who sign up again and again - but let's be careful not to "use up" the energy and generosity of those who already do so much for our community!

When we each take a turn to give, new energy is created, the load is shared, traditions continue and there is new growth!

Blessings to all,
Valerie

For the Hospitality Committee

vhath@gwi.net

729-9254



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

As a former teacher of computer literacy in schools, and one who uses various forms of sophisticated technology every day, I have an embarrassing admission: I use a paper calendar. I have never been comfortable with the electronic calendar tools; I can't fill in times and details with the stylus and keyboard any quicker than writing. And for me, scanning a month's activity on paper is easier than scrolling from screen to screen. Maybe I'll make the break next year, but for now I accept my position with the Luddites.

That true confession only leads me to the sense that the months' calendar pages are flipping like they did in H.G. Wells' *The Time Machine*. May is here and June marks the end of the church year. Didn't we just douse the fire and start the slooow process of recovery? But as busy as full calendar blocks tell us we are, I'm glad to see we are meeting deadlines and preparing for the big things yet to come, in particular the Bicentennial Celebration, the Capital Campaign, Building plans and of course, the budget for 2012-13.

The Finance Committee and the Board of Trustees is in the late stages of budget preparation for next year. We will have a series of meetings with the congregation starting after church May 20th to share the numbers and priorities for next year. We are closing in on the Annual Meeting June 10th where the congregation is asked to approve a budget and elect Trustees. And the new year begins July 1. The best news in budget preparations has been the incredibly strong commitment to pledges for 2012-13. The Annual Budget Drive effort spearheaded by Dave Kew and Bill Clark set the stage for a fully funded budget that actually **BALANCED** in the first round. We are yet to finalize all the details, but we are working on the Board's priorities for good staff salary support and allocating more or our fundraising to go out to the community through Outreach, like Charities with Soul. We are a congregation that is living its mission and honoring our commitments to Fair Share and Social Justice. Look for details on the budget later in May, and I ask you to participate in the discussions before the Annual Meeting to understand the budget clearly.

I want to applaud the work of the Building Team which has not slowed any in its efforts. Lo these many months. As the Team gets closer to sharing the details of the refined building plan, I am struck by the diligence and care the members continue to pour into their

work. While I remember the words of trauma minister Aaron Payson as he said that no one of us will get the church of our dreams, but if we do it right, WE will get the church of OUR dreams. I see that vision taking shape through the evolution of the plans, and credit the Building Team with doing the hard work to assess specific details and not being content to accept the first easy solution to any particular issue. They hold the collective dream and mission of the church in mind as they consider the little items and reflect on the big picture as well.

In news of our denominational affairs, UUCB held a big presence at the spring meeting of the Northern New England District of the UUA in April. Cathey Cyrus received her Congregational Leadership Award to a well-deserved standing ovation. The fire-rebuilding project display and video created by Steve Wellcome and Sylvia attracted a lot of attention. I was moved by the outpouring of concern and interest in our congregation and our situation from so many of the participants in the conference. We are on the receiving end of much good will throughout the district. The experience has certainly raised my awareness now of our responsibility to "pass it forward" when other congregations suffer tragedies of their own. Are we ready to step up and support them as we have been supported? I am grateful for that perspective.

Following a vote of the Board, Grace Lewis McLaren is now an official delegate for UUCB to the UUA General Assembly in Phoenix in June. We thank Grace for carrying our banner out west. We have additional delegate cards available to us if any other member is interested in attending GA. Please let me or Sylvia know.

Time marches, or flies along (choose your favorite metaphor). I'm convinced that we as a congregation are seizing opportunities and moving ahead with conviction and enthusiasm. However you keep your own calendar, I hope you can enjoy the sunlight and each other through the busy times, and we all can savor the moments before they pass us by.

Peace,
Mike Heath

