

October 2011

Board Chair Report.....	10
CALENDAR	12
Cares and Celebrations	10
Charities with Soul.....	9
Committee Fair.....	5
Food Drive.....	9
Free Swap	11
Gathering Place, The	5
Green Sanctuary	6
How to Reach Us.....	2
Minister's Musings.....	3
New Members - Ed & Marsha.....	4
Parking at Minnie Brown Center.....	6
Religious Education.....	2
Recovery Team Report & Potluck.....	8
Retreats	7
Serving with Grace	5
Soup's On	4
Sunday Services	1
UUCB \$Dollar\$ Sale	9
UU Orientation Classes	11
Working for Justice.....	8

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

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister

Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell,
Minister Emeritus

Nicole Shanks,
Director of Religious Education

Stephanie Bernier,
Music Coordinator

Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director

David Dean, Accompanist

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Bill Burke, Sexton

Newsletter editor:
Susan Michaud
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NEXT DEADLINE
for November issue is
Fri, Oct.21, 2011, 5 pm
Rare exceptions: 729-4857

Parish Messenger

**Unitarian Universalist Church
Of Brunswick**



ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

October 2 – “Even the Lone Ranger had Tonto and Silver.”

In our fifth Association Sunday, we join with UU churches across the nation in supporting the larger work of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Each year, we take a special collection for the UUA, to be used in identified ways. This year's Association Sunday solicits funds to build excellence in ministry. Here the word “ministry” is defined broadly the ministries of music and religious education. The choir directed by Heidi Neufeld, with David Dean, accompanist, will offer their ministry of music.

October 9 – “Living by Covenant”

Rev. Stocker preaching; Music by Grace Lewis-McLaren. What is that weird, scary, religious word “covenant,” and why should it be important for us? In preparation for our October 15 workshop with Mary Higgins (see article elsewhere in this newsletter), we'll explore one of the central roots of our shared faith. Music provided by Grace Lewis-McLaren. .

October 16 – “Foundation”

Building on her August sermon titled “Grout,” Rev. Stocker preaches another installment in a sermon series that contemplates the parts of a building from a metaphorical standpoint. Before we build anything, we need a good foundation. What is ours? Music provided by Jud Caswell and Larry Lemmel.

October 23 – Guest Minister Kitsie Claxton

Music provided by Aurora and Maya Lopez. This service will be organized by the Worship Committee. Music to be announced.

October 30 – “Day of the Dead”

Rev Stocker preaching. Music provided by the choir, directed by Heidi Neufeld, with David Dean, accompanist. All are encouraged to remember a loved one of blessed memory by bringing a memento or picture to place in the front of the room.

FROM OUR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION



Everyone loves a federal holiday because it means a day off from work or school- what's not to love about that? But what if the holiday celebrates a legacy that is not only one of a European discovery but also of genocide and oppression? In 1977 at a UN Conference in Geneva, Switzerland, the idea of replacing Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples Day was born and there has been a growing movement toward this replacement. In fact 3 states- South Dakota, Alabama, and Hawaii- have taken action to rename Columbus Day as Indigenous Peoples Day. So instead of celebrating a day off and ignoring the legacy of Columbus, celebrate Indigenous Peoples Day in October by becoming involved in some of the following actions suggested by the UUA:

(<http://www.uua.org/justicecalendar/114099.shtml>):

- ♦ Build and strengthen connections to nearby native communities
- ♦ Take action to rename Columbus Day in the state of Maine
- ♦ Provide opportunities for your children to be involved in educational activities on Native lives

and cultures. There are loads of great children's books that families can share together as an easy way to get started. Maybe your family has read the *Little House on the Prairie* series together, now it's time to check out *The Birchbark House*.

- ♦ Adults can choose one of the many books on Native peoples. Select a book to read and discuss with a friend, relative, or spouse.
- ♦ Take action for the rights of Native peoples around the world.

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 and Thursday from 9am - 1 pm and by appointment. Contact her by telephone at the church office: 729-8515.

The Minister, Rev. Sylvia Stocker, has office hours Tuesday and Thursday 1-4 pm and by appointment. In an emergency, do not hesitate to call her anywhere or any time. (Consult the church directory for her home number.) For routine church business, please call her at the church.

Monday is the Sabbath for the Minister, the DRE, and the office.

Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515

E-mail: uubruns@gwi

IMPORTANT RE DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

October 2- Youth Group meets from 10-11:15.

October 9- Multi-Age Birthday Celebration. On this Sunday of the holiday weekend, all children will be joining together for a birthday party to celebrate all birthdays throughout the year. There will be cake and games. Please RSVP with the DRE if your child will be attending.

October 23- Youth Group meets from 10-11:15.

... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...

In the wake of our fire, condolences and good wishes have been coming in from all over. I thought you might like to hear these words that reached our office this week from one of our former ministers, John Cummins.

Dear Sylvia:

My heart goes out to you and your congregation as you face the challenge of restoring or finding a new Church Home! I enclose a few tidbits for the archives, from my most happy years there. Of course, I owe the little Church much since it gave me my beloved wife – and a start in the ministry.

If you think things are bad now, recall that when I came there, the building had nothing under the sanctuary but a dirt cellar – no running water, no telephone, no toilets or kitchen. Seventy-five dollars worth of coke and donated slab-wood heated the building, weekends only. There were 97 members in all and \$2,900 was the annual budget!

Of historical interest is the fact that the Overseers of the College in their infinite wisdom once decided to grant an Honorary Degree to Jefferson Davis. The Liberals in town then raised holy hell and a compromise was struck. The College would indeed grant the Degree, but the Liberals were allowed to choose the Baccalaureate speaker. The Libs brought Theodore Parker up from Boston, who lost no time in making the point that the College had no business honoring the institution of slavery in this manner. The College doesn't bring this event up too often these days.

I have always said of our Liberal Movement: "Don't count us, weigh us!"

*With Best Wishes,
John Cummins*

(For those who are new to Unitarian Universalism, Theodore Parker was a 19th century Unitarian minister noted for his preaching and activism in the abolition movement.)

A Bowdoin graduate, Rev. Cummins was Minister here from 1950 to 1954. I have written back to him to let him know of our historic vote on September 18 to rebuild on Pleasant Street, with our collective preference, by far, being to take down the current building, to salvage what we can, and to build new.

I am well aware that decision was joyous for some and sad for others. If we are truly in this together – and the evidence suggests overwhelmingly that we are – then let's be aware and respectful of diverse feelings – sometimes lodging even within one person! For example, I feel simultaneously both excited about the new possibilities and sad about losing certain aspects of the building that burned. The possibilities that remain open to us at an in-town location

can stir me at the same time that I regret losing the chance to move to the more natural and more regional setting on Gurnet Road. Your feelings may be different from mine – and many of us will experience mixed feelings, as I do. And that's all OK.



As a democratically governed institution, we don't process everything until we reach everyone's consensus. But as a religious community of people bound in mutual respect, I believe we are called to sensitivity and caring for one another. Moving forward as one body means to recognize both the feelings of gain (the potential for a wonderful new beginning; a clear direction) and the feelings of loss (a sorrowful farewell to a building that has long been home).

I understand our church has been debating what to do about our building for a long, long time – some say as long as 30 years. Issues of size, accessibility, and substandard Sunday School space have plagued us, and we haven't known how to address them. Clarity has been elusive, the way forward fogbound. Now we have no choice but to address the issues that have haunted us. But as we approached the September 18, I found myself fearing a vote that would leave us more or less equally separated into camps. My worst fears did not materialize, however. Clear majorities prevailed for both questions. That clarity will help us now, as we dream about what we would like to do and as we face the realities of what the insurance settlement and donations will make it possible for us to do.

We have faced big changes in the past. John Cummins' letter points to some. We face big changes now. Let us hold onto the glowing coal of compassion, sensitivity, and good will at the heart of the congregation as we move boldly forward!

Love,
Sylvia

ED AND MARSHA PONTIUS



Ed, Marsha, son Adam and their Cockatoo, Rosie, moved to Topsham in 1998. Ed is a native Californian and Marsha hails from Oswego, New York. Ed is a physician and practicing psychiatrist with a strong interest in technology. Marsha is a retired teacher who taught third and fifth graders in New York and Honolulu before founding a Waldorf School in Pennsylvania.

Marsha and Ed met in Honolulu at a spiritual retreat focused on building better communities and a better world.

Marsha was living in Honolulu at the time, where she taught and worked for a maker of hand-crafted picture frames. She also helped build a huge wooden spiral staircase for a client, and built and finished her own dining table out of Hawaiian hardwood. Her other interests include singing, doll-making, and right now, making hats out of Noro (Japanese yarn) for her extended family for Christmas.

Some of Ed's interests are music, especially classical and jazz, folk dancing, yoga and meditation, family and

community. He's committed to doing something to heal the planet, hence his passion for co-housing and the tiny house movement. He loves good design and likes to look at new ways of doing things.

Marsha was raised a Catholic, went to Catholic schools and found them too rigid. She met her former husband in college and they lived in Oswego for 26 years before moving to Hawaii. In addition to founding the Waldorf School, after moving to Maine she commuted five days a week with Adam to Rockport, where he attended a Waldorf school and she managed the school office. Adam is now a Junior at Elmira College, where he is studying Political Science.

In his younger days, Ed went to a folk dance group at the University of Nevada, Reno and met some UU's. He responded to their ethic of caring for others and the planet without the baggage of an ideology. A year or so ago, he and Marsha began coming to our church. Ed jumped in and played the saxophone in our holiday orchestra. He also plays the EWI (electronic wind instrument) and the recorder. He is a member of the Green Sanctuary Committee and would love to start a folk dance group to help build community and have fun!

STAY TUNED FOR SOUPS ON!



By all accounts, **jUUST desserts!** was a huge success. About 20 newcomers and new members attended with a like number of 'old timers' - everyone mingled, and already we have heard of coffee dates, dinner plans, and carpooling arrangements! Stay tuned for the Membership hosted winter event, **Soups On!**, possibly to be held in Bath after church one Sunday in January or February. Thanks to everyone who helped in any way!

CALL FOR VOLUNTEERS

AT THE GATHERING PLACE

The Brunswick Interfaith Council has created *The Gathering Place*, a day-time shelter for the homeless and all those who need a safe and welcoming place to be during the day. (The UUCB Women's Alliance raised and donated \$1,000 to *The Gathering Place* - proceeds from the Empty Bowl Supper.) Open from 9-3 on Mondays Tuesdays, Thursdays and Fridays, the drop in center's schedule coincides partially with the hours that the Tedford Shelter is closed. *The Gathering Place* is located in the Seventh Day Adventist former church building at 84B Union Street, directly across from Hannaford's.

Volunteers provide simple presence, a listening ear, organization and oversight as needed. Guests come and go – talking, sitting, enjoying coffee and snacks, using the computers, reading, playing board games, etc. Following a training session (about 2 hours) volunteers sign up for three hour shifts (from 9-12 or 12-3. If you would like more information about the next orientation session, call Bunny Fazekas at 729-3243. For information from a current volunteer, see Cathey Cyrus.

Cathey Cyrus
Setting up coffee at
The Gathering Place



The Gathering Place
84B Union Street
Brunswick

SERVING WITH GRACE

There are many opportunities to engage in the life of the church through volunteer service. The *Serving with Grace* display board, formerly located in the Community Room of the church, is recreating itself and will soon appear at the Minnie Brown Center on Sunday mornings. There you will find information about how and where your energy and ideas can make a difference.

In the meantime, if you are interested in learning more about the work of the Personnel Committee or the Strategic Planning Committee, or helping to organize the Sunday morning coffee hour in our new space, please see one of us on the Nominating Committee.

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



COMMITTEE FAIR

SAVE THE DATE

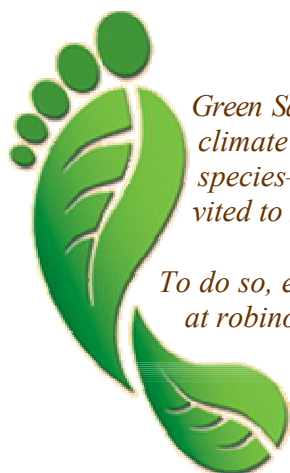
On **October 30**, after the service, UUCB Council / Committees will host a "Committee Fair." At the Fair you can learn what our Committees do, and who is working on what at UUCB. How might you serve, and participate with others in a common cause, in the UUCB community?

Our vitality depends on the talents, time, and donations of each of us. We develop and grow spiritually, both individually and as a community, through nurturing the UUCB however we can. As Eric Walker Wikstrom writes in "Serving with Grace," participating with others "lifts you out of your narrow concerns and helps you find your place in the larger interconnected web" of the community.

Come along, chat with others, explore the opportunities, find your place!

--Bill Clark, for the UUCB Council

GREEN SANCTUARY FOOTPRINT



Green Sanctuary Footprint is an open mic on the environment, climate change, carbon footprints, relationships with other species—all that good stuff. You — yes, YOU—are invited to submit a short essay (50 to 200 words) to it.

To do so, email or call Green Sanctuary chair, Robin Hansen at robinoh@comcast.net to reserve a month.

Carpooling to Bath

What does being a Green Sanctuary mean to each of us in how we individually and collectively live our lives?

It means thinking of ways to do more to “care for the earth” as our mission statement so clearly expresses.

Car-pooling to church seems to be an obvious, easy way to do this.

Your Green Sanctuary Committee has been asked to help with setting up car pools to the Minnie Brown Center on Sundays. This will not only reduce the amount of carbon our church collectively puts into the atmosphere, but it will also ease parking congestion around MBC and Bath's Library Park.

We hope to cut the number of cars going to Minnie Brown Center in half by pooling our transportation resources. If you have an extra seat in your car traveling from outside Bath, you could take another UUCB'er to church—and maybe home again, not necessarily both.

A few car pools have already formed. Some are full already, but others are still have open seats. Two meet at Hannaford parking lots, one in Topsham (Alene Staley) and one in Brunswick. A car is scheduled to pick up Bowdoin students at Bowdoin (more to come on place and time).

Look for the carpooling map and signup sheets at church on Sundays showing points of origin for carpools. Sign up for a seat in an existing car pool or make a new list for your own pool with you as the driver, indicating where you would like to meet. You can always circulate driving among members of your pool, if all members drive. This is not only for people who can't drive but for all of us trying to save energy and \$\$.

Those who do not drive can also contact Jim Michaud, who is in charge of transportation for the Caring Committee.

If you need help finding a car pool or setting one up, please contact Robin Hansen of the Green Sanctuary Committee. --- *Hope Russell*

PARKING AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

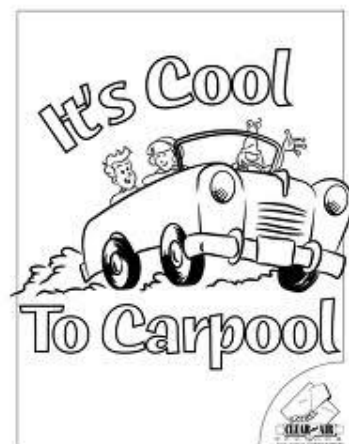
Please take note of “No Parking” signs in Bath.

Please do **NOT** park in the following places:

- § Behind the Minnie Brown Center (Parking is available there for only the Mobility Assistant who needs to be able to drive people down to the restrooms and for Nicole Shanks or her designee, who has to schlep RE things back and forth.)
- § Directly in front of the Minnie Brown Center, unless you have a “handicapped” tag
- § Remember to observe “No Parking” signs on Summer Street, the road that runs perpendicular to Washington Street.

The following places are **legal** parking places:

- § Along Washington Street (unless prohibited by a “No Parking” sign)
- § At the Bath public library parking lot



UPCOMING RETREATS led by Karen Foley

A BALM IN GILEAD: Forgiving and Letting Go

Nov 18-20, 2011

Friday 7:00 pm - Sunday 1:00 pm

Living Water Spiritual Center, Winslow, Maine

(just south of Waterville on Rt. 95)

\$185.00 includes healthy, delicious lunch.

To register: info@retreatinmaine.com or 207-872-2370

Register by November 4 to ensure participation;

Insufficient registration 2 weeks prior causes program cancellation.



We all hurt and are hurt by others and we are all called upon to forgive and stand in need of forgiveness. This is at the heart of most spiritual traditions. Yet if we are honest, forgiveness is often a stumbling block in our spiritual lives. We will explore forgiveness in our own lives—its presence and absence, our embrace of and resistance to it. Come with your heart and spirit as they are; you will not be "required" to forgive anyone, just to be open to exploring and reflecting. This retreat is being offered again in response to requests for repeats!

Rev. Karen Foley, a semi-retired Unitarian Universalist minister, offers spiritual direction/ companionship. She completed the Shalem Institute programs in spiritual guidance and retreat and group leadership. Her poetry and reflective writings have appeared in newspapers, Unitarian Universalist collections, the journal of Spiritual Directors International, *Sacred Journey*, and literary anthologies.

HOW SHALL I PRAY? A Day Apart

October 24, 2011, Monday 9:30-3:30

(arrive at 9:00 for coffee etc. Program begins at 9:30)

Rolling Ridge Retreat Center, North Andover, Massachusetts

\$53.00 early registration (\$60 after October 17)

To register: www.rollingridge.org or 978-682-8815



It was difficult for me to re-begin to pray as an adult, and my practice has fallen into disrepair a number of times in the many years since. But it stays with me because I want it. This day is for those struggling with their prayer practice or wishing to begin but not sure how. We'll address what it means to pray and impediments to doing so, and explore some practices.

NORTHEAST GUILD FOR SPIRITUAL FORMATION

WISDOM WEEKEND WITH MARTIN LAIRD:

Day of Teaching - Fri, Oct 14, 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

at St. Andrew Church, Seal Cove, Maine

Cost: \$50 (Includes refreshments and snacks;
please bring your lunch)

Retreat Experience - Sat, Oct 15, 9:00 am - Sun, Oct 16,

12:00 pm at The Alcyon Center, Seal cove

Cost: \$100 tuition (Room & Board available
for an additional cost; see www.alcyoncenter.org)

Dr. Martin Laird, O.S.A., is Associate Professor in the Department of Theology and Religious Studies at Villanova University. He has studied early Christian literature in Rome, London, and Oxford. Martin has extensive training in contemplative disciplines and gives retreats throughout the United States and Great Britain. He is the author of several books, including the guide to contemplative prayer, *Into the Silent Land*, and its new companion volume, *A Sunlit Absence*.

UPDATES FROM THE WORKING FOR JUSTICE STEERING GROUP

The Working For Justice Steering Group met on September 8th to review actions over the summer and plan for future focus in the coming months.

The Peace Fair was well represented and several conversations resulted in new people attending the service the following day. Most were new to the area. It was agreed that UUCB would have a presence at the 2012 Peace Fair.

At the fair during a conversation with The Restorative Justice Project in Mid Coast Maine (one of our Charities with Soul organizations) and their learning of the loss of our church building and contents, they generously donated a book to our "new" library. The organization would like to tell us about their work at some future meeting or church service. At the next meeting, we will talk about parts of the book *Assembling the Pieces* -- that are significant for each of us. The book was donated to each member of the WFJ group by Connie & Betty Wurtz. Steve Wessler, Director of the Center for

Preventing Hate, will participate in the Sunday worship service on 11/13. The Working for Justice Steering Group hopes the service will inform and energize our congregation as we focus our attention on learning about and acting to prevent hate and prejudice in our church and the wider community.

In addition we are exploring lines of communication with Bowdoin College - hoping to collaborate with Bowdoin students in future anti bias programs and actions. We also thought that the Sylvia Stocker & Steve Wessler service could serve as a springboard for subsequent events ("3 or more") that our Group would sponsor.

We also discussed researching the resources on the website: uuministryforearth.org.

Submitted by *Cathey Cyrus* and *Lynn Ellis* for the Working for Justice Steering Group

ON THE ROAD TO RECOVERY



The Recovery Team met September 21 for our weekly meeting at the McLellan Center of Bowdoin College.

First we want to thank everyone who came to the meeting Sunday after church. The discussion was focused with many insightful questions and comments. While not unanimous, the two votes were stunning in their indication of a very united congregation. We will be rebuilding on our Pleasant Street location, and an overwhelming majority wants to take down the entire structure and rebuild on that site.

The information regarding our plans will be presented to the Village Review Board at their October meeting. Our architects and Judy Chamberlain will attend that meeting. We will certainly share with them that any building we design will be in keeping with the architecture surrounding us (which is in fact quite varied and represents a number of historic styles).

The time line we need to follow if we wish to have a building by next fall is fairly tight. We will be setting up a number of meetings in the next few weeks to present three general architectural concepts for rebuilding. The exact dates are not set yet, as we have to coordinate with the Council. We will try to have one or two held right after service on a Sunday and at least one at another time and site—perhaps the Brunswick Library.

The Board plans to have a congregational vote to choose one of the three concepts in November. Right now it appears that will be on November 6. Watch your e-mail for more information and confirmation of the date.

**A POTLUCK will be held on October 21st in conjunction with the architect's presentation.
More details forthcoming. Stay tuned!**

HOW TO CONTACT THE RECOVERY TEAM:

- * Email: uucbrecovery@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>.

UUCB \$ DOLLAR SALE \$

Get neat stuff at the
UUCB \$ Dollar Sale \$

Help the UUCB Recovery

The Dollar Store sells things for more than a dollar, but items at the UUCB Dollar Sale will cost you only that, \$1 per item, no matter how pricy the item once was.

Robin and Erik Hansen were assigned to sort and remove a pile of STUFF left in the Community Room by Service Master. We sorted, and when we'd returned things that belonged to others, piled up trashed items, rescued and cleaned useful things, we were left with

Things that clean up, look good, and work, but are senseless in a new church.

At the Pot Luck on October 21, The Dollar Sale will sell — a clam knife; interesting foreign 45 rpm records; a 3 by 5 Sale banner; cans of paint (many, many); boxes of nails and screws; slightly weird card tables; a Kodak carousel slide projector; a sugar bowl that looks like a cottage, a bag of slightly used candles; good but too plentiful soup ladles; a TV set, and much more.

Each item will cost \$\$ ONE \$\$ DOLLAR \$\$

If you see something that's yours, you can have it back — for a dollar. If you see something you want, you can have it, for a dollar. If you just want to donate some dollars, take something (anything) for each dollar you donate. Everything must go!

Proceeds to the UUCB recovery effort.

All items were cleaned free of charge by UUCB members and smell clean! No smoky smell!

MOST NEEDED FOOD ITEMS

Spaghetti Sauce
Tomato Products
(Canned tomatoes, sauce, paste, etc.)
Canned Baked Beans
Canned Green Beans

CHARITIES WITH SOUL

October Charity

This month's plate offerings are split 50/50 with the Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program. This charity was chosen by the Charities with Soul Task Force as one of several organizations meeting the criteria of social change/social justice groups.

The Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program in Brunswick provides food assistance, sustainable living education, and referral services to households at or below the poverty line in Brunswick, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Durham, Harpswell, Lisbon, Lisbon Falls, and Topsham. The Program services over 12,000 families each year. For more information go to their website

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

The Charities With Soul Task Force:

Jane Danielson, Steve Eagles, Lynn Ellis & Rich Knox

Midcoast Hunger Prevention Program

NNED FOOD DRIVE OCTOBER 2ND

If you forgot your non-perishable food items on September 25th, you still have a chance to donate to the district-wide food collection.

Bring non-perishable items to church with you on **October 2nd** and we will bring our haul to Midcoast Hunger Prevention as one large donation from our church.



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

I'm a late bloomer, but starting slow may have its advantages. I've been a member of UUCB for over 15 years and I watched from the outside for many of them. It took me a while to get drawn in, but now that I'm sitting in this Chair, I'm paying attention to what's really going on. And that is a truly amazing collective effort of time, dedication, work and care going into every aspect of our church, making it a vibrant, engaging community, doing good work.

The jUust Desserts gathering is a great example of the success of our growing community. Debbie Zorach and her crew on the Membership Committee pulled together this gathering of new members and Friends to meet each other and visit with others who have been around a while. It was a wonderful event, yet just one of the many church activities on the calendar. I find that as I participate more and more, I better understand why UUCB is growing and getting stronger all the time.

We have a talented, dedicated staff and scores of volunteers who pour their hearts into UUCB week after week. The Board and I thank all who contribute and hope you reap some rewards from your efforts. The first part of our Mission is "to be a spiritual community." I hope you, and everyone, can find a niche where you can feed your spirit. I know I have.

On a less lofty note, I want to report on a couple of items of Board activity. We are counting on broad participation in the Covenanting Workshop on Saturday, October 15 and the church service the next day where we will (if all goes according to plan) endorse a new Congrega-

tional Covenant. Members and Friends, and all connected to UUCB are encouraged to join in as we develop the words for our commitment to each other. See the article in this Parish Messenger for all the details.

When the congregation voted on the 2011-12 budget back in June, the Board promised an update to the congregation in the fall. Well, fall is here and we are trying to schedule a meeting to look at the state of our finances. It looks like the most effective time for the update will be in early December, unfortunately later than we had hoped. With intense schedules, Recovery and building concept and other meetings, and the fluid nature of the insurance/building project, we expect to have a much clearer picture to present later in several weeks.

In the meantime, our finances look stable, as we proceed with caution. We encourage everyone who has pledged to honor your monthly commitment (which stabilizes our "cash flow".) We encourage anyone who has not made a pledge for 2011-12 to support the work of the church with a financial pledge (contact the church office for a form). Everyone's participation is a key to our long term financial health.

I'm glad that I finally "get" the depth of commitment so many have made to our church community. I thank you all, and I welcome the growing spirit all around us.

In love and peace,

Mike Heath

BYO COFFEE MUG & CLOTH NAPKIN



I Dwell in Possibility

I dwell in Possibility--
A fairer House than Prose--
More numerous of Windows--
Superior--for Doors--

Of Chambers as the Cedars--
Impregnable of Eye--
And for an Everlasting Roof
The Gambrels of the Sky--

Of Visitors--the fairest--
For Occupation--This--
The spreading wide my narrow
Hands
To gather Paradise--

Emily Dickinson

NEW UU ORIENTATION CLASSES

On Saturday, **October 29, 2011**, from 9 – 1, Sylvia and the Membership Committee will lead an orientation class for newcomers and friends who would like to deepen their knowledge of our church and Unitarian Universalism. Coffee, tea and treats will be served starting at 8:30 am. New this year for those who prefer evening classes, will be two 2-hour classes covering the same information as the Saturday class, but held on Tuesday evenings **October 25th** and **November 8th**. Snacks to be served for the evening classes as well. Locations to be determined.

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

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

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

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

Warmly, *Sylvia*

REMINDERS FOR SUNDAY SERVICES



We ask people to carpool to Minnie Brown to reduce our carbon footprint and to maximize parking spaces.

Bring your own coffee cups and napkins for coffee hour after the service.

Bring non-perishable food for the NNED Food Drive

Bring cash or checks for Hannaford Cards

Wear your name tags.

Introduce yourself to faces that are unfamiliar

Sign-up for various events or volunteer jobs at the sign-up table.

THANKSGIVING/CHRISTMAS FREE SWAP

Sunday, Nov. 20 after church

Start rummaging through your closets and attics for items in good condition that you have no use for. On Sunday, Nov. 20th, leave your items on the rear tables for the post-service FREE SWAP.

As we have limited space at MBC, bring no more than **5 items** suitable for re-gifting. It's a fun way to clear out your "re-giftables."



Sponsored by the Monday, 1-3 pm
Chalice Circle.

Call Hannah and Mary Ann with ??'s.

OCTOBER 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

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

CO - Church Office
MBC - Minnie Brown Center
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

10:00 Service: MBC
Beth Israel in Bath

NNED Food Drive
10-11:15 Youth Group

3

4

2:15-6:45 violin : Parlor

5

3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor

5-7:30 Counseling Group:
7 Pen

6

2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor

7

9:30 AA : Pen

8



9

10:00 Service: MBC
Beth Israel in Bath
Newcomers Comer
following church service
RE Multi-generational
Birthday Party

10

10-12 Chalice Circle: Par
1-3 Chalice Circle: Par

COLUMBUS DAY

11

2:15-6:45 violin : Par

6:30 Stories with Soul:
Parlor

12

3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor

5-7:30 Counseling Group:
7 Pen

13

2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor

6:00 Justice Steering Com:
7 Pen

14

9:30 AA: Pennell

15

9-2 Creating a Congrega-
tional Covenant: MR

16

10:00 Service: MBC
Beth Israel in Bath

17

18

2:15-6:45 violin : Par

19

3:45 - 6:30 violin : Parlor
6:30 - 7:30 violin : Office

5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen

6:30 Songwriters Group:
Par

20

12:30-2 Strategic Planning

2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor

21

9:30 AA : Pennell

Recovery Team Potluck
and
Dollar Sale

22

23

10:00 Service: MBC
Beth Israel in Bath

Newcomers Comer
following church service
10-11:15 Youth Group

24

25

2:15-6:45 violin : Par
6:30 Stories with Soul:
Parlor
7-9 New UU Orientation
Class: TBA

26

3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor

5-7:30 Counseling Group:
7 Pen

27

2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor

28

9:30 AA : Pennell

29

9-1 New UU Orientation
Class: TBA

30

10:00 Service: MBC
Beth Israel in Bath

Committee Fair
following church service

31



Another Famous UU: Rod Serling

