

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

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MOST SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10 A.M.

December 7. Mitten Tree Service, "Dark".

Service led by Sylvia Stocker, with music by Jud Caswell. At this service, we contemplate the growing dark and decreasing light. Are there blessings in the darkness? Sylvia thinks so. Come find out, and bring new (not used) mittens, scarves, and hats to adorn our Christmas trees at the beginning of the service. We will contribute them to local charities that provide warm things to needy folks.

December 14. "Widening Circles." We are deep into the heart of Advent now, a season of waiting for the birth of hope and love in the world. Come hear what Sylvia Stocker learned about hope and love when she studied with Joanna Macy this past September. Music by the choir, conducted by Heidi Neufeld, with accompanist Nell Britton..

December 21. Songs and Stories of the Season. Our Intergenerational Orchestra, ably conducted by Ross Miller, will play. Nell Britton will accompany on the hymns. Sylvia Stocker, Nicole Shanks, and others will contemplate the amazing confluence of holidays of the season.

December 24. Christmas Eve Service, 7 p.m. Usher in Christmas with our service of readings reflections, carols, and candle lighting. Sylvia Stocker and Nicole Shanks will lead the service. Music provided by the choir, directed by Heidi Neufeld, and accompanist Nell Britton.

December 28. "Out with the Old; In with the New." Special pulpit guest, **Rev. Al Boyce** has come to believe that, almost, on a daily basis we are presented with opportunities to The Worship Committee brings a service of readings and music to contemplate the turning of the year. Music provided by Larry Lemmel.

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister

Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell,
Minister Emeritus

Rev. Karen Foley
Affiliate Minister

Nicole Shanks,
Director of Religious Education

Stephanie Bernier, Music Coordinator

Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director

Nell Britton, Choir Accompanist

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

FROM OUR DRE



This month I thought you may enjoy an update about what we've been doing so far in our RE groups this year. You've probably noticed that there have been more children at church on Sundays. It's been exciting to see that as it was one of our big hopes moving into our new space. So, what exactly are all those children and youth actually doing when they aren't in the worship service? Well, let me share some of that with you! This year our theme is Unitarian Universalist Identity and History and below are some details on what each group has been up to so far.

PreK-Kindergarten Group: These young ones have been reading such books as *A Cup of Light*, *Whoever You Are*, *Amelia Bedelia's First Vote*, *Words Are Not For Hurting*, and *Big Orange Splot*. Some of the concepts they've explored are why we light a chalice, being welcoming, using kind words, and accepting diversity. They've participated in such activities as building a chalice, making a welcoming wreath, celebrating an "everybody's birthday party", having a tea party, and throwing a Halloween party. Are you sensing a party theme here? Oh to be 4 years old again!

HOW TO REACH US

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

Office Hours at 1 Middle Street are Tues through Friday from 10-4. The office administrator is Shirley Bernier.

Office Winter Break: Dec 24-Jan 5

The Minister, Rev. Sylvia Stocker works from home and her church office. Her regular office hours are on Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm. She is also available by appointment. To guarantee an appointment, it's always best to call and schedule a meeting. 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.

The Director of Religious Education, Nicole Shanks, is available by appointment. You can call her at the church office or email her at uubrunswick-dre@gmail.com.

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>

Grades 1-3: This class is using the curriculum "Picture Book Unitarian Universalism". The activities of each class session are based on a picture book that the class reads together. Some of the books they have read so far are *Owen and Mzee*, *Families*, *On the Night You Were Born*, *If I Were President*, *The Keeping Quilt*, and *Stone Soup*. The class has participated in activities that have illustrated our 1st, 2nd, 3rd, and 5th Principles, exploring what it means to: respect others, be welcoming and kind, celebrate our uniqueness as individuals as well as the connection we have as a community, and let each person have their say.

Grades 4-6: This class is using the "Toolbox of Faith" curriculum. The tools they have collected so far are a ruler, magnifying glass, compass, duct tape, mirror, and chalk. These tools represent faith, questioning, integrity, flexibility, reflection, and the democratic process- all very useful items on a spiritual journey! They will continue to add more tools to their toolbox as the year progresses.

Youth Group: Our 7-8th graders have been exploring UU values-

which values are important to them and how they can express those values in everyday situations- and participating in community building games. They like to be active and have gone on a hike at Bowdoin Pines and a bike ride through Topsham and Brunswick (with stops for gelato and hot chocolate!).

Coming of Age (COA): Coming of Age participants have started to delve into Unitarian Universalist Values, how to write a credo (a personal statement of beliefs), and the web of interdependence. They've taken a belief survey and discussed individual beliefs, acknowledging their similarities and differences.

Wow, we've been busy in RE!

Nicole

Important RE Dates

Dec 07— Multi-Age Activity—
Holiday Crafts

Dec 14— RE Classes, Youth Group,
Coming of Age, RE Holiday
Craft Sale following the service

Dec 21— Intergenerational Service

Dec 28— No RE Programs

January 2015— YMCA winter RE
Party, date TBA

... MINISTER'S MUSINGS ...

On my morning walks, cold days are beginning to present themselves every now and then. I am pulling warmer clothes out of the closet. And I have heard a lot of people complain about the cold lately.

Me? I'm happy. For one thing, it's the end of November. It's *supposed* to be cold now. This past fall, for all its glory (and it was glorious, wasn't it?), was unseasonably warm. Knowing what I do about global warming, I actually began to find it a little creepy to step out into temperate weather day after day. Snow on November 2 was a little reassuring to me, even though I recognize it made for harrowing travel for many that day.

Plus, I like winter.

Yesterday someone asked me why I like winter. "Are you one of those people who don't get cold?" she queried. "No," I answered. "I just wear lots of clothes to keep warm."

But her question made me stop to think. I was grateful for the opportunity to quantify just what it is I like about winter.

I like the light in winter. The sun, never getting as high in the sky as it does in summer, casts long rays closer to the horizon. There is something clear and crisp about that kind

of light that I simply love. And when those long, low rays illuminate tree branches coated with ice, the sparkling beauty makes my heart leap with joy. I never cease to be astonished that I live in a world that produces such beauty.

I like snow. No. I love snow. Snow, too, brings beauty to my world. Snow also hushes the noise for a while. And it brings people out of their homes to clear driveways and walkways. I meet more people in my neighborhood on winter snow days than at any other time during the year. I like shoveling to a point, though I am also grateful for snowplows and snow blowers to a point, too. Snow brings out the playful little kid in me. I love watching dogs plow through the snow, nose-first. I love watching kids make snow people. Sometimes I even get to help, and that's fun, too. I'm even known to make snow angels from time to time.

I like the dark. I've had to acquire that taste, but, over the years, I have come to love the way the dark season brings out the contemplative part of my nature. There is something very cocoon-like about winter that I have come to appreciate over the course of my lifetime.

I like stringing colored lights on the trees in my yard. And, last winter, Steve and I discovered a new way to

decorate during the bitter cold. We made votive candle holders out of ice and used them to display lighted candles on our snowbanks.

I like the feeling of cold air on my face when I take my walks. When it's very cold, I leave the house all bundled up. Then, gradually, as I warm up, I shed mittens, scarf, and sometimes hat. Rare is the day when I return home wearing all the layers in which I set out. I love the feeling that, by moving briskly, my body can warm itself up, even on the coldest days.

To be sure, I can find the temperature too cold and the snowbanks too deep at times. Every season can have its excesses. Summer can have excess heat, humidity, and ticks; spring excess mud and black flies; and autumn excess piles of leaves and pine needles to rake up. But, rather than write off an entire season because of its few occasions of extremes, I am happier to embrace what I love and to enjoy it while I have it.

Love, *Sylvia*

MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND

Many in our area need a helping hand, and the help that the town General Assistance Office can give does not stretch very far. The Discretionary Fund provides food and gas cards to people in need and helps out at times with bills and rent. This year, the need is even greater than normal, both because of increased need in the area and also because the church's deficit budget could not fund the Discretionary Fund at all. As you plan your holiday giving for the coming year, please consider making a donation to the Discretionary Fund to help our church help others. Thank you for your gifts, small or large.



MAINE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST STATE ADVOCACY NETWORK

DEMOCRACY ISSUE GROUP ACTION ALERT RANKED CHOICE VOTING

Maine has had more than two candidates run for state and federal offices with increasing frequency. In the last ten races for Governor, only two have been elected with a majority vote. The current governor took office without a majority, and will do so again in January. Three of the recent governors, a Democrat, a Republican, and an Independent, were elected with the support of less than 40% of those who voted.

There is a solution for this. It is called Ranked Choice Voting, also known as Instant Runoff Voting. It was used successfully in Portland's last mayoral race. Mayor Mike Brennan reported that it greatly improved the nature of the race, with all candidates being far more reluctant to speak ill of any other candidate because they wanted any voter favoring someone else to at least put his name as his or her second choice.

Voters rank candidates in order of preference, knowing that if their first choice does not win, their second choice will be given their vote. In races with three or more candidates, this process is followed with each successive losing candidate, until one person has ob-

tained a majority of the votes cast. There is never a runoff election, and through this process there will always be someone elected by a majority vote.

Dick Woodbury, a Unitarian Universalist and State Senator who did not seek re-election, formed a group to enact such a system in Maine through a voter initiative. If passed, ranked choice voting would be utilized beginning in 2018 for state and federal elections including Governor and U.S. Senator. But first enough signatures must be obtained to place this onto the ballot for popular consideration.

The Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network endorses this effort, and believes it to be in keeping with Unitarian Universalist principles. Therefore, we are asking members of every UU church in the state to participate in the process of collecting the needed signatures. Will you help out with this effort to improve our electoral process?

Lynn Ellis at UUCB will be collecting signatures in church most Sundays.

DECEMBER'S CHARITY WITH SOUL



A local Healthy Maine Partnership serving Sagadahoc County, Brunswick and Harpswell

Access Health works with communities to remove barriers to healthy choices. Examples of projects include installing EBT terminals and incentive programs at Farmers' Markets to allow use of food stamp benefits, teaching free nutrition and cooking classes, supporting school and community gardens, purchasing medication collection boxes for environmentally friendly disposal of unwanted medication and helping towns increase access to physical activity with bike racks, benches and lighting. As a local Healthy Maine Partnership serving Sagadahoc County, Brunswick and Harpswell, we rely on grants and donations to support our work.



For more information, visit AccessHealthME.org.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

LEARN MORE ABOUT COLLEGE GUILD

Jackie Fickes, a student at Bowdoin College and a member of the College Guild volunteer board, will be at UUCB to talk with interested potential volunteer readers on **Sunday, December 7, immediately following the service.** (We'll hope to meet in the Wendell Berry Room.)

A local non-profit organization founded in Maine in 2001, College Guild offers free, creative, non-traditional correspondence courses to inmates nationwide. It provides



prisoners the opportunity to pursue ongoing learning that benefits both inmates and their communities. The decrease in rates of recidivism for prisoners who have participated in educational and rehab programs is well documented. As the College Guild motto says: "*Respect reduces recidivism*".

For more information visit the College Guild website at www.collegeguild.org.

Cathey Cyrus, for the Working for Justice Committee

THE "PAY ATTENTION BOARD" HAS RETURNED UNDER ANOTHER NAME

Please note the *Matters of Interest and Concern* board and table across from the coffee urns. The congregation is invited to use the board to post information about upcoming events and issues of potential interest to our church community. The table provides space for informational handouts. The Working for Justice Steering Group will provide general oversight of the board and table; people posting information can help maintain the board by removing materials that are no longer current.

SEARCHING FOR A WILLING AND CREATIVE CARPENTER....

...to construct a spacious bulletin board on wheels (portable in some manner) to replace the smaller board and easel that now hold postings of *Matters of Interest and Concern* across from the coffee urns. We're looking for a full sized board that will be easily moveable should that hall space be required for some other activity or should a bulletin board be needed temporarily in another church location.

If you might be that carpenter, please speak with Nancy Collins, Pat Harris or Cathey Cyrus for more details.

THE SANTA PROJECT



THE SANTA PROJECT

It's that time again of tinsel and lights and joy and cheer. It is also a time to remember others that are not as fortunate and who may be facing a holiday without gifts for their children and loved ones. With your help, we can make a difference for a few area families again this year.

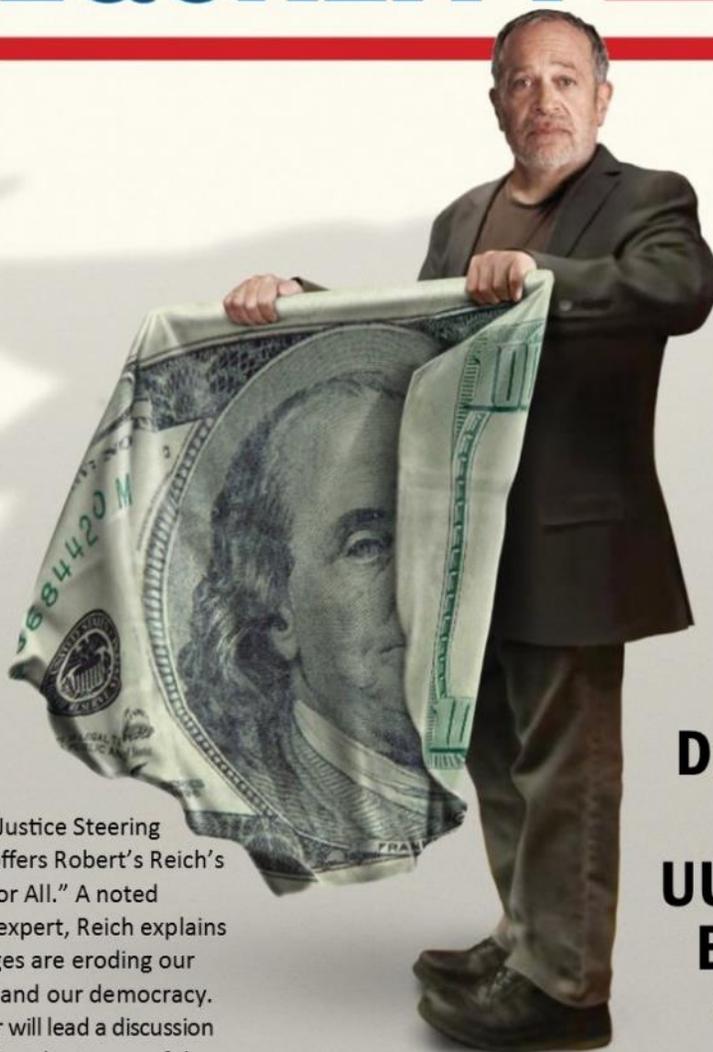
The Santa Project will have names and wish list items for these folks on Nov. 23, Nov. 30, and Dec 7th after the church service. Look for Santa elves **Carol Torroomian, Monica Hamkins or Val Heath** near the table with the bright colored cards (and perhaps the sound of jingle bells).

We ask that the gifts or donations of money be returned to the church or to us by **Dec 14th**. Thank you in advance for being generous of spirit again this year and helping needy families have a happier holiday.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

From Robert Reich,
former US Secretary of Labor,
comes a humorous and enlightening exposé
on America's widening income gap.

INEQUALITY FOR ALL



The Working for Justice Steering Group at UUCB offers Robert's Reich's film "Inequality for All." A noted economic policy expert, Reich explains how policy changes are eroding our economic health and our democracy. Rev. Sylvia Stocker will lead a discussion after the film. A handout on useful resources will be available, which includes suggestions on "taking steps toward the structural change our economy needs" (Reich).

**Wednesday
December 3
7-9 pm
UU Church of
Brunswick
1 Middle Street**



He's taking this fight to the street.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

LIVES CONTINUE TO BE TAKEN BY GUN VIOLENCE

Sunday, December 14, 2014 will mark the second anniversary of the tragic shootings at the Connecticut Sandy Hook elementary school. The Working for Justice Gun Violence Prevention Task Group invites you to join us and others in the community that afternoon from 4:30 to 5:30 pm to remember Sandy Hook victims and all victims of gun violence. We wish to express our deep sadness as well as our resolve to change a culture in which guns continue to take lives.

From 4:30-5 we will stand in silence with lighted candles on the Pleasant Street side of the church. We will hold a sign stating our purpose in gathering and invite other signs of memorial and resolve. We have chosen not to hold political or adversarial signs at this event. Please bring your own candles.

At 5pm we will ring our bell 27 times to acknowledge each of the lives taken at Sandy Hook. We hope other churches will choose to ring their bells at that time as well.

From 5-5:30 we will gather in the church sanctuary for reflection, music, readings and silent meditation.

Upon leaving there will be informational materials available about current gun legislation and ways to take action to change the culture of violence.

Join us!

Carol Briggs, Cathey Cyrus, Dan Ellis, Mary Larson, Sylvia Stocker, Minister
Members of the UUCB Gun Violence Prevention

A gathering in memory of the Sandy Hook tragedy

Sunday, December 14

4:30 pm

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick

One Middle Street

- 4:30-5:00 pm - Silent candlelight vigil along the Pleasant Street side of the church
- 5:00 pm - Tolling of church bell 27 times
- 5:00-5:30 - Service of reflection - music, readings and silent meditation

*Join with others in the community
in sadness and in resolve
to change the culture in which
gun violence continues to take lives.*

For more information, call the UU Church office at 729-8515.



TREASURER'S MESSAGE

ON THE CONGREGATION MEETING

A brief note from your treasurers about the congregational meeting on November 23rd. The membership agreed with the recommendations from the board and finance committee to continue with our budget as is. Our first quarter building expenses were lower than budgeted and we believe they will continue to be so. We have seen solid revenue from rentals and plate income has been up as well. In addition the fundraising committee has truly stepped up and put forth a wide variety of fundraising activities. This combined with our church's historically high pledge fulfillment rate lead us to believe we will be able to close the gap by then end of the fiscal year. Another encouraging sign is that during the budget discussion a number of members stepped up and said they would be increasing their pledges. These folks include Mary Larson, Dave and Sue Ellen Damour, Sylvia Stocker and Steve Wellcome, Bill Kunitz and Louise Gephart, and Keary and Jean Lay.

The congregation passed a motion to agree to sell the Gurnet Road property to the Brunswick Topsham Land Trust for the appraised value. The current appraised value of the property is \$125,000. This sale will take place when the Brunswick Topsham Land Trust has raised the necessary funds.

The congregation also passed a motion to allow the treasurer to pay off the entirety of the Atlantic Regional Federal Credit Union Mortgage on the new building using the UUA investment account. We would then repay the UUA account with the proceeds from the Capital Campaign as they come in. The reason for doing it this way is that the mortgage is set at a ten year span and we intend to pay it off early. By paying in full we will avoid paying a significant amount of interest to the bank. As with any mortgage the first few years of payments are paying down interest not principal. Essentially if we took out the mortgage and made monthly payments for the first year or so while the last of the Capital Campaign pledges come, all of that money paid would have gone to interest. We would still owe the total principal. If this is unclear feel free to ask Keary, Dave or a board member.

Keary Lay-Treasurer

David Damour -Treasurer

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

On a beautiful October Saturday, nine volunteers from UUCB worked from 8:30 until 3:00 putting insulation on the concrete pad of the new Habitat home on Route 123. They also constructed a wire mesh to reinforce the concrete pad. Many thanks to Norm Rich, Bill Clark, Dexter Kamilewicz, Hannah Trowbridge, Heidi and Curt Neufeld, Catharine Chase, David Tiemann and Ted Berrett. Thanks, too, to Maryli Tiemann and Gretchen Kamilewicz for providing a delicious lunch to the willing workers.



WELCOME, NEW MEMBERS!

Membership Committee Co-Chair, Vicki Simpson, Rev. Sylvia Stocker, and Board Chair, Cindy Parker, officially welcomed new members Daniel Moore, Carol Drake, Ken Drake, Cheri Hurst, Betsy Roper, Andy Begin, Beth Chase, and Lisa Durrell to our church community during the Sunday service on November 16.

Vicki Simpson spoke of the joy for our congregation in recognizing new members and... “the reminder that our community is one of faith and friendship, a caring community of people who encourage one another in their own true growing. Here we build a congregation of people who covenant together to live creatively in life’s deepest and most challenging questions. Here we offer sustenance for one another’s spirits so that our individual and collective lights may shine more brightly here and in the wider world. We invite all to walk with us in our spiritual adventure.”

Cindy Parker “...asked all members to honor this occasion by remembering that ours is a free church, a church with a proud heritage. No creed will bind our hearts or minds. Live and speak freely with charity, integrity, courage, and love. Today we remember the promises all members make to one another, pledging time, talent, and treasure to support this congregation and one another to the best of our abilities... May our life together in community increase love and peace in our lives and in our world.”

Please welcome our newest members!

VEGAN SUNDAY December 21

The Vegan Sunday potluck will be held after church on Sunday, Dec. 21, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall.

Come share delicious plant-based food and camaraderie with other vegans and those who want to explore a vegan diet as a pathway to better health for our bodies and our planet.

Sorry, no drop-ins, but if you are planning to come, please RSVP to coordinator **Jessica Tracy** at jtracy21@myfairpoint.net or 729-7294
by Thursday, Dec. 18,
and let her know what vegan dish you plan to bring.

Thank you, *Faith*

SOUP'S ON

Mark your calendars for SoUUp's On!
to be held **January 11, 2015**
following the Sunday worship service.



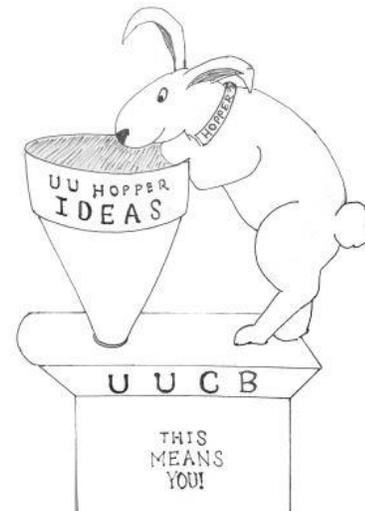
Membership Committee warmly invites you to share in this event to nourish your body and soul! What could be more enjoyable than homemade hot soup shared by our community on a cold winter's day!

A HEALTHY LUNCH

Thursday, December 11

Please join us for a tasty, plant-based, organic, gluten free meal in the Fellowship Hall.

Please RSVP with the church office
(729-8515 or uubruns@gwi.net)
by **Wednesday, Decembr 10.**



WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

CHRISTMAS GATHERING
December 9th at 10:30

The Women's Alliance will assemble holiday favors for Meals on Wheels as they have done for many years. Meet at the church. Bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert provided.

CHURCH COUNCIL

JUMP AT THE SUN

Our brochure lists 27 different committees and programs, not counting, of course, the Committee on Secrecy and Anonymity. Yet truth be told, fewer than half of our program entities send a representative to the five Church Council meetings each year. Here are three reasons, if you are part of a committee that hasn't been participating in the Council, to come and check us out:

PEACE: The first UU minister I ever met, the late Dan O'Neil, in trying to explain the relationship of Unitarian Universalists to power and authority, said, "People in my church who have 'Question Authority' bumper stickers write, 'Sez Who?' underneath." I love that we're an opinionated and passionate bunch, not content to doze in pews and mindlessly follow doctrine. On the other hand, while we all have our difficult moments, UUCB is a civil and enjoyable place to listen and expound with interesting folks. One of the ways we keep our church reasonably mellow and friendly is we get together and share our passions and concerns. Thich Nhat Han says, "Understanding and love are not two things, but just one." The Church Council is a singular forum for listening and learning.

TOGETHER: Farmers have the 4H. We have the 4C: Church Council Coordinates Calendar. This seemingly administrative task is much more than that. It's a key ingredient in UUCB honoring the diversity of our passions and interests, yet achieving a focus. Working

with the Board and the Long Range Planning Committee, we create coherence and focus according to the church's larger goals. And this means not only planning events; we are creating a coherence of values and actions. David Orr reminds us, "...for all of our information and communications prowess, we talk too little about our motives and feelings..."

FUN! The Council meets for 90 minutes, five times a year. Surely this is not a huge drain on anyone's time. In addition to going light on your calendar and having the satisfaction of helping our church to be a better place, you can have a darn good time. Contests, food, and a tone that celebrates our diverse individuality characterize the meetings. We get to enjoy each other's company, while making a real difference to our church. Zora Neale Hurston tells us:

"Mama exhorted her children at every opportunity to 'jump at the sun.' We might not land on the sun, but at least we would get off the ground."

Come to the Council, and leap into the air with us.

To get on the Council's (sparsely used) mailing list, just send me an email, martin.teitel@gmail.com

And put our next meeting on your calendar:

7 PM, Wednesday February 4, 2015
in the Morrell Room.

- Marty Teitel, Council Facilitator

SAVE THE DATE!

Merry Meeting Singers
present

WINTER DREAMS

Great Choral Music
for a Winter Evening

Saturday, January 10, 2015
at 7:30 pm

Tickets \$10; children under 12 free
All proceeds will benefit UUCB



SNOW CANCELLATION

We hate to cancel services or activities ever, but sometimes it's the wisest thing to do.

Rule of Thumb: If there is a parking ban in Brunswick, we are sure to cancel. But we may cancel at other times, too. When we do, we will alert channels 6, 8, and 13. Please watch for announcements.

(Please note: We will no longer be announcing church cancellations on the church answering machine. Be sure to check your television instead.)

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

GET YOUR TICKETS NOW FOR THE DAPONTE STRING QUARTET CONCERT

on **November 30th at 3 PM.** It promises to be a fabulous experience as we begin the holiday season in our wonderful new space! Tickets are \$20 and include a lovely reception with the artists after the event. The Fundraising Events Committee urges you to bring your friends too.

ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY AND NOTE CARDS. The order forms are on the bulletin board outside the kitchen. A note of change...the holiday cards are 12 for \$10, not \$6, sorry.

INQUIRING MINDS AND SQUARE MEALS. The committee also wants to thank all those who signed on to help us produce **Inquiring Minds and Square Meals.** So far, it has been wonderful. If you are one of those people who has been inspired by these opportunities, then put your thinking caps on and volunteer for the next round which will be offered for January through April.

THE HOLIDAY FAIR is on December 6th. Be sure you come, volunteer if you can, have breakfast and/or lunch, enjoy our musicians while finding your wreath and special treasures and take some baked goods home for later. Volunteer slots that need filling will be listed by the kitchen.

CALENDARS. Although many of you said you would not buy a calendar, we are going to produce one to tickle your fancy. Watch for some to appear in December and an order form too.



**We are working very hard to fulfill the request of the Board to produce \$10,000.....
.....that is no small request! We appreciate all you do to help us reach that goal.**

Fundraising Committee:

*Sue Ellen Damour, chair, Sue Michaud,
David Roundy, and Maryli Tiemann*



TIME TO BAKE AND MAKE!

The Women's Alliance is organizing the Bake Table for the Holiday Fair. We would love your contribution in the way of baked goods, preserves, candies, etc.



Donations may be dropped off at the Church preferably after noon into early evening on Friday, December 5th or, if more convenient, early the morning of the Fair.

Please note special dietary items, ie: gluten free, no nuts or no dairy.

Thank you in advance! We need you, and we look forward to delicious fare for the Fair!!

Contact person: Penny Elwell 373-0730. pennyelwell@yahoo.com

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR



At its November meeting the Board made a recommendation that food not be included at Sunday morning coffee hour, with the very occasional exception of a special event such as a New Members cake, Christmas Eve, or the Green Sanctuary's locavore offering.

Why?

- It relieves pressure to provide increasingly elaborate food
- It removes any cost from signing up to host Coffee Hour
- It leaves less mess to clean up for the hosts
- Most of us don't need the extra calories
- It reduces temptation for kids to overeat
- We hope you will agree that this is a step forward to better health and less fuss for all of us.

"NEXT STEPS" WORKSHOP

Saturday, January 17
9:00-1:00, with lunch

SAVE THE DATE!

There's a feeling of anticipation on Sunday mornings. So many people in the sanctuary, so many new faces, so much possibility. Many of us were not part of this congregation three years ago in the old building. Who do we want to be now? Can we understand ourselves in terms of our evolving relationships with each other, with the town, with the wider community? Is there a particular relationship, direction, or new energy that calls us?

In this workshop, presented by the Board and facilitated by a member of the Northern New England District's consulting team, we will search together for our next steps. Please plan to join us--we need people of all stages and ages. If you are interested, call the office to sign up. If you will need childcare, please let us know by Jan. 3. More information will be shared as we get closer to the date.

SOLAR POWER UPDATE



Our church solar power system has now generated about 14,800 kilowatt hours (kWh) from the time it was installed in late February of this year. However, the power we banked with CMP over the sunny summer months is just about depleted, and the last statement from CMP and information from the solar system website show that our last month's electrical power usage was about 2300 kWh, and that less than one half of that was generated by our system in that month.

This means that we can expect a major increase in our CMP bills in the coming months unless we get a lot of sunshine and/or cut down on our electrical power usage.

The system was designed for an expected 18,000 kilowatt hours yearly generation. Of course, we could generate additional power by placing more solar panels on the roof if we want to do that.

CHURCH OFFICE TAKING A WINTER BREAK

December 24, 2014 - Closing at noon
December 25, 2014 through January 5, 2015 - Closed

The holidays are right around the corner and the office is planning ahead for our winter break. So that we can prepare (in advance) several Order of Worship and Green Sheet announcements the following schedule is being set up as deadlines to submit items for any of the following worship services.

SERVICE	DEADLINE
Sunday, December 21	Tuesday, December 16 at noon
Wednesday, December 24 Christmas Eve	Wednesday, December 17 at noon (No Announcement Sheet inserted)
Sunday, December 28	Thursday, December 18 at noon
Sunday, January 4	Friday, December 19 at noon

The last all church email "This Week At UUCB" will be on Wednesday, December 24. Items for that email announcement need to be submitted no later than **Tuesday December 23 at noon**.

Please email materials to uubruns@gwi.net. Thank you for your assistance. Happy Holidays!



Friday Evening, December 19th

7:30 PM - Doors Open at 7:00 PM

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

One Middle Street, Brunswick

Tickets: \$10 at the door

Castlebay

"Ghosts of Christmas Past" Concert



Maine's premier Celtic duo, Castlebay, will "drive cold winter away" with joyous and mysterious seasonal songs and tunes from the Ireland, Scotland and the British Isles. The lilting sound of Irish flute, Celtic harp, fiddle and guitar will mingle with vibrant songs of revelry and wonder.

The celebration of the winter solstice was one of the most important in the calendar of the ancient people of the British Isles and Ireland. The word "yule" means "wheel" and symbolizes the turning of the sun-wheel many of the enigmatic circles of standing stones that rise from the wind-swept landscape are oriented to the solstice. Their music is filled with the symbolism of light conquering darkness, rebirth and the evergreen power of life.

No Open Mike this month.

UUCB HOLIDAY HAPPENINGS 2014

Daponte String Quartet Concert. Sunday, Nov 30, at 3:00 p.m. Tickets \$20.

The Santa Project. Share gifts with local families in need. Pick up names and wish list items from Santa's elves (Carol Toroomian, Monica Hamkins or Val Heath) after church on Nov 30th or Dec 7. Gifts must returned to church by December 14.

Holiday Fair. Saturday, December 6, 9 to 2. Come buy wreaths, cider, finger foods, knitted goods, and crafts. (Don't forget UUCB makes the best wreaths!) Lunch will be available – a selection of hearty soups, breads and pies.

Mitten Service. Sunday, December 7. During the service we will adorn our Christmas trees with mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves to distribute to needy families. Please remember to bring your contributions (new items, please, not used) to church that morning.

Women's Alliance Christmas Gathering. December 9 at 10:30. The Women's Alliance will assemble holiday favors for Meals on Wheels as they have done for many years. Meet at the church. Bring a sandwich. Beverage and dessert provided.

Poinsettias. To help decorate our sanctuary, donate poinsettias in memory of loved ones, new births, or special events. Dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve order of worship. Plants are \$14.40 each. To order, please call the church office at 729-8515. **Orders and payment due by December 5**. Make checks out to UUCB.

Ecumenical Festival of Lessons and Carols. Sunday, December 7, at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Brunswick. Enjoy our choir singing with area church choirs, directed by Ray Cornils. Come at 2:45 to enjoy a 14-minute prelude by the First Parish Ringers. Admission at the door, \$8.00 donation suggested. Doors open at 2:15.

Religious Education Holiday Fundraiser Craft Sale. During Sunday school on November 30 and December 7, our UU kids will make crafts to sell to raise funds for Tedford Shelter and Coastal Humane Society. Sale will be held on December 14 after church.

Christmas Decorating Party. Sunday, December 14, after church. We are doing something new to decorate. We ask every family to bring one of their ornaments from home to add to the two trees we will have on the chancel. All are invited to linger after church to help

decorate the trees (but if you cannot stay, you can leave your ornament with us, and we will place it on a tree.) The Green Sanctuary Committee will be hosting special locavore hospitality following the service that day, so you can fortify yourselves with something healthy and tasty, then join the decorating party.

Castlebay "Ghost of Christmas Past" Annual Concert. On Friday, December 19 at 7:30, the Side Door Coffeehouse celebrates the Winter Solstice with perennial favorite Celtic duo Castlebay. \$10

Holiday Intergenerational Orchestra. On Sunday, Dec 21, musicians young and old are invited to participate in our popular annual Intergenerational Orchestra. Rehearsals on Sundays December 7 and 14 immediately after the service. We recommend, though do not require, that you attend at least one rehearsal. Musicians of all abilities welcomed, though you do need to be able to read music. Please bring a music stand. Contact Ross Miller remiller234@ gmail.com to volunteer or ask questions. Ross is a former band director and can even help players revive somewhat neglected instruments and/or rusty musical skills.

Candles for Babies. On Christmas Eve we light candles in honor of babies born or adopted into church families during the previous year. Following the Christmas Eve service, families may take their candles and votive holders home. Parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents, please call the church office at 7129-8515 with names by Tuesday, December 16, at the latest.

Christmas Eve Service. December 24 at 7 p.m. We welcome all ages and feature carols, readings, beautiful music by our choir and others, and candle lighting.

Festive Food. Please bring a plate of your finest holiday confections (e.g. cookies, bars, candy) to share after the Christmas Eve service. **We are looking for hosts for this gathering. Please either contact Heidi Neufeld or call the church office at 729-8515 to volunteer to host. Without hosts we cannot offer hospitality.**

Dedocking party, Sunday, January 4 after church. Time to take the trees down and bring poinsettias home. Come by to pick up ornaments you brought from home. Stay to help make the sanctuary ship shape.

Merry Meeting Singers Winter Concert. Saturday, January 10 at 7:30 pm, in our sanctuary. Choral music selections from Schubert to West Side Story. Adult tickets \$10 tickets, children under 12 FREE. 729-8515



DECEMBER 2014

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
Nov 30 3 DaPonte String Quartet Concert : SAN	1 7 Merry Meeting Singers : SAN 7 Pagans: WBR <i>Office Closed</i>	2 11 Healthy Cooking Class: KIT 4-6 Membership: MSR 5-6 Staff Mtg : WBR 6:30 Worship : MSR	3 7 pm Inequality for All Movie & discussion Sponsored by the Working for Justice Steering Committee	4 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 7-9 Choir: SAN	5 11 Fellowship Gallery: MSR 5 Holiday Fair Setup 6 Square Meal Winners at the Millers	6 9-2 Holiday Fair 6 Square Meal Winners with the Spencers <i>Office Closed</i>
7 10 Church Service 10:15 RE College Guild :WBR 11:30 Intergen Orchestra Rehearsal 6 Sunday PM Chalice Circle: WBR	8 7 Pagans: WBR 7 Merry Meeting Singers : SAN <i>Office Closed</i>	9 10-1 Alliance: FEL 11 Healthy Cooking Class: KIT 6:30 Stories w Soul : WBR 7:30 Pastoral Care: MSR	10 10-4 Art Display Down	11 10-4 Art Display Up 10 Chalice Circle: WBR 12 Healthy Lunch: FH 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship	12 10:30 Building & Grounds: MSR	13 <i>Office Closed</i>
14 10 Church Service 10:15 RE Classes Green Sanctuary: MSR 11:30 Intergen Orchestra Rehearsal 4 Sandy Hook Vigil	15 7 Pagans: WBR 7 Merry Meeting Singers : SAN <i>Office Closed</i>	16 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for 12/21 Service 3 Chalice Circle: WBR 6:30-9 Board: MSR	17 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for 12/24 Service 7 RE Committee: MER	18 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for 12/28 Service 7-9 Choir: SAN	19 12 Noon Deadline: Order of Worship for 1/5 Service 5 Parish Messenger Deadline 7-10 Side Door Coffehouse	20 <i>Office Closed</i>
21 10 Intergenerational Orchestra Church Service 12:30 Vegan Sunday (RSVP): FH <i>Office Closed</i>	22 7 Merry Meeting Singers : SAN 7 Pagans: WBR <i>Office Closed</i>	23 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email 6:30 Stories with Soul: WBR	24 7 Christmas Eve Service		26 <i>Office Closed</i>	27 <i>Office Closed</i>
28 10 Intergenerational Service (NO RE) <i>Office Closed</i>	29 4-5:30 Hatha Yoga: FEL 7 Merry Meeting Singers: SAN 7 Pagans: WBR <i>Office Closed</i>	30 <i>Office Closed</i>	31 Men's Luncheon Off Site <i>Office Closed</i>	Jan 1 <i>Office Closed</i>	Jan 2 11 Fellowship Gallery: MSR <i>Office Closed</i>	Jan 3 7 Hiking Maine's County High Points Presentation: SAN <i>Office Closed</i>

SAN = Sanctuary
 FEL = Fellowship Hall
 WBR = Wendall Berry Room
 MSR = May Sarton Room

Newsletter editor: Susan Michaud
michaud_susan@comcast.net
NEXT DEADLINE
for January issue is
Fri, December 19, 2014, 5 pm
Rare exceptions:729-4857

RE = All RE Space
 HIL = Hildebrant Room
 CAR = Carson Room
 MAN= Mandela Room
 MER = Merrymeeting Bay Room