

November 2011

Board Chair Report.....	13
CALENDAR	16
Cares and Celebrations	12
Charities with Soul.....	5
Covenant (Our New).....	12
CUUPS	4
E-Books.....	5
Financial Development	10-11
Free Swap	13
Hannaford Cards.....	15
Holiday Fair.....	14
Hospitality Hour.....	5
How to Reach Us.....	2
Minister's Musings.....	3
New Member - Kate Gray	4
Nominating Committee	11
Religious Education.....	2
Strategic Plan.....	6
Sunday Services	1
Interest/Skills Survey	7-8
Treasurer's Report.....	9
UU Theology	11
Vehicle Donation.....	6
Working for Justice.....	6
Workshops/Programs	9 & 11

Parish Messenger

**Unitarian Universalist Church
Of Brunswick**



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

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
michaud_susan@comcast.net
NEXT DEADLINE
for December issue is
Fri, Nov.25, 2011, 5 pm
Rare exceptions: 729-4857

ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

November 6 – “Reading of the Names”

For an entire year we’ve been reading the names of American military killed in action during the previous week. Over that time, the congregation has evolved its own way of honoring those moments. Most notably, for the first few months, only one or two people stood for the roll call. Now, only a handful of people remain seated. In honor of Veterans’ Day, Sienna Dode, Karen Foley, and Sylvia Stocker will reflect on what the ritual means to them. What does it mean to *you*, and where might you hope it leads? Music provided by Brad Mitchell on piano and Louise Gephart on Harp. **Remember to set your clocks back the night before.**

November 13

Sylvia Stocker shares the pulpit with special guest Steve Wessler as we explore hate and prejudice in our Maine communities and dream and plan to turn it around. What are we facing? How do we build beloved community together? Steve Wessler has been a human rights educator, trainer and advocate for the past 20 years. In 1992 he started and for the next 7 years directed the Civil Rights (or Hate Crimes) Unit in the Maine Office of the Attorney General. In 1999 he founded and led the Center for Preventing Hate. Until it closed this fall, the Center worked to respond to and prevent bias, harassment, discrimination and hate crimes in Maine and elsewhere. Steve is continuing to work on a broad range of human rights issues in Maine, in other parts. Music provided by Larry Lemmel.

November 20 – Multi-generational Thanksgiving Service

Sylvia Stocker and Nicole Shanks will lead the service. Please come and bring canned goods to donate to Midcoast Hunger Prevention. Today will be New Member Sunday, too, during which we celebrate those who have signed our Membership Book since last June. Music provided by the choir, directed by Heidi Neufeld, with David Dean accompanist.

November 27 – “Nuts and Bolts, or Why I Decided NOT to Become a Minister!”

Pat Harris will reflect on why she chose the path of lay ministry over an ordained one, and how that decision has changed and enriched her life. Music to be announced.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

IT'S TIME TO WELCOME A GUEST AT YOUR TABLE!



On November 20, we'll open our Guest at Your Table program at our inter-generational worship service. When we bring home our Guest at Your Table boxes and place them prominently where we regularly gather, our families and friends have the chance to learn about real people who are succeeding in their struggles for justice with UUSC.

Stories of Hope will help children, youth, and adults learn more about how UUSC partners with human-rights leaders in the United States and around the world advance our common goals for justice. The stories introduce youth and young-adult leaders such as Dalia Ziada, who started speaking out by winning an essay contest and now helps others in Egypt find their voice and advocate for their rights. One story highlights Patrick Lafontant, who survived on his own in Haiti but then thrived when he found a purpose helping others through art therapy. His leadership grew with a new purpose after the earthquake and by working with UUSC partner the Association for the Promotion of Integral Family Healthcare. You can access the Stories of Hope online at the following website:

http://www.uusc.org/files/2011-2012_Stories-of-Hope-Booklet.pdf

Consider making it part of a weekly practice, perhaps while gathered at the dinner table, to read through one of the stories and discuss its meaning and how we each can help. When we share our blessings with our "guests," we ensure that UUSC and people like Dalia and Patrick can continue their important work.

And, thanks to the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock in Manhasset, N.Y., gifts of \$100 or more are eligible to be matched, dollar for dollar, doubling the impact of your support!

If you miss picking up your Guest at Your Table donation box or envelope on the 20th, you can do so in the church office during or on Sundays during worship at the Minnie Brown Center.

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

Nov 6 - RE Classes, Youth Group

Nov 13 - RE Classes, Youth Group

Nov 20 - Intergenerational Service and the Opening of Guest at Your Table Boxes

Nov 27 - Multi-Age Activity- Holiday crafts; parents, please sign up your children if they will be participating

... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



As I write this column on October 21, I am celebrating the volunteer pansy plants that have set root in my lawn. There in the sea of green, bold, purple blossoms reach up to the sun. How surprising! I bring this vision to you, not to disparage the stalwart blades of grass (and, in my lawn, mostly weeds) that shoot skyward, but more to marvel at the ways the unexpected can sometimes bring delight where we weren't looking for it.

Even though life goes on in our church and my days look very similar to the way they have always looked since I landed in Brunswick, I can honestly say that my life post-fire has utterly altered. Now I am the recipient of much new learning – much of it surprisingly delightful and invigorating.

I am learning something about generosity – specifically what it means to be on the receiving end of it for an extended period of time. Our fire has long ago faded from the news, but nearly every day I bump up against startling generosity, of either a practical or emotional nature. For example, a member of the Village Review Board tells us how happy she is to hear we are staying in town. Or, I post on my blog an article about the fire. Then, after reading the posting, people outside our church donate another \$1000 to our fire recovery fund. In our community, and even in the much wider world, people with very big hearts are holding us as we move forward.

A higher degree of planning is necessary for me now, just to get through the week. Sometimes things fall off my plate, acquainting me with chaos in a whole new way. For example, a few weeks ago, I forgot to stop at the church on Sunday morning to pick up the Orders of Worship. Several frantic phone calls later, I had located Mike and Val Heath who hadn't left Brunswick yet, who had a key to get into the church office, and who graciously offered to add a stop on their way over to Bath. Last Sunday I wore summery clothes to church, knowing how hot I get wearing my black 100% polyester robe during the service. But as I pulled up to the curb outside the Minnie Brown Center, I realized my robe was in our other car. And the air was distinctly chilly. Oh well. I'm learning in a new way how to recognize what is important and what isn't, how to move on, how to "punt," as the football players do. Even though our present circumstances can make me feel unsettled at times, over and over again, life is leading me to see there is an ongoing opportunity to learn new flexibility and to increase creativity now. What an amazing gift.

At church meetings of every description, the fire has changed the trajectory of plans. Every week I have the great privilege to work with all of you, who are so gracefully figuring out the new dance steps,

applying your imaginations, and boldly exploring and discovering new ways of dreaming and doing. I am inspired and awed by the amazing spirit of this congregation. We aren't just putting one foot in front of the other to move on, we are moving with spirit, openness, ingenuity, and resourcefulness.

November is the month when we are prodded more publicly than normal to name the things for which we are grateful. This year, despite the loss of our church building, I find myself encountering moment after moment that fill my heart with gratitude. Whether it's the surprising offers for help and contributions to our much-needed recovery funds, or opportunities to stretch and grow, or awe-filled moments I spend working at your sides, I have much to celebrate this Thanksgiving. So many of the surprises that have filled the last few months have been like the purple pansies growing in my lawn – moments of unexpected color and beauty. And I am grateful.

BAUBLES AND BOWS AT THE NOVEMBER ALLIANCE MEETING

We will be getting in the holiday mood by making bows for the wreaths UUCB plans to sell at the **Minimal Holiday Fair** (see other articles in this Messenger). We may be doing other things to get ready for the fair. And we will get an update on the doll house fundraising project from Janet Alexander.

The meeting will be at the **Minnie Brown Center** in Bath on **Tuesday, November 22nd at 10:30 am**. Bring a sandwich. Penny Elwell will provide dessert. All women members and friends are invited.

Helen Johnson,
Alliance president



NEW MEMBER - KATE GRAY



Kate grew up in the Harpswell Congregational Church. She says that it wasn't the building or the denomination, but the people that attracted her. As an adult, she attended various churches wherever she was; always it was the people that drew her in.

A year or so ago, she felt a need to find a church home. She looked us up on-line and was attracted to our liberal theology and our emphasis on forming our own, individual beliefs. She said our church was similar in appearance to her childhood church, and the people were friendly. She is very appreciative of the efforts of the Membership Committee in providing a welcoming feeling and making her

feel at home right away. She enjoys Sylvia's sermons and is drawn to her obvious joy.

Music and singing are an important part of what we offer as is our well-run RE program. Her attachment to the Harpswell church community is something she hopes her daughter, five-year-old Celeste, gains from our church (although Celeste is allowed to decide for herself whether she wants to go on any given Sunday).

Both of Kate's grandmothers were UU's. Her maternal grandmother, Helen Slater, attended our church for several years when Brad was the minister, and her father's parents attended other UU churches. Kate's father's

philosophy was to have fun in life and be kind to people. He is a retired professor of biology at Bowdoin College, specializing in birds. Kate's mother is a musician who always encouraged her and her siblings to find their own answers to life's questions.

Kate earned her BA in music from Yale in 1986 and lived in Pittsburg, PA and New Zealand right after college. After moving back to Brunswick and working at a pre-school, she went to University of Southern Maine and earned a degree in Music Education in 1994. She lived in Waterville and taught music in the schools there for three and a half years, then taught privately there for ten years.

Kate and her husband Bill went to the same high school, where he was two years behind her. Her sister, Sarah met him at a class reunion in 2003 and did a little match-making. Kate and Bill were married in 2004. Bill has been a computer whiz since high school; he writes software for astronomers in his home office.

Kate's instrument is the violin. She is passionate about it and considers it both her hobby and her profession. She also loves to garden, walk and spend time with family and friends.

Be sure to get to know Kate at coffee hour so she keeps on thinking we are a warm, friendly congregation!

Jessica Tracy

CUUPS

The Brunswick U.U. Pagans group meets in the parlor of Pennell House on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month from 7 PM – 9 PM.
Please call Bill McElman at 443-9445 for more information.



HOSPITALITY HOUR

And We're Off!

Hospitality Hour is in full swing at the Minnie Brown Center – the same as always in the most important ways. We greet each other, sip our coffee as we catch up, meet someone new and ask a few questions, respond to cares and celebrations we've heard and maybe have a taste (or two) of something delicious as we mingle.

Our first six Sundays have brought us wonderful hosts! Thanks to Vicki and Hank Simpson, Jean and Mel Hodgkins, Caroline Evans, Monique & Sandy Sondheim, Pamela Ericson and Jon Powers, Esther and Barclay Palmer, Susan Chandel and Bill McElman. We also thank all the Members and Friends from Bath who welcomed us to our new church home with wonderful treats the day of our first service.

Many thanks to those who've helped make it happen: members of the Worship Committee who put much thought into what would work best where, Heidi Neufeld, who brought things from storage in Biddeford for the kitchen and made tablecloths especially for those very long tables, and people like Judy Chamberlain who appeared downstairs in our first weeks and whisked away the trash!

Special thanks to Caroline Evans, Sarah Brown and Jean Tompkins for welcoming hosts before church, helping them get set up, and staying to assist in clean up so we leave everything just as it was.

(Our congregation is making good use of the space at MBCenter on Sundays, including the bathrooms! Donations of paper towels and toilet tissue will be very welcome from time to time.)

WE NEED HOSTS from November 13th on (!!!) with the exception of 12/18.

*****Please sign up on Sunday - you will have all the assistance you want from other volunteers.*****

Hospitality is a vital part of our Sundays. To sustain it, ourselves and each other, let's all think of ways to contribute!

Blessings,
Valerie
for the Hospitality Team



CHARITIES WITH SOUL

November Charity



The Center for Wisdom's Women is a sacred and safe place in Lewiston that supports and empowers women. The goals of The Center are to help women become aware of their inner resources, to pursue life affirming relationships, and to develop their potential. The Center was opened in 1999 by the Daughters of Wisdom, a Roman Catholic congregation. In June 2008, The Center was reorganized with volunteer help and in 2009 Klara Tammany was hired as Executive Director. Trinity Episcopal Church agreed to be The Center's fiscal sponsor for 501(c)3 status. You can view activities and learn more at www.wisdomswomen.org

The Charities With Soul Task Force:
Jane Danielson, Steve Eagles, Lynn Ellis & Rich Knox

The Center for Wisdom's Women

SKINNER HOUSE EBOOKS

Are you one of the many readers who now use an e-reader? If so, this news is for you. Starting earlier this year, Skinner House Books began publishing its new titles and selected older titles as eBooks. More than 50 Skinner House eBooks are now available through this link to the UUA bookstore web page

<http://www.uuabookstore.org/showproducts.cfm?FullCat=147>

Skinner House Books is a book publisher run by the UUA, specializing in books for UU's -- meditation manuals, worship and church resources, and books on theology, UU history and social justice concerns.

MOVING TOWARD OUR GOALS: HOW DO WE STAND NOW ON OUR STRATEGIC PLAN?

The years 2008 and 2009 were momentous ones for this congregation. In 2008 we drafted our UUCB Mission Statement, and in 2009 we followed up with a brainstorming session to identify actions that would fulfill the five elements of the Mission Statement. From the brainstorming session and from the votes we took afterwards, our Strategic Plan for 2009-2014 took shape. Since then the Strategic Planning Committee has been tracking our steady progress towards the goals set out in the Plan (see our "Moving Toward Our Goals" articles in the Parish Messenger last spring on the excellent work of the Properties Committee, the Green Sanctuary program, the Development Committee, and the Membership Committee).

Then in June our situation changed radically when fire heavily damaged our church. Some of the Strategic Plan's specific goals became unrealizable ("Activate emergency lighting"), and some that had already been accomplished ("Mount Mission Statement in stairwell") were erased by the fire. To see where we are, the Strategic Planning Committee has been reviewing the plan created in 2009 and will soon make available a version that tracks what goals have been accomplished, what goals need revision because of the fire, and what goals we're still working on.

Look for the newly reviewed version of the Strategic Plan to be made available before too long at a Sunday service, with copies also on our website and from the church administrator. Yes, there are some very high hurdles to jump, but keep your eye on the remarkable progress we've managed to make and your thoughts focused on all we still plan to accomplish!

Nancy Dorian for the Strategic Planning Committee

OUR MISSION IS.... TO WORK FOR JUSTICE

On Sunday, Nov. 13, Sylvia will co-lead the morning service with Steve Wessler, formerly Director of the Center for Preventing Hate and now a private consultant for Human Rights Education, Training and Advocacy. Steve has worked with schools and communities nationally and internationally to create safe communities which welcome and celebrate diversity. He will encourage us to reflect on the powerful presence of hate and prejudice in the lives of many Mainers and encourage our congregation to consider ways we could make a difference in the greater Brunswick area and in our own communities.

This service is part of the UUCB Working for Justice initiative focusing on the prevention of hate and prejudice. We hope you will be able to be present.

Submitted by *Cathey Cyrus* for the Working for Justice Steering Group

YOUR VEHICLE DONATION CAN BENEFIT UUCB!

If you need to donate an old vehicle, the proceeds can now go to our church! I am near the end of the process of donating our old station wagon. In my search to find a way for the proceeds of our donation to go to UUCB, I came across *Vehicle Donations to Any Charity (V-DAC)*, the same service you would go through to donate a vehicle to public radio stations. UUCB has registered with V-DAC as a non-profit charity (there are no fees). I have found the process simple, fast, and clear, the business responsive, and V-DAC's web site transparent and easy to navigate. Please spread the word about this option and feel free to contact me for information or follow-up.

You can also find information about the program on the V-DAC website at <http://www.v-dac.com/>

Julie Dahmer
(jcdahmer@comcast.net)



Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Shared Ministry Skills and Interests Survey

*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*

“We are here to abet creation” – Annie Dillard

With the questionnaire on the reverse side, the Nominating Committee asks each of us to consider how we can participate in the shared ministry of our congregation. I invite you to take the questions below seriously, to answer them candidly, and to use them as a vehicle for exploring your own inner path and the call to serve.

Unitarian Universalism, different from many other religions, lifts up the ongoing creation of beloved community as the deepest and most profound way of walking a spiritual path. Congregational life comforts, inspires, and educates, using relationship and shared service as a significant tool to encourage transformation. Our congregation encourages each of us to participate in the ongoing creation of this beloved community, here in the heart of Brunswick. Our shared ministry of laity and clergy alike addresses this world, now, today, and the world our children will inherit, too.

The work we do together, elbow to elbow and hip to hip, is part of the spiritual journey, the deepening of souls, and the opening of hearts and minds. So I encourage you to help us to know how you might best join in the shared ministry of our community.

Love,
Sylvia

[please fold along line and seal edges if returning by U.S. mail]

apply
first-class
stamp

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BRUNSWICK

P. O. Box 129

Brunswick, ME 04011-0129

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Shared Ministry Skills and Interests Survey

Name: _____

Date: _____

Preferred Method of Contact (please check one and provide information):

☐ email _____ ☐ phone _____ ☐ US mail _____

I have interests in: (examples: fund raising, teaching children, music)

I have skills in: (examples: accounting, working with the elderly, singing)

I prefer to work (check those that apply):

☐ on my own ☐ with a few others ☐ as part of a larger group ☐ behind the scenes ☐ in public

My preference is to:

☐ be a planner ☐ help carry out plans ☐ be in charge ☐ be a “worker bee”
☐ be part of an on-going team or committee ☐ be involved in short-term tasks/projects

I can volunteer my time:

☐ weekdays ☐ weekends ☐ evenings ☐ occasionally ☐ anytime ☐ other (explain)

I am especially interested in and/or want to know more about opportunities in these areas:

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> meeting new people/making new friends | <input type="checkbox"/> maintaining our buildings and grounds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> reaching out to those who are new at UUCB | <input type="checkbox"/> church governance opportunities |
| <input type="checkbox"/> helping members and friends in need | <input type="checkbox"/> church finances |
| <input type="checkbox"/> strengthening connections within our church | <input type="checkbox"/> planning or leading worship |
| <input type="checkbox"/> publicity/outreach to the wider community | <input type="checkbox"/> women’s spirituality/retreats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> musical activities | <input type="checkbox"/> men’s spirituality/retreats |
| <input type="checkbox"/> artistic activities | <input type="checkbox"/> hospitality/coffee hour |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious education/programming for children | <input type="checkbox"/> committee on ministry |
| <input type="checkbox"/> religious education/programming for adults | <input type="checkbox"/> engaging on a denominational level |
| <input type="checkbox"/> fund-raising activities | <input type="checkbox"/> (conferences, workshops, resources) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> social action opportunities/activities | <input type="checkbox"/> volunteer activities I can do from my home |

Any additional comments?

NOTE: Please return your completed survey to the Church Office (drop off -- or fold, apply 44 ct stamp and mail) or to a member of the Nominating Committee (Cathey Cyrus, Jim Michaud, Paul Schaffner, Ann Spencer)

Many thanks!

Nominating Committee

UPCOMING WORKSHOPS/PROGRAMS 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!

PEOPLE PLUS NEW PROGRAM! MEDITATION FOR WELL-BEING



Guided meditation can :

- ♦ bring us back to center
- ♦ help to create more resource for living
- ♦ boost the immune system
- ♦ quiet us to promote healing.

It is a way :

- ♦ to nourish ourselves
- ♦ help us function more calmly
- ♦ become more intentionally present in our lives.

Meditation for Well Being at People Plus is nondenominational and not connected with any specific religious practice.

Our facilitators Stephanie Batterman and Karen Foley have extensive experience, leading and teaching guided meditation.

Wednesdays beginning November 9 from 3:30-4:30

People Plus, 35 Union Street, Brunswick

Cost: \$24 for 4 sessions in November

Call the People Plus Community Center
at 729-0757 to sign up

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Don't Forget Us!

Happy Fall! We are one-third of the way through our church year. The work of the church is going well with our new administrator and with our change in worship location. The vibrance of our community is amazing. As you can see below, our expenses are running ahead of our income. If you have not started contributing toward your pledge, please do so as soon as possible. If you are interested in having your pledge made directly from your bank account on a monthly basis, please contact Shirley in the office

<u>2011-2012</u>	<u>Actuals</u>	<u>Budget (so far)</u>
Income	\$ 45,272	\$ 224,708
Expense	\$ 46,947	\$ 235,706
Delta	(\$ 1,675)	(\$ 10,998)

2011-2012

Fire Donations	\$19,658
Insurance Pay Out	\$50,000
(this is an advance on the final settlement)	
Fire Expenses	\$5,753
(billed to the Church directly)	

As you may recall, in June, just after the church fire, we passed a provisional budget at the annual meeting, based on what we knew at that time. The Finance Committee and the Board will be coming back to the congregation at a meeting on December 4th with an updated budget. The current budget has a deficit, and we are operating in the red at this moment. We will be looking seriously to see if there are expenses that can be eliminated, a difficult task. We will also try to find a way to increase income through pledges and fundraising to balance the budget.

If you have ideas that can help, please call me. If you would like to increase your pledge, please send that information to the church office.

(If you've won the mega-bucks and want to give it to us, we're here!)

Laura Jackson
Treasurer

NEW APPROACH TO UUCB FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT

Last spring the Board clarified the charge of the UUCB Development Committee to read, "to assure the financial health and stability of the church." The Board believes that a vital, effective development effort can *guide our congregation towards realizing the spirit of generosity* that will result in successfully meeting our financial needs and goals.

The development effort provides oversight in the church's four income areas:

- ♦ Annual Budget Drive (formerly known as the Annual Canvass) and gifts
- ♦ Planned Giving (gifts through wills, trusts, annuities)
- ♦ General Fundraising (auctions, fairs, concerts, Hannaford cards, etc.)
- ♦ Capital Campaigns (as appropriate)

Following a series of meetings in early summer involving interested members and friends, a new development structure has evolved to invite energy, creativity and support beyond the circle of a traditional committee structure. Interested people have agreed to serve the church in one of the four areas listed above, forming task forces to work on each respective area while maintaining careful association and communication among areas. Periodic meetings of representatives from each area will coordinate and provide oversight to the overall development effort. An additional group is tasked to work on the messaging or presentation of these efforts to the church and the community.

Because each area will involve asking for generous contributions

from within and without our church community, it is crucial that those requests do not duplicate, overlap or compete with each other. ALL fundraising efforts need to be vetted and coordinated through the Fundraising and Capital Campaign task forces. (See contact names below.)

The first of monthly updates from each task force follows, with names of principles. Other volunteers include Rebecca Darr, Steve Donahue, Steve Musica, Gail Schen, and Deb Zorach.

Annual Budget Drive Dave Kew and Bill Clark, the 2012-2013 co-chairs say, "We've noticed the growing generosity of members and friends and we are enthusiastic about raising the financial support to fund the annual operating budget that will advance UUCB's mission, ministry and good works."

Planned Giving Paul Schaffner is overseeing the formation of this task force and welcomes any volunteers to help in this area during the next 6 months. The goal is to create a continuing Planned Giving presence in the congregation to help people understand and consider the meaning of planned giving and choose this way to support the congregation over the long term with legacy gifts.

General Fundraising Maryli Tiemann and Gretchen Kamilewicz are meeting with other energetic and creative people to select, organize and schedule fundraising events throughout the year for the operating costs of our church. Details will be presented as each event approaches, along with requests for volunteers. They cannot say strongly enough how important it is that ALL fundraising ideas be cleared and coordinated through the Fundraising and the Capital Campaign task forces.

Capital Campaign Cindy Parker and Sally Horne co-chairs; Rich Knox, messaging; and Keary Lay, team player, think you might like to hear a bit more about what's happening in this area:

What is a Capital Campaign? Will our church have one? When?

By the time you read this, we will have heard from the architects several times about building concepts that might rise on Pleasant Street. Several members of the congregation have asked when they can give money towards the new building and some feel frustrated that we haven't quickly started a campaign to build on the sympathy of the community - both church and town. So let us briefly fill you in on the steps that have been taken so far.

A Capital Campaign would guide our congregation to give in support of our rebuilding and other needs over and above pledges to fund our annual operating budget. A fundraising consultant from the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA) recently spent an evening with church leaders to help us understand how we can best work together and what the ideal timing of a Capital Campaign would be. We were energized and excited by the consultant's counsel and the success that we can achieve by carefully planning for a campaign, should we vote to have one. Until a final vote on the building concept is taken, however, we won't know what we're reaching for. How much money beyond the insurance settlement will be needed? What will a new building allow us to

FINANCIAL DEVELOPMENT (CONT)

do programmatically to further our mission? Why would members and friends want to give generously?

After the vote, we'll need time to "educate and excite" the congregation about what its decision means to all of us. By mid-January, we hope to be ready to hire a UUA consultant to conduct a feasibility study. The results of this study will let us know whether the church is ready to launch a successful Capital Campaign and what a reasonable goal might be. If we are ready, it is likely that a Capital Campaign would run hand-in-hand with the Annual Budget Drive, concluding in late spring 2012. While the Annual Budget Drive would expect pledges in support of the church operating budget to be paid over the course of the next fiscal year, the Capital Campaign would provide the opportunity for Capital Campaign pledges to be paid over a three-year period.

We plan to keep you informed about our progress over the coming months. For your part, prepare to be Educated and Excited! If you have questions or would like more information, don't hesitate to ask one of us. We want to be working on your behalf.

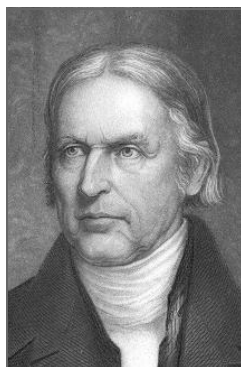
Stories with Soul

Nov 8 & 22 at 6:30 in the Parlor

ALL are invited to join us!

WHAT MOVES US: UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST THEOLOGY

Interested in exploring some of our UU history and theology – and doing some of your own theological reflection? This fall Sylvia is offering two sessions of a new UU curriculum to gauge interest in the topic. If people want to continue, we can explore the remaining six sessions in the winter and spring months. Fall sessions will be:



Thursday, November 10, 10-11:30

Hosea Ballou. Hear about Universalist forebear Hosea Ballou's shift from dejection to happiness when he read, on his own, the book banned by his Baptist preacher father because it had turned his son into an apostate: the Bible. This session provides historical perspective about a Universalist theology of happiness and helps participants to reflect on their own thoughts about happiness.

Thursday, December 1. 10-11:30

William Ellery Channing. Unitarian forebear William Ellery Channing celebrated human nature as divine. At the same time, he engaged in a struggle to gain control and mastery of his own emotions, believing such struggle to be the route to moral perfection. This session provides historical perspective about a Unitarian theology of emotional struggle. In addition, it encourages participants to think theologically about their own emotional struggle as a spiritual practice and to regard both emotional struggle and reason as personal sources of their own liberal faith.



Please Note!

Pre-registration required. Sylvia needs a head count to prepare materials: Please call the church office by Tuesday November 8 to register for the sessions. A minimum of 6 and a maximum of 15 is required for the sessions to be successful (so invite your friends and register early!).

An Opportunity...

The Nominating Committee is encouraging all members and friends to complete a *Shared Ministry Skills and Interests Survey*. If you haven't yet done so (or if you wish to update the one you completed last year) please print out and complete the survey form printed in this newsletter. (Copies are also available at the church office and at Sunday morning services.)

The survey invites you to tell us about your interests, and to reflect on ways you might contribute to the vitality of our church. Your survey does NOT commit you to participate in any particular activity or event, but rather, gives the church a clearer sense of what its many resources are. With that knowledge we can provide opportunities for you to connect with others who share your interests and offer you opportunities to contribute, according to your interests, to a more creative and vital community.

Completed surveys can be returned to the office or to the envelope provided at Sunday morning services. Thank you!

OUR NEW COVENANT

On January 20, 1812, 31 of our forefathers (and they were all men, for women were not allowed to vote on church business or anything else in those days) established the covenant that marked the creation of the Universalist Church in Brunswick. The covenant they created with each other? Here it is:

“We, whose names are here under written, Do Profess to believe in the Doctrine of Universal Salvation by Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ: And feeling it our Duty as well as our privilege and highest happiness to worship the one living and true God in Christ Jesus: Do hereby agree and enter into Solemn Covenant to assemble together as a Religious Society on the Sabbath as often as we can conveniently to worship the most high God: And that we will pay our proportion toward the expense of procuring a convenient place for convening together for publick and social Worship: and for the support of Publick Teachers of Piety, Religion and Christian Morality in our Society.”

Quaint as that covenant seems, it is now somewhat out of date. Fortunately, on October 15, a group of stalwart parishioners gathered to write a new covenant, with District Director Mary Higgins facilitating the process. Our work reflects both our commitment to articulating the ways we can expect to walk together on our shared path, but also the wisdom of congregations everywhere, UU and otherwise, who find it helpful to make explicit the expectations that we often implicitly have of our church community.

For Unitarian Universalists, the need for congregational covenants take on extra importance, for covenants are at the heart of our religious tradition. Absent a creed (or a

way of *believing* together), church covenants established a way of *being* together. Similar to the UU Seven Principles (a covenant that describes how the member congregations of the Unitarian Universalist Association relate to one another), our new church covenant frames the way we individuals walk together with others in our congregation. Our new covenant, unveiled for the first time and accepted enthusiastically at our October 16 worship service, will be voted on formally at the November 6 parish meeting. Here it is:

We, the Congregation of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick, believing in the value of beloved community, affirm that we will:

- ♦ Respect one another and support the work of the congregation
- ♦ Listen respectfully to one another
- ♦ Celebrate and encourage diversity
- ♦ Be present to one another and attend to one another's needs
- ♦ Dream boldly; act with courage and integrity
- ♦ Give generously of our time, energy, talent, and money
- ♦ Encourage the spiritual journeys of all our generations
- ♦ Bring conscience, compassion, and kindness into our interactions and our search for justice
- ♦ Take responsibility for ourselves and our actions and for upholding the values and aspirations of our covenant.

Thank you to all who contributed so generously of their time and wisdom to make our new covenant possible.

WE AREN'T DONE YET

101- We aren't done yet. That's a phrase you hear now and again. We aren't done yet. But when have you heard that in reference to religion? Unitarian Universalism isn't done yet. We talk about a free and responsible search for truth and meaning. A search. An on-going organized plan to find something true and meaningful. And when we find that true and meaningful something, there will be another search, because there isn't only one true and meaningful thing out there to find. We aren't done yet.

Jeff Briere, "101 Reasons I'm a Unitarian Universalist"

FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

Breathing is important. Thank goodness we don't have to use conscious thought to keep breathing, or I might forget, and keel over. But regular respiration does more than get oxygen into our bodies. Controlled, thoughtful breathing is meditative, and I'm learning that with focus on my breath, in-and-out, comes a calm and clarity amidst the busyness of many days.

The Board of Trustees attained some clarity as well this month as we refined our annual goals. I've never been exactly sure how to articulate goals for a leadership group like the Board to make them distinct from the goals of the organization as a whole. So in our attempt to be clear, we settled on six Church priorities that we as a Board are committed to support this year. We will take this list and devise specific activities and support mechanisms to help shepherd each goal (mostly) to completion by June, 2012.

1. Work toward completion of a church building by September 2012
2. Support events planned by the Bicentennial Task Force
3. Promote a culture of generosity within the church:
 - ♦ Support committee efforts to increase pledges equal to or more than 90% of the operating budget
 - ♦ Establish a dollar goal and nurture a successful capital campaign
 - ♦ Solidify a 5-year financial plan
4. Nurture one another through efforts to grow the congregation:
 - ♦ Increase membership by 10% to 200
 - ♦ Complete a congregational covenant
5. Support strengthening the public face of UUCB in the community:
 - ♦ Advocate at least three church public positions during the year via the media
 - ♦ Support Green Sanctuary in creating published articles and commentary
 - ♦ Be involved in Peace actions and public social justice events
6. Develop a plan for the future of the Gurnet Road property which is approved by the congregation by June 30, 2012

Of course, each goal involves many members and friends in its ultimate success, so therein lies some of my questioning about whose goals are they—the Board's or the Church's as a whole? But we as a Board

will take responsibility to organize various groups and spearhead activity that, we hope, will lead to some real accomplishments. All with the intention of helping us as a vital community become more financially healthy, and make progress in fulfilling our mission.

As a reminder, the Board meets monthly on the third Tuesday, location varies. If you have any comments or issues you think appropriate for the Board to consider, please talk about them with any of the Trustees or email me, mheath@gwi.net. We will direct the issue to the most appropriate person or group for action.

The collective breath of our Congregation has a power of its own. We are one body with many part(icipant)s making up the whole, working together toward important purposes and the greater good. Let's remember to take time for some meditative breathing and focus on our important work with clarity and conviction.

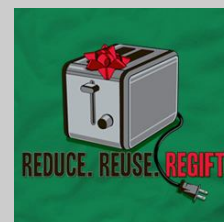
In love and peace, *Mike Heath*

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.



Yes, Friends, There Will be a Holiday Fair!



*O, come to the Minimal Fair!
The muffins and wreaths will be there.
We'll be out in the open air
With wreaths and hot cider around, around, around.
With wreaths and hot cider around.*

A Minimal Holiday Fair,

organized by the Green Sanctuary Committee and
chaired by Connie Seidner, Robin Hansen and Brad Mitchell

When: Saturday, December 3, 9 AM to 2 PM.

Where: the Pennell 7 parking area

What: We'll be selling Holiday Wreaths, Cider and Muffins.

Yes, we still need lots of help!

We'll need people for set up, muffin bakers, cider makers.
We'll need people to gather greens and to assemble and decorate
wreaths.

We'll need sales people and people to clean up.



Put these dates on your calendar...

A Tipping Party to gather greens will be held on **Sunday, November 20th**, after church, at the Hansen's.

A Wreath-making Party will be held **Sunday, November 27** after church at the Winter Street

Out of the Ashes... The Minimal Holiday Fair can be a sign to the whole community of our emergence from the ashes, that we are still here and going strong. So to be visible, we need lots of volunteers to make lots of wreaths. There are plenty of things to do, so let's everyone join in and celebrate our vibrant community. Please look at the job sheets at church and sign up for what interests you.

WANTED

Containers suitable for three or four
paper narcissus bulbs for the fair.



Please contact Joan Root.



Calling ALL Hannaford Shoppers



There is a very loyal group of people in the church who buy their groceries with Hannaford cards every week. A big thanks to them all. We have earned \$450 dollars in profit so far in this fiscal year.



However, we have a long way to go before we can meet our budget obligation of \$4,000. We have been averaging about \$1,050 per week in sales (which produces \$50 in profits). At this rate, we would only earn \$2,100 in profit during the fiscal year, not nearly enough to meet our budget obligation.



We need to sell an average **\$2,050 each week** in order to meet our goal. Currently, we only sell around **\$1,050 per week**. Of course we're still making money; it just takes longer and we're not earning as much as we could be if more people participated.

SO... I'm asking all of you who buy groceries at Hannaford to try this fundraiser and make it a habit. Here's what you do.

1. Bring your checkbook or cash to church every Sunday.
2. Buy a card from Sue Michaud (or her surrogate) at the back of the sanctuary before or after the service.
 - ♦ We sell \$100, \$50, and \$25 cards. (unless we have run out of a certain denomination)
 - ♦ We only take cash or checks. Make your checks out to UUCB.
 - ♦ If you buy \$200 worth of groceries each week, buy 2-\$100 cards.
 - ♦ If you only buy occasional incidentals, buy a \$25 or \$50 card.
 - ♦ Put the card in your wallet next to your credit/ATM card so you won't lose it.
3. When you buy your groceries, take your card to the cash register and swipe it through the machine.
 - ♦ The cash register will tell you how much money you have on your card and you can use it again next time you go shopping. (If you forget how much is on the card, you can call the number on the back or go to their webpage to find out.)
 - ♦ If your groceries cost more than what's on your card, you simply pay the rest with a credit card or cash.
 - ♦ These cards have NO expiration date and can be used at ANY Hannaford location, including their pharmacies.
4. If you forget your money or if you need to buy your groceries BEFORE Sunday, you can now pick up your cards from **Shirley at the church office** (Tuesday - Friday). Just call her first to make sure she still has some cards left.
5. If you lose your card, call Sue Michaud at 729-4857 and she will cancel the card and get you a new one. She now keeps all the receipts so that she can use them as proof in such an instance.



NOVEMBER 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		1 2:15-6:45 violin : Parlor 	2 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin	3 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 6:00 Justice Steering Com: 7 Pen, upstairs 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	4 9:30 AA : Pen	5
6  10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Design Concept Vote following church service	7	8  2:15-5:45 violin : Parlor 6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor 7-9 Orientation Class: 7 Pen	9 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Group: 7 Pen 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin	10 10-11:30 UU Theology (Hosea Ballou): Parlor 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	11 9:30 AA : Pen 	12
13 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Newcomers Corner following church service	14 10-12 Chalice Circle: Par 1-3 Chalice Circle: Par 7-9 CUUPS: Par	15 2:15-6:45 violin : Par 6:30 Board Meeting	16 3:45 - 6:30 violin : Parlor 6:30-7:30 violin : Office 5-7:30 Counseling Grp: 7 Pen 6:30 Songwriters Grp: Par 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin	17 12-2 Strategic Planning: Parlor 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 6:00 Justice Steering Com: 7 Pen 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	18 9:30 AA: Pennell	19
20 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Bring canned Goods FREE SWAP following church service TIPPING PARTY at the Hansons	21	22 10-1 Women's Alliance (wreath making): MBC 2:15-5:45 violin : Par 3-5 Chalice Grde: 7 Pen 6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor	23 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin	24  Office Closed	25 9:30 AA : Pennell Office Closed	26
27 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Newcomers Corner following church service WREATH MAKING PARTY at Winter Street Church	28 7-9 CUUPS: Par	29 2:15-6:45 violin : Par	30 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Group: 7 Pen 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin			

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