

August 2011

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Sylvia returns to work on
Tuesday, August 16 .



**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

TBA, Office Administrator

Bill Burke, Sexton

Newsletter editor:
Susan Michaud

michaud_susan@comcast.net

NEXT DEADLINE

for September issue is

Fri, Aug.19, 2011, 5 pm

Rare exceptions: 729-4857

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*

ALL AUGUST SERVICES AT 9:15 AT CURTIS MEMORIAL LIBRARY

August 7 – “Peace, Forgiveness” On this anniversary of the bombing of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, we will reflect on, and envision the, so far, elusive peace we all long for. Lynn Ellis will be speaking with music provided by Pat Gardiner.

August 14 – “My License Plate Read CR8IV” - "When I retired from teaching in 2008, I made a conscious decision to try to live a ‘creative’ life”. Three years later, Pat Harris takes stock of that decision and considers how a spiritual life and a creative one are compatible." Music by Aurora Lopez.

August 21 & August 28 – Rev. Sylvia Stocker will be back in the pulpit! Topics will be determined during her much needed time away. We know they will be comforting and inspiring.

September 4 – In the tradition of taking a break from our laboring, there will be **No Service** today to observe the holiday.

September 11 at 10:00 – “Homecoming Sunday” - Join us in our new home away from home. Our services for the 2011-2012 church calendar year will be held at the Minnie Brown Center in **Bath**. The MBC is an annex of the Beth Israel congregation and is located at **906 Washington Street** .

SEE PAGE 9 FOR DIRECTIONS TO THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

RECOVERY TEAM REPORTS



The Recovery Team met July 13 for our weekly meeting at the McLellan Center of Bowdoin College. We are reviewing input from the congregation every week. We bring to the Team any e-mails, personal conversations and written comments. These are recorded in our minutes so that we can revisit ideas as we move forward. Please sign anything you put in the suggestion box at a service. We do not know how to address unsigned comments and there is no way to reach you if we need clarification.

The Board approved our request to proceed with a contract with **Service Master/Elite** to act as our agents in the process of determining the final settlement from our insurance company, pending our reference checks. Dexter had completed the reference checks which were uniformly positive. He spoke to two church leaders and two large property owners who had used their services. His report indicates: "Most have used ServiceMaster/Elite based more on faith than due diligence. The recurring themes include great communications, incredible attention to detail both in working with the insurer and in the reconstruction, absolute honesty, excellent tools, broad experience managing very emotional and complex process, and thinking on behalf of the client.

The specific examples of their excellent performance ring true. They have been very appreciated by their clients who go out of their way to provide examples of their great performance. In my experience, these are hard to fake. I was impressed with their high regard for ServiceMaster/Elite." Based on that report we have finalized a contract to be signed with them for the insurance settlement process.

We received two offers to do benefit concerts on our behalf.

Jim Scott will be in Maine in August and wants to use his concerts as benefits for our church. He is doing all of the venue and date arranging. Once he has dates and places set we will be sure these are on the Council's events calendar so that perhaps some of us can attend the concerts.

George Lopez, artist in residence at Bowdoin College, has offered to do a concert for us. For those who have heard his family play in church but have not heard him, this will be a real treat. Grace is going to work on this and it will be planned for some time next spring.

Just a reminder that starting in September we will be meeting at the **Minnie Brown Center** at 906 Washington Street in Bath, owned by the Beth Israel Congregation. The space is large enough to accommodate all of us for a single service each Sunday with RE space, bathrooms and kitchen down stairs. Directions and maps will be available long before our first service there.

HOW TO CONTACT THE RECOVERY TEAM:

- * Email: uucbrecover@gmail.com
- * Suggestion boxes at each service
- * In person

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

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

<http://www.uubrunswick.org/fire-recovery-team.aspx>.

HOW TO REACH US

**The Unitarian Universalist
Church of Brunswick**
PO Box 129
Brunswick ME 04011
(7 Middle Street, Brunswick)

The church office is closed for the summer, but someone will be in daily to check emails and phone numbers.

The Director of Religious Education, Nicole Shanks, is on vacation for the summer. In the fall, she will be in her office at 7 Middle Street, Wednesday and Thursday from 9am - 1 pm and by appointment.

The Minister, Rev. Sylvia Stocker, will also be unavailable until August 16th, when she will have office hours Tuesday and Thursday 1-4 pm and by appointment. While the Minister is away, the executive committee will take care of any emergencies that may arise.

The Executive Committee: Mike Heath, Steve Eagles, Sally Horne, and Laura Jackson, and the Chair of the Recovery Team, Judy Chamberlain.

Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515

E-mail: uubruns@zwi

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

RECOVERY TEAM REPORTS

Your Recovery Team continues to meet weekly. We are very appreciative of the involvement of so many members of the Congregation in the meeting on Sunday and of the outcome of that meeting. The dreams and memories everyone wrote during the service are amazing! We will make sure they are available for you to read, but are mindful of not killing too many trees, as we have seven or eight pages of ideas. I am happy to send an electronic copy to anyone who wishes.



With a portion of the money approved on Sunday we are engaging the architectural firm of Smith, Reuter and Lull to work with our Team and the Congregation to develop concepts and ultimately a plan for building new or rebuilding a worship space for our congregation. There will be many opportunities for input from everyone as we go through this process. As a first step they will give us a timeline so that we can be aware of how much time each part of the process may take. We suggested that we would like to be in our new worship space at the latest by our bicentennial in September 2012. This seems a long way off, but the time to build or rebuild wisely will be well spent.

We plan to have a congregational discussion in August to begin the process of deciding where we will be and what we envision for our space. This meeting will be facilitated and we hope will give us all some guidance as we continue this part of our recovery. As soon as a date is set everyone will be notified.

We have continued to work with the Beth Israel Congregation about using the Minnie Brown Center beginning in September. At a recent meeting with some of their leaders the question of how we might help them came

up (since they were not asking for a set fee for use of the building). A number of possibilities were raised around improvements they would love to see in their building. They were not asking that we do these things but were just saying what they would do if they could. The Recovery Team and the Board decided that what we should do is pay them a fair rent for the space. They have said we can use the Center any time they are not. This allows us to use it for pot luck suppers, meetings, etc. as we need. We looked at the amount we would have to pay if we used a school in Brunswick or Topsham (about \$100 a Sunday and little or no opportunity for use other than Sunday mornings) or if we used the Adventist Church (about \$250 a Sunday). We decided that \$500 a month would be fair, and we will propose that to the Beth Israel Board. That way if they want to make improvements they can, and we will feel we can use the space while covering their utility costs and "wear and tear" from our use. This is covered by our insurance and we have reviewed this carefully with the agent from Church Mutual several times.

Finally: Look in the Times Record this weekend for an article by Grace Lewis McLaren about the fire!

Please continue to keep in touch with us in person, by e-mail at uucbrecovery@gmail.com or by placing comments in the box which will be provided at each service.



Coming Soon

Benefit Concerts for UUCB have been offered by *Jim Scott* in August and *George Lopez* in the spring.

We will keep you informed of the dates.

Jim Scott



George Lopez



EAT, DRINK, AND BE MERRY



CIRCLE SUPPERS

Last call for diners! There are a very few spaces left in our Circle Suppers on **August 6th and 13th**. If you would like to attend, please call (729-8103) or email dszorach@gwi.net (Debbie Zorach) as soon as possible. Ten suppers have been organized and the Membership Committee thanks all the hosts and guests, as well as the Recovery Team reps who have been present at each supper. Thanks to all.

CIRCLE LUNCH

Thanks to a thoughtful UUCB couple, there are a few seats available at a "Circle Lunch", that is a circle supper to be held after church, on Sunday, **August 14th**. First priority for folks who prefer to drive during the daytime, but do contact Debbie Zorach (729-8103) or (dszorach@gwi.net) ASAP if you are interested. And thanks to Larry and Jessica!

HOMEcoming POT LUCK

Save the date! The Membership Committee is coordinating a terrific Homecoming Pot Luck on **Saturday evening, September 10th**. If you attended last year (and about 100 of you did) you'll remember how much fun it was. St. Charles Catholic Church has graciously agreed to host us again. *Details in the September newsletter.*

DEVELOPMENT CONVERSATION

Join in the conversation!

Come to a gathering of members and friends interested in helping to guide our church toward financial health and stability. Learn more about the charge to the Development Committee, and *consider whether you might serve our church as a member of that group*. Join in the conversation! Together we can create an energized and creative Committee to guide our church at this pivotal time in the life of our congregation.

Coffee and

dessert

Got Ideas??

Thursday, August 11, 7-8:30pm
Morrell Room, Curtis Library

We hope to see you there!

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

If you're on Facebook, you can find a Photo Album of Progress on the Church. It is on our page which is UU Church of Brunswick.

ALL-CHURCH OPEN CHALICE CIRCLE

On Thursday, August 11th, from 10:30 to Noon, Hannah Trowbridge and Mary Ann Gesner will be facilitating another open chalice circle. Discussion will center around the fire, memories of our church, and dreams of the future.

All are welcome!



A YEAR TO REMEMBER

The UUCB Strategic Plan 2009-2014 has taken a detour because of the tragic fire in our church building. But we can't let the fire deter us from recognizing, gratefully, that several major Strategic Plan objectives moved forward this past year, notably a church-wide *social justice program*, an *adult religious education program*, and *Green Sanctuary certification*.

The process of selecting a social justice focus was a very democratic one, and correspondingly lengthy. It required considerable thought and considerable time on the part of many congregants, and it's very much to the credit of the congregation that both were generously given. The final outcome was the formation of a Working for Justice Steering Committee that concentrates on efforts to reduce expressions of prejudice and hate. A workshop with guest leader Peggy Smith of the Maine Nonviolent Communication Network was held in April, and an affecting and informative film, "Bullied", was shown still more recently. As part of this year's UUA program, many people read the book "The Death of Josseline", dealing with the often deadly journeys undertaken by illegal immigrants on the Arizona/Mexico border and the efforts of border dwellers to either help or hinder them. Next year will see more initiatives on this front.

Volunteers who have expressed a strong interest in adult education have begun to move on this initiative as well. Two volunteers (Pat Harris and Hank Simpson) will consider what sort of courses we might offer, avoiding duplication of topics or skills already made available by other institutions, and how to make our offerings relevant to Unitarian Universalists in particular. Planning for the future continues, but meanwhile Sylvia took advantage of materials newly available through the UUA to offer an 11-week course on UU theology, *What Moves Us*. Eight or so congregants took part in two-hour sessions, making the acquaintance of UU theologians representing several centuries. In addition, Sienna Dode and Pat Harris offered a Soul Searching class enjoyed by other congregants.

Our application to the UUA to become a certified Green Sanctuary has been submitted, capping the multi-year efforts of a very dedicated and hard-working Green Sanctuary Committee. The application

included a congregational statement of commitment to environmental sustainability and a socially just human presence on the planet. The statement was unanimously approved at the Annual Meeting.

Many specific objectives of our five-year strategic plan (see the UUCB website > Committees > Strategic Planning Committee > Strategic Plan) are stymied by the results of the fire, but many others, especially those directed to being a spiritual community, nurturing one another, and welcoming all, are still very much in effect and in some instances even enhanced. The *open Chalice Circle sessions* are one example: those devoted in July to memories of congregational life in our UUCB church home, and those scheduled for this month, devoted to our hopes and dreams for renewed and reaffirmed congregational life. Offering *summer-season fellowship dinners or lunches* is another example – an unusual one for a congregation that until fairly recently took a two-month break from church activities during the summer. Providing a *full summer program of worship services* with regular *after-the-service hospitality* is yet another example of enriched fellowship possibilities despite our displacement to an unconventional location.

If any indication were needed of our congregation's whole-hearted response to the new post-fire circumstances, the turn-out for the congregational meeting on June 17th -- a beautiful summer Sunday morning that suggested many, many alternative activities -- provided it: about 100 members stuck it out in a room growing warmer by the minute to join in a good discussion and an important vote. Bravo, all!

Nancy Dorian for the Strategic Planning Committee



FUNDRAISERS

HANNAFORD CARDS

Sue Michaud will be selling Hannaford Cards at most of the summer services. Please look for her near the exit of the Morrell Room. If you haven't bought any cards from her, it is a very easy way to donate money to the church without spending a dime of your own money. You simply buy the gift card in the amount that you wish to use at Hannaford, and then go grocery shopping at ANY Hannaford—no expiration date.

- ♦ If your purchase comes to more than the card, you simply pay the rest with your check or ATM card.
- ♦ If your purchase is less than the amount on the card, the remaining balance is recorded on your card for the next time you go shopping.

Last year, the Hannaford cards earned almost \$4,000 for the church. If more start using them, we could double that amount.

WOOD REPLICAS OF THE CHURCH

The Women's Alliance has a few dozen leftover wood carvings of our former church building that will be on sale after services as well. These wooden keepsakes were created by "The Cat's Meow." and sold at our craft fair.



Sue Michaud will have them near the exit of the Morrell Room along with her Hannaford cards for a minimum donation of \$25.

Dear Members and Friends of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick,

I'm grateful for my experience at the church, for the opportunity of working for Reverend Mitchell, Reverend Beal, and Reverend Stocker, and for the opportunity of knowing so many good and interesting people, people united in striving to create a community of caring, support, and exploration, and one which reaches out to the wider world, equally in need of such endeavors. This experience has given me a special appreciation for the role of ministers, for their singular vocation, which makes so many demands, demands that frequently pull in competing directions, and are such that one can never say, even momentarily, 'all done'. The rewards, I'm confident, are large, and so is the requisite effort.

I am, additionally, very grateful for the generous support and abundant good wishes of so many in the congregation as I move forward with changes and challenges in my own life. I thank you, and I wish you the greatest possible realization of your commitment to rebuild this special church, and to continue and expand the reach of its unique mission.

Elizabeth



The UUCB Working for Justice group is organizing a table for our church. If you would like to volunteer to help at the table, contact Lynn Ellis.

BRUNSWICK'S 7TH ANNUAL *Peace Fair*

Saturday, August 6, 2011

10 am until 4 pm on the Brunswick Mall

Family fun – playful and serious reflection on these three strands of Peacemaking:

Supporting Sustainable Initiatives

Giving energy and resources to projects that inspire our hopes for a cooperative and caring society.



Being Peaceful

Living our lives from a place of peace.



Speaking Out Clearly

Voicing our concerns when we see injustice, imbalance of power and failure of leadership.



PeaceWorks of Greater Brunswick — www.peaceworksbrunswickme.org

ILLUSTRATIONS BY CHARLOTTE AGELL

CHARITIES WITH SOUL

August Charity

In August, our collection plate is shared with *Keep ME Warm*.

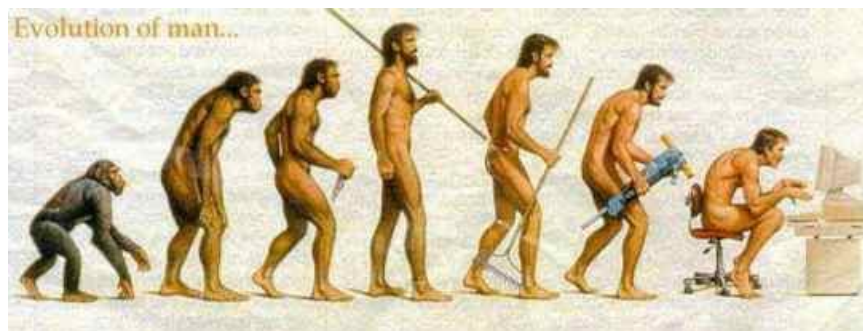
Keep ME Warm, affiliated with the Maine Community Action Association, provides assistance with heating oil to low-income households across the state. This statewide partnership of government programs and private donations, which keeps low-income folks safe and warm in the winter, provides emergency heating assistance and a Maine 2-1-1 helpline service. Private donations, such as UUCB's, go entirely to households – none to administrative fees.

The Charities With Soul Task Force:

Jane Danielson, Steve Eagles, Lynn Ellis & Rich Knox



August's Charity with Soul



WORKING FOR JUSTICE

The Working for Justice Steering Group continues to meet through the summer. We anticipate some congregation-wide opportunities in the fall for reflecting and acting on our chosen focus of preventing prejudice and hate. Stay tuned!

Meanwhile, come to the Peace Fair on August 6, and visit the UUCB table (See the associated announcement in this newsletter above.)

Working for Justice Steering Group

Cathey Cyrus; Jane Danielson; Lynn Ellis; Ed McCartan



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

Back on the coldest, snowiest of days in January and February, I thought of summer warmth, with time to kick back and relax while sorting priorities for the coming church year. Well, that scene hasn't materialized, not for the Board or the dozens of UUCB members and friends now moving full speed ahead to plan our next moves following the fire.

Our summer hasn't been much of a time to rest. This is only a partial list of recent accomplishments (with sincere thanks to the **stars*).

- Plans are settled for our new, regular meeting place in Bath starting September 11. (**Heidi Neufeld and the Recovery Team; and *the Beth Israel Congregation* for their warmth and generosity in welcoming us into the Minnie Brown Center)
- The **Church Administrator Search Committee* worked quickly to settle on an outstanding candidate. The announcement should be released very soon.
- The new Pennell House natural gas heating system is nearly complete. (**Erik Hansen and the Properties Committee*)

- Summer worship services continue on, to support the spiritual work of the church. (**Lay leaders, and the *Chalice Circles* that provide refreshments afterwards)
- After three years of work and activities, our final Green Sanctuary application has been submitted to the UUA (**Green Sanctuary Committee*)
- Our **Charities with Soul* donations continue the work of UUCB in the wider community.
- Nearly 100 **members and friends* attended the Congregational Meeting on July 17 following the **Recovery Team's* engaging service.

All these activities take the energy and commitment of many, many people and the church as a whole. The Board thanks you all!

With the congregation vote to engage the architect and the hard work of the Recovery Team, we are making steady progress. The current stage should lead us through critical decision points to get a plan in place later in the fall. I know you've been listening-and thinking. The dreams and

ideas expressed during the service on the 17th began the conversation about what we want in our new space. But it is just a beginning. It may be better to listen more than we speak, but the time for speaking is here. Share your hopes and dreams, hear those of others; make the process inclusive by being active in the conversation.

We may not have the luxury of lazy, hazy, crazy days this summer, in spite of the weather. We have much to be thankful for. We can look forward to coming seasons of growth and accomplishment. They hold the promise to bear the fruit of our dreaming and hard work through the coming months.

Blessings,
Michael Heath



STORIES WITH SOUL

In this 8th year of Stories with Soul, sessions will continue despite our sadness about the fire.



We welcome anyone who would like to come and see. No obligation, no homework. Simply delicious stories to share.

The Pennell parlor was unaffected by the fire, and the **2nd & 4th Tuesday** sessions will not be interrupted - **6:30-7:30 pm** in the Parlor.

Bill Clark and Larry Lemmel continue as hosts.

DIRECTIONS TO THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

906 Washington Street, Bath, Maine

The building we will be using is next door to the sanctuary used by the Beth Israel Congregation. It was purchased in 2002 and houses their Hebrew school. On the main floor there is a Rabbi's study and a large function room that can be used for our services. Downstairs are six small classrooms, a kitchen and an eating area.

From the North

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

From the South

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



AUGUST 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

CO - Church Office
MR - Morell Room, Library
MH - Member's Home
MO - Minister's Office

PAR - Parlor in 5 Pennell downstairs)
PEN - 7 Pennell House Upstairs
SP - Saint Paul's

	1 	2	3	4	5 9:30 AA : Pen	6 10-4 Peace Fair : Brunswick Mall  Circle Suppers : MH
7 9:15 Service: MR	8	9 9-12 violin : Parlor 3-6 violin : Parlor 6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor	10 9-12 violin : Parlor 3-6 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Group: 7 Pen	11 10:30-12 All Church Chalice Circle: Parlor  7-8:30 : Development Committee : MR	12 9:30 AA : Pen	13 Circle Suppers : MH
14 9:15 Service: MR Circle Lunch : MH	15	16 9-12 violin : Parlor 3-6 violin : Parlor	17 9-12 violin : Parlor 3-6 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Grp: Pen	18	19 9:30 AA: Pennell	20
21 9:15 Service: MR	22	23 9-12 violin : Parlor 3-6 violin : Parlor 6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor	24 9-12 violin : Parlor 3-6 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Group: 7 Pen	25	26 9:30 AA : Pennell	27
28 9:15 Service: MR	29	30 9-12 violin : Parlor 3-6 violin : Parlor	31 9-12 violin : Parlor 3-6 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Grp: Pen	<p>SAVE THE DATE!</p> <p>Homecoming Pot Luck <i>Saturday evening, September 10th</i></p>		