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*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 January issue is

Fri, December 23, 2011, 5 pm

Rare exceptions: 729-4857

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church Of Brunswick



ALL SERVICES AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

December 4 at 10:00 a.m. – “Wiring and Plumbing”

Continuing with our building theme of the year, Rev. Stocker discusses the inner workings of a church. What brings energy and fizz? What do we need to wash away? Music provided by Jud Caswell and Grace-Lewis McLaren on piano.

December 11 at 10:00 a.m. – Our Annual Mitten Service

Please bring new mittens, gloves, hats, or scarves to collect for local charities. Under the direction of Louise Gephart, the Holiday Orchestra will play, and we will usher in the holidays together. Rev. Stocker preaching.

December 18 at 10:00 a.m. – Solstice Service

We celebrate the cycle of nature as we look forward to the approaching solstice, when the sun returns and days lengthen. Service led by Rev. Stocker and Nicole Shanks. Music provided by the choir directed by Heidi Neufeld and accompanied by David Dean.

December 24 at 7:00 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service

Come sing, listen to stories, and contemplate the magic of the season at our annual candlelight service. Service led by Rev. Stocker and Nicole Shanks. Special Christmas music provided by the choir accompanied by David Dean and Louise Gephart on harp.

December 25 – No Service. Merry Christmas!

January 1 at 10:00 a.m. – “The News from Lake MacIntosh”

Rev. Stocker will bring us up to date on the happenings in Lake MacIntosh, that mythical town somewhere between Cumberland and Falmouth where the best apples are grown. All ages invited. Music to be announced.



RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

CELEBRATE THE GUEST AT YOUR TABLE!



Our Guest at Your Table program is going strong! So many families and friends have welcomed our “guests” into their lives. Thanks to your support, the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee is working throughout the United States and around the world to advance human rights.

Your Guest at Your Table box and Stories of Hope booklet introduce you to people whose efforts in partnership with UUSC have helped change people’s lives. Each week, with family and friends, we can focus on a different story of hope as we sit down to meals together and consider our many blessings during this holiday season.

On January 8th, we’ll close our Guest at Your Table program and will collect boxes and envelopes during the Time for All Ages in our worship service. UUSC Guest at Your Table boxes and *Stories of Hope* will have taught us about real people engaged in struggles for justice in the United States and around the world. In supporting the UUSC and their partners, we’ll learn about our power to change the world.

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

*Have a happy
holiday season!!*

IMPORTANT RE DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Dec 4 - Multi-Age Activity: Holiday crafts; Youth Group meets from 10-11:15

Dec 11 - RE classes; RE Holiday Craft Sale during coffee hour; Youth Group meets from 10-11:15

Dec 18 - Intergenerational Solstice Service

Dec 25 - No RE; *Merry Christmas*

January 1 - No RE, nursery care provided; Happy New Year

Coming in January...Pool and Pizza Party at the Bath YMCA!!!



... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...



I used to love Christmas trees. I still do, but things are different now.

Over the years I have collected an array of tree ornaments that remind me of people or events. Some ornaments are lovely, some funny. Some are old – from my parents, my childhood. Very few are new, though, because our family no longer puts up a Christmas tree.

I tell you this not to advocate new holiday traditions, but to offer a story about adapting to change. This year some Christmas traditions UUCB has long held dear will change, and adapt we must, at least for now. We no longer have our own sanctuary to decorate. Every Sunday we have to put away everything, leaving no traces of our religion around. That means we cannot leave Christmas decorations out at the Minnie Brown Center. We cannot bring a tree in mid-way through December and leave it there for several weeks. Nor can poinsettias decorate the pulpit area, except on Christmas Eve. For one thing, who would water them? For another, both ethically and contractually, we are obliged to respect our Jewish friends whose space we use.

When our son was born shortly before Christmas, Steve and I instituted a new family tradition: A decree went up from Stocker-Wellcome that no tree should ever enter our home until after David's birthday. That way, his birthday and Christmas remained distinct from one another.

For a dozen years or so, the first Saturday after David's birthday, we would procure a spruce to adorn our home. I loved the excitement of our quest, the cold air nipping at our noses as we trudged through the field imagining how various trees would look in our space. I loved pulling the ornaments out of their boxes, revisiting memories. I loved the colored lights that added sparkle to our tree. I was blessed with a spouse who took charge of watering; all I had to do was stand back and thrill to the beauty.

One memorable year our tree continued to grow, even though it had been cut. By the time we took the tree down, the branches had sprouted an inch or more of new growth at their tips. That poor tree, already dead, had wanted so to live! How sad I felt discarding that tree at the end of the season. Such a strong life force should be awarded more dignity than to land in a brush pile, it seemed to me.

That year I started to regard Christmas trees differently. I started to feel uncomfortable about chopping down an entire tree so that I could have it in my home for a few short weeks.

We continued getting trees, despite my rumbling disquietude. Then in 2001 Steve lost his job three months before Christmas. It took 16 long months for Steve to find work again. I was an intern minister at the time, receiving a stipend of \$3,000 per year. To augment that princely

sum, I worked as a Teaching Assistant for three Hebrew Bible classes at Andover Newton Theological School – at \$750 per class. Those numbers were burned into my brain. With money in such tight supply, I remembered every nickel that came our way.

Trimming all unnecessary expenses meant jettisoning the tree. We also largely abandoned giving gifts. We discovered something interesting: Christmas was just fine without the trappings. We still had each other. We still had a quiet day to play, read, cook, and simply be together. When Steve returned to work and I began my first ministry, we could easily have put it all back – tree, gifts, all of it – but we chose otherwise. We have had only one tree since then – the year we had a guest from Belgium, and we wanted to show her an American Christmas.

In all those years, I have certainly enjoyed other trees – many of them at the churches with which I have been associated, among them the trees that graced our sanctuary. Those trees transformed the room in a magical way. I will miss that magic this year.

But I know from experience that I can face changes with grace and good spirits. Things will feel different this year, but I know we have each other – to sing, to laugh, to weep, and to celebrate together. This year, when we have lost so much, we have each other – the best blessing of all. Merry Christmas.

Love, *Sylvia*

HOLIDAY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE MINISTER'S DISCRETIONARY FUND WELCOMED

The holidays are hard for many, and our church relies on the Minister's Discretionary Fund to help our friends and neighbors in need. The fund provides modest help for people who need food cards, heating fuel, electricity, and gas cards. As you might guess, the number of requests has increased enormously in the current economy. If you would like to make a holiday gift to the Minister's Discretionary Fund, please make a check out to UUCB. On the memo line, write "Minister's Discretionary Fund." UUCB and the wider community thank you! – Sylvia Stocker

NEW MEMBER - JANET ALEXANDER



Janet is a native Mainer, residing in Topsham until she was 13 years old, when her father, a Baptist minister, relocated the family to eastern Pennsylvania while he furthered his education. Her family then moved to Warwick, Rhode Island where Janet graduated from high school.

Janet and her first husband had three children; they lived in Maine, Louisiana and Pennsylvania. After her divorce in the early 70's, Janet moved back to Topsham, Maine, with her children. She later became a bank manager for many years. During that time she met Sam, her current husband. They raised their seven children all

together in a blended family. They now have 13 grandchildren and more on the way!. She relates that life was pretty busy in those days, but she found time to go back to college for her bachelor's degree in Social Work, and then earned a Masters in Social Work from Smith College in the 1990's. She worked for Shoreline Community Health and Sweetser for about 12 years before starting a private practice in Brunswick. In 2000 Janet studied to be a yoga teacher and began teaching in 2000.

Janet says that she has been a church-goer, most of her life, attending whatever church met her needs at the

time. Recently, she began shopping around for a new church experience. She immediately felt at home at the UUCB, stating that our liberal, progressive values fell in line with her own. What she most loves about our church is the welcoming community, the caring, friendly people, the emphasis on music, Sylvia's sermons, and UUCB's commitment to social justice.

Janet has been a music lover all her life. She started a women's cappella singing group, Voices Rising in the 1980's. Later she sang with the Royal River Chorus, and now she occasionally sings with the Greater Freeport Community Chorus. She is having a great time pursuing the arts right now, studying oil painting with a Harpswell artist, and taking a drawing class at Merrymeeting Adult Ed.

Janet loves boating, walking/hiking, gardening in the summer, quilting and knitting in the winter and is an avid reader. She also does some writing from time to time. She is devoted to a daily yoga and meditation practice. Retired from social work, she teaches yoga in Harpswell. She is A UUCB choir member, on the music committee, in a chalice circle and is a member of the Women's Alliance.

Janet and her husband Sam, a retired builder, live in Harpswell with their cat, Mazie.

Jessica Tracy

CHURCH CANCELLATIONS

With all the warm weather we have had recently, it's hard to imagine we would ever have to cancel church. But sometimes the driving is treacherous enough to warrant cancellation. If we have to cancel a Sunday morning service, we post the cancellation on television channels 6 and 8. In addition, we change the outgoing message on our church answering machine by 7:30 a. m.

(Call 729-8515 to listen to the message.)

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.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE: COMMUNITY-WIDE CONVERSATION IN JANUARY

To continue and widen the conversation about hate and prejudice begun in the November 13 worship service, UUCB's Working for Justice Steering Group is working with Steve Wessler to organize a community-wide discussion and multi-cultural potluck in Brunswick on **January 31st** from 5-8pm in the Curtis Library Morrell Room.

In small groups co-facilitated by Bowdoin students and community members, those present will be invited to reflect on the ways we can work together to assure a safe and welcoming community for all who study, work and live in Brunswick.

The Working for Justice Steering Group hopes to engage the interest and energy of local clergy to promote wide attendance at this event and to build relationships among area churches that will encourage future social justice work together. We are working with Bowdoin College to invite student, faculty and staff participation. Similarly, we plan to reach out to Brunswick businesses and students at Brunswick High School.



We can all participate in making this event happen.

- ♦ Most importantly, put the 1/31 evening on your calendar now, and plan to attend!
- ♦ When flyers are available, help post them around town and show them to your friends.
- ♦ Make some tasty food to share (multi-cultural dishes encouraged!).
- ♦ Let the Steering Group know if you can help set up and/or clean up on the 31st.

Many thanks!

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

CHARITIES WITH SOUL

December Charity

Oasis Health Network in Brunswick is our December Charity with Soul. They offer free, quality health care services for the uninsured of greater Bath-Brunswick. Established in 1995, and a nonprofit organization, Oasis clinics offer health, dental and prescription assistance to uninsured low income adults. Oasis depends solely on grants and donations from local businesses and individuals as well as annual support from the United Way of Midcoast Maine. For more information contact them at 721-9277 or visit them online at www.oasishealthnetwork.org



Oasis Health Network

TEDFORD SHELTER MEALS

Grateful thanks to all the Tedford Shelter Meal volunteers who have helped out since September! They include Andrea Sinclair, Michelle Small, Gretchen Kamilewicz, Mariann Smollen, Judy Chamberlain (twice!), Anita Ruff, Connie Seidner, and Caroline Bean.

For those who may be new or who are not aware of all of UUCB's community services, we are one of the churches that delivers monthly meals for the Tedford Shelter at Cushing and Cumberland. We are always responsible for the first Friday of each month. The next meal we will be providing is for December 2nd, and we can still use some help. The sign-up sheet is available at Sunday services, or you can call me at 207-751-3950 to learn more. - - -

Hank Simpson

CAPITAL CAMPAIGN/ANNUAL BUDGET DRIVE

THE SHED? With our November 20 vote to proceed with architectural drawings for our sanctuary and RE and office space, excitement is growing about our efforts. RE parents struck a strong chord when they asked, “Why would we build a house (i.e. state-of-the-art sanctuary) for the adults and put the kids in the shed (i.e. Pennell)?” This question supported Recovery Team’s Building Plan B - designing a new sanctuary AND a one-story structure on the Pennell House site that would ensure adequate and safe space for our RE program and for our administrative staff with full accessibility for all. Our vote shows our commitment to planning a dream facility that will help fulfill our mission statement, meet our needs of today, and allow us to grow for many years.

A CONSULTANT? The Development Committee will interview potential fund-raising consultants, including those identified by the UUA, to give us the help we need to carry out a successful Capital Campaign. When we find the right person and negotiate the details, we’ll be asking for an official congregational vote to authorize payment.

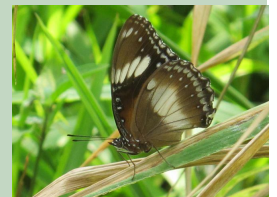
FUN? We’ll continue to raise awareness and generate excitement in the weeks ahead. You can anticipate some fun skits, rousing testimonials, and great music.

WHAT ABOUT THE MONEY? In January our consultant will conduct a feasibility study with a cross-section of the congregation to determine UUCB’s readiness for a successful Capital Campaign. With a Go Ahead from the consultant and a vote from the congregation, we’ll launch our campaign in February in conjunction with the Annual Budget Drive. This means that we’ll each be visited only once for the two giving opportunities, the Capital Campaign and the Annual Budget Drive. We’ll have fun along the way with celebratory events and occasional fundraisers such as a Chocolate Buffet at Wilbur’s in Freeport January 15.

DREAM ON AND STEP UP! We encourage everyone to keep their imaginations busy with ideas and dreams about our new facilities – think out of the shed! The work of these campaigns requires many volunteers. Hasn’t the Recovery Team been amazing? We’re pleased that many other folks have stepped up to offer their leadership in both the planning phase and the actual campaign. Perhaps Clyde will reappear – without duct tape this time! Please contact us with ideas and questions you might have about this exciting time.

*Sally Horne & Cindy Parker, Capital Campaign Co-Chairs
Bill Clark & David Kew, Annual Budget Drive Co-Chairs*

BUTTERFLY GARDEN — Green Sanctuary members have moved the butterfly garden that was between the UUCB Sanctuary and the title company building next door, mostly intact, to Deb Zorach’s backyard. There it has its own little sunny corner until such time as we have a little earth to put it in near our new church building. Some plants were moved to the sunny side of Pennell House. All seem happy. — *Green Sanctuary*



19TH ANNUAL FESTIVAL OF ECUMENICAL LESSONS & CAROLS

It's that time of year again. We've stuffed ourselves at our Thanksgiving gatherings and we are starting to prepare for the Christmas season...decorating, shopping, baking... Why not kick it all off by remembering what the season is all about? There no better way to do that than at the **Festival of Lesson and Carols**. Eight area choirs and the Parish Ringers combine to bring an afternoon of top notch music and readings...all under the direction of Ray Cornils.

There will be an \$8 suggested donation at the door. Proceeds from this event help to support our music program. (And since our music library went up in smoke, we really need you're support!) Please join us on **Sunday, December 4th at 3 o'clock at St. John's Catholic Church** on Pleasant Street. Be sure to come early (2:30 or so) to get a good seat and hear the Parish Ringers play the Prelude numbers

Peace, Heidi Neufeld



UUCB Holiday Happenings 2011

Holiday Fair Saturday, December 3 from 9:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Our famous Christmas wreaths will be available in the Pennell House parking lot. Come early; they sell quickly!



Ecumenical Festival of Lessons and Carols Sunday December 4 at 3:00 p.m. at St. John's Catholic Church in Brunswick. Enjoy our choir singing with area church choirs, directed by Ray Cornils. This 19th annual festival of Advent and Christmas music is preceded by a 15-minute prelude by the Parish Ringers beginning at 2:45. Admission at the door, \$8.00 donation suggested. Doors open at 2:15.

Mitten Service and Holiday Orchestra On Sunday, December 11, we will have our annual collection of new mittens, hats, gloves, and scarves for local charities to distribute to needy families. If you play an instrument, conventional or unconventional, and would like to be part of the HOLIDAY ORCHESTRA, please see Louise Gephart or Stephanie Bernier. Orchestra members need to be seated and ready to rehearse at the Minnie Brown Sanctuary at 8:30 a.m. sharp on December 11. Please bring a music stand. There will be no other rehearsal. What we may lack in perfection, we'll make up in setting a joyful and enthusiastic holiday mood.



Children's Holiday Craft Sale after church on December 11. Purchase gifts and crafts made by our Sunday School.

Women's Alliance Christmas Party Tuesday, December 20 at 11:00 a.m. at Joan Root's house. Bring your most delicious casserole, salad, or dessert. All women invited.

Poinsettias. (NOTE: This year we have a new system.) Because of the logistics of working in and decorating a space that is not ours, we have had to change our procedure for Christmas poinsettias. Yes, we still hope you will donate poinsettias in memory of loved ones, new births, or special events. (Dedications will appear in the Christmas Eve order of worship.) But, the Worship Committee will buy



the poinsettias and bring them to Minnie Brown early on Christmas Eve to decorate the sanctuary. We count on you to pick your plant up after church and take it home with you. Plants are \$4.50 each. To order, please call the church office at 729-8515. Orders and payment are due by December 16.

Solstice Service Sunday December 18 led by Sylvia Stocker and Nicole Shanks. We will celebrate the sun's return, even as winter grows colder. Bring you percussion instruments ... shakers, rattles, drums, etc.



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

Candles for Babies On Christmas Eve we light candles in honor of babies born or adopted into church families during the previous year. Following the Christmas Eve service, families may take their candles and votive holders home.



Parents, grandparents, or great-grandparents, please call the church office at 729-8515 with names by December 16 at the latest.

Festive Food Please bring a plate of your finest holiday confections (e.g. cookies, bars, candy) to share after the Christmas Eve service. **We are looking for someone to host this gathering.** Please call the church office at 729-8515 to volunteer.

Christmas Day NO SERVICE. Merry Christmas!

New Year's Day Service January 1 at 10:00 a. m. "The News from Lake MacIntosh" Rev. Stocker will fill us in on what has been happening at that mythical town somewhere between Cumberland and Falmouth where the best apples are grown. All ages invited.

*Our Warmest Wishes
For the Holiday Season!*



SAVE THESE IMPORTANT DATES

On **Saturday, January 7th**, join us at the Minnie Brown Center, 906 Washington St., Bath, ME. for a family-friendly evening hosted by the Merrymeeting Singers and the Moving Spirit Dancers to celebrate the traditions of Epiphany and 12th Night. Our program ranges from sacred music, to playful Elizabethan madrigals to George Shearing's jazz and carols-- inter woven with dance, New England winter poetry, and Shakespeare. The Moving Spirit Dancers will perform new choreography by Peg Brightman set to music by Vivaldi and Billings. Children of all ages, come join in the fun and antics of the "*Twelve Days of Christmas!*" Help us taste the delicious traditional 12th Night Cakes and crown the KING AND QUEEN of TWELFTH NIGHT! Call 729-8515 for tickets.

Peggy Brightman



Third Annual

Twelfth Night Rebels

Sat, January 7th @ 7pm

Minnie Brown Center

\$10 advance reservations

\$12 at the door

Children under 12 FREE

Larry Lemmel, Peg Brightman, and the cast are putting out an **urgent call for volunteer help** for our annual fundraiser! * Especially needed are several able-bodied folk to move furniture at Minnie Brown for our tech rehearsal there on **Thurs. Jan. 5th at 6:30 pm** and to put it all back in place after our Sat. night show or before church on Sunday. • Bakers and cooks: to provide finger food for the reception on Sat., Jan. 7th. Please contact Peg (pbri@aol.com) if you can do either of these! Your help, as ever, is gratefully received!!!



CHOCOLATE BUFFET TO BENEFIT OUR CHURCH

Can't think of what to give that special someone for Christmas??

How about a ticket to a delicious, all-you-can-eat, chocolate buffet at Wilbur's of Maine-Chocolate Confections-in Freeport!

The fundraising committee will be selling tickets from now until January 8th to this special event to benefit our church.

Why not make a day of it: church, lunch with friends, and then the chocolate buffet.

For more information and tickets, call Gretchen Kamilewicz at 833-5125 or see Maryli Tiemann, Sue Ellen Damour, or Gretchen after church.

PS. If we sell 35 tickets, we will get a tour of the factory.

P.P.S. Jud Caswell will be "serenading" us, too.



**Sun, January 15th
2-4:00 pm
Wilbur's of Maine
Tickets: \$20**



BICENTENNIAL YEAR KICKOFF BANQUET...



Your Bicentennial Task Force has been actively planning the celebration of our bicentennial year – 2012. In 1812 a dozen incorporators signed a covenant making way for a Universalist Church in Brunswick. The rest is history, and during the bicentennial year we will celebrate our history through several activities starting with a Bicentennial Banquet to be held in St Charles Parish Hall on McKen Street in Brunswick.

The banquet will take the form of a catered lasagna dinner with meat and vegan accents on Saturday evening, **January 14 at 6:00 to 8:30 PM.** Please put the date on your calendars.

The task force is **looking for program ideas** for the banquet which will be engaging for all ages. Please share your ideas with any of the task force members:

Debbie Zorach, Albert Moore, Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Brad Mitchell, Steve Welcome

DOLLAR SALE

The dollar sale held at the October potluck at St. Paul's church disposed of great quantities of excess *stuff* salvaged from the Community Room after Service Master finished their cleaning operation.

Everything sold for exactly one dollar, and everyone seemed pleased with their purchases, from a television and fans to kitchen knives, CDs, and books. The church made over 100 dollars. The few remaining items were donated to Goodwill Industries.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Here in this church, human beings have gathered for centuries seeking a higher purpose and deeper life than they could find alone. We are grateful today for each one of you, that you have found your way here, and that you have decided to make a commitment to this faith community.



We hope that as member of this church you will allow yourselves to know and to be known, to minister to and to be ministered unto, to love and to be loved, by this congregation.

Victoria Weinstein

MOVING TOWARD OUR GOALS: MUSIC AND THE SPIRITUAL COMMUNITY

If you asked a sample of UUCB congregants how we promote our mission statement's goal of *being a spiritual community*, you would probably get a wide variety of replies. But if those replies had any one thing in common, it would probably be a heart-felt testimony to the musical life of our church.

This is a congregation unusually blessed with musical talent. We have a stable of pianists whose performances at Sunday services are stirring beyond any ordinary expectations, while a variety of other remarkably talented instrumentalists appear in and amongst them to vary and enliven our services. We have a choir whose strong vocal showing, thanks to spirited direction and accompaniment, gives our services a major musical lift. In addition we have several a cappella singing groups who add to the riches of our musical life. Some of our musicians are songwriters as well as instrumentalists and perform their own work for us, sometimes even introducing a work written especially for us. Grace Lewis-McLaren has produced an entire collection of songs of her own composition

(the thematically as well as musically rich *Songs of Grace*), available as another source of hymn selections for Sunday services. Behind the scenes we have a dedicated Music Committee, working to enhance music as a part of worship and of church life generally. It shouldn't go unmentioned, what's more, that we've been lucky enough to have two musical ministers in a row, rare good fortune for any congregation!

One impressive aspect of UUCB musical life, quite apart from the talent so much in evidence, is the apparent seamlessness with which musicians, minister, and Worship Committee interact, aided by the Music Coordinator's mindfulness of all the musical elements involved. The musical participants as well as all the other participants for a whole month's services need to be involved in the planning for four or five successive Sundays, each taking into account the chosen theme for a given service and their own as well as other contributions to it. The Music Coordinator, in consultation

with the minister and the chair of the Worship Committee, makes sure that musical choices are appropriate to the theme of the service and are safely assigned to particular performers for the Sunday in question. It's a small weekly miracle that with so many "moving parts" -- the variety of musicians, the complex musical structure of each service (prelude, hymns and/or musical selections, offertory, postlude) -- the music for each service emerges as not just coherent but spirit-stirring.

Equally impressive is the congregation-wide response when music itself is the theme of a service or a special event. The turn-out is typically outstanding, and the many people who work hard to put these music-rich occasions together have the satisfaction of knowing that music is serving, just as it should, as a source of spiritual enrichment for every person present.

Nancy Dorian for the Strategic Planning Committee

BOARDS AND WOODEN PIPES FROM THE CHURCH ORGAN

THE Recovery Team has authorized the sale of individual wooden pipes and 5/4 inch boards (crescendo shutters) salvaged from the church organ.

The organ pipes are from 15 inches to over 5 feet long. They still make a nice sound when you blow in them. The boards are 5 to 6 feet long.

Some are broken and all are smelly and blackened on the outside. The wood seems okay and is probably a fine softwood, without knots.

If you would like a pipe or a board - for art, a fog horn, a moose call or a cheese board - contact Erik or Robin Hansen.

Minimum donation is \$10 per pipe, \$25 per board.

Erik Hansen

In addition, Skip Brimlow will be selling bricks from the old church. Stay tuned for further details.



SERVING WITH GRACE OPPORTUNITIES

BOOKS

Serving With Grace by Eric Walker Wikstrom

If you haven't yet read this reader friendly and wise book, plan to do so. We now have eight new copies (thanks to an anonymous donor) as well as several that are well used and somewhat smoky. Simply sign out the book at the *Serving with Grace* Board at the rear of the MBC sanctuary (next to the coffee snacks). Return the book when you have finished so someone else can read it.

SURVEYS

...and if you haven't yet completed the *Shared Ministry Skills and Interests Survey*, please do so. It is our hope that you will use the survey to reflect on what you would most like to do to engage more directly in the life of the church community. We will use the information on the completed surveys to try to connect you with others who share your interests. Surveys available and returned at the *Serving with Grace* display board.

OPPORTUNITIES

Open

Membership Committee is looking for new members. See the Serving with Grace Board or talk with Deb Zorach or Andrea Sinclair for more information.

UUCB Procedures "archivist"

UUCB needs someone to search out, gather together and update the information that already exists about how things get done at UUCB. Let's not spend precious time or energy reinventing the wheel every time we plan a pot luck; arrange for child care; reserve space for a meeting, etc. For more information see Cathey Cyrus, Nominating Committee.

Newly filled!

Parish Care Coordinator – 6 weeks coverage during Helen Johnson's absence

Elaine Hartman will coordinate services for those in our congregation in need of extra support. (Meals, rides, companionship, etc.) If you know of someone who needs the help that lay people can provide, or if you would like to offer your energy to this service, please see Elaine.

NOTES FROM THE TREASURER

Happy Thanksgiving

In this time of thanksgiving, I am grateful for this community, for all those who have pledged and are fulfilling those pledges and for all those who are thinking of pledging! I have hopes that the latter will take that step even if it is just a small amount. The pledges and their corresponding contributions are what we rely on to do the work of the church, at least the financial work.

2011- 2012	Actuals	Budget Approved in June	Proposed Budget for Dec vote
Income	\$ 61,613	\$ 224,708	\$ 235,197
Expense	\$ 63,420	\$ 235,706	\$ 235,706
Delta	(\$ 1,807)	(\$ 10,998)	(\$ 509)

For those of you who are checking the numbers from one report to the next, you will notice that the proposed budget is now nearly balanced. This is due to an increase in our pledges since the budget that we passed in June and recovery of the lost income from the church building rental that we expected before the fire. This income is part of the insurance settlement. So things are looking good for this year if we can keep on track with pledges and guard against unexpected expenses. We will meet on December 4th to approve is updated budget for the operation of the church.

Pledge letters have been sent out to those with an outstanding balance on their pledge. If you receive a letter and your records do not agree, please contact me or Shirley in the office.

New pledges can be made at any time, for those who haven't pledged yet. Extra end of year contributions are most welcome for those who are willing and able. Where does the church line up in your priorities for giving?

Let us be in your top three.

Laura Jackson
Treasurer



CHRISTMAS BELLS

by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow

I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play,
And wild and sweet
The words repeat
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

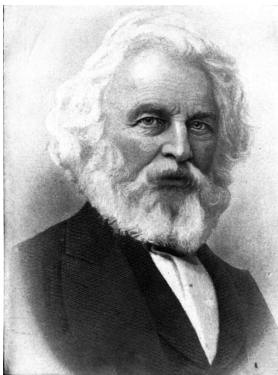
And thought how, as the day had come,
The belfries of all Christendom
Had rolled along
The unbroken song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Till, ringing, singing on its way
The world revolved from night to day,
A voice, a chime,
A chant sublime
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

Then from each black, accursed mouth
The cannon thundered in the South,
And with the sound
The Carols drowned
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!

And in despair I bowed my head;
'There is no peace on earth,' I said;
'For hate is strong,
And mocks the song
Of peace on earth, good-will to men!'

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep:
'God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!
The Wrong shall fail,
The Right prevail,
With peace on earth, good-will to men!'



Longfellow wrote this poem on Christmas Day, 1864 shortly after his wife died and his son was wounded in the Civil War.

HOSPITALITY HOUR

Aren't we fortunate to have such kind and generous Coffee Hosts?

This month we send warm thanks to hosts Gretchen and Dexter Kamilewicz, Louise Gephart, Bill Kunitz and their baker, Abby, Pat Harris and Deb Silverman, Kate Gray and Brad Mitchell.

We'd also like to thank the 1st - 3rd graders for the delicious punch they made on November 13th with their teacher, Sienna Dode. It was a wonderful addition to the table, and a special thing to do for the congregation as an example of living by the Golden Rule.

Our hosts and helpers have been lucky enough to receive extra help with "running the stairs" and clean-up from Karen Foley's Chalice Circle group, and we send heartfelt thanks to them. Jean Tompkins, Sarah Brown and I are MORE than happy to share Sunday morning work-outs!

We're looking for hosts for January 1st among our "take it easy on New Year's Eve" members and friends, and then for January 15th and on.

Thank you, & Happy Thanksgiving to all,
Val, for the Hospitality Team



O Come to the Minimal Fair!

3rd of December,
9 to 2 in the open air

- locally handmade, decorated wreaths •
- muffins • hot cider •

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick



Our church burned down,
so we're having a

Minimal Holiday Fair
the 3rd of December, 9 am – 2 pm
7 Middle St parking lot,
behind the burned church

Calling all Musicians to provide seasonal music for the Holiday Fair.

For more information contact Ed Pontius at 751-0856



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

When you look at UUCB, the statement “if you build it they will come” seems less prophetic than might be the statement “in the wake of trauma, they will notice.” I know many things have contributed to our visibility in the wider community other than the fire: our people, our message and our commitment to our principles are among the powerful elements reaching out from our congregation. But our traumatic loss just may be a catalyst for building energy from the inside and attracting notice from outside, leading to good things.

Whatever the causes, and in spite of the tragedy, we have much to celebrate. On Nov. 20 we welcomed 17 new members to the congregation. The Membership Committee continues to spearhead and encourage us all to welcome newcomers as the blessing they are – proof that our church has an important role in people’s lives, and we all can feel it. Our RE program is flourishing and attracting young families. And the best part is that new and experienced UUs alike are nourished by their involvement, just as they nourish us.

In an unexpected development from the ashes, we have a balanced budget for this year. On Dec. 4, the Board will present the budget, revised from the provisional budget of June, showing increased income from pledges and insurance compensation for the loss of rental. We will also show reduced expenses by not having to keep the church building electrified and warm. Although these

fire-related adjustments have helped, I am most encouraged by the strong response in pledges – from longtime members and new folks alike. So many people are expressing that UUCB is indeed an important part of their lives and as such deserves a greater share of support. This makes me very hopeful for meeting challenges to come.

Following the Nov. 20 vote for the building plan, we face financial anxiety, but in my mind we also face a very attractive opportunity. You will hear much in the near future about a Capital Campaign and the benefits a successful campaign will achieve; you will also be asked to participate. A new Building Committee will carry on the work of the Recovery Team in the concrete tasks of building a building. From my seat, I am focused on the Board as the body with fiduciary responsibility for the Church. Please be assured that we will continue to pay close attention to the “ways and means” and will steward the finances of both the Church and the new building project.

As Trustees, we are encouraged and energized with our new members and all the activity both within the congregation and in the wider community. “They” are coming even before “we build it”. We are thankful for all of the great things the Church is doing and for the promise of great things to come.

Love and blessings,
Michael Heath

ATTENTION! CONGREGATIONAL MEETING

DECEMBER 4, 2011
Following the 10:00 a.m.
Sunday Service



**PURPOSE: To Vote
on the 2011-2012 Budget**

Calling All Musicians to join the Holiday Orchestra

**All ages and abilities
are welcome!**

DECEMBER 11, 2011
Only ONE rehearsal:
before the service
8:30 - 9:30 a.m.



DECEMBER 2011

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

 SEASON'S GREETINGS				1  2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	2 9:30 AA : Pen	3 Holiday Fair 9-2 Pennell Parking Lot 
4 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Congregational Meeting following church service Ecumenical Choir Festival at 3 pm	5	6 2:15-6:45 violin : Parlor	7 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling 1: 7 Pen 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin	8 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 6:00 Justice Steering Grp: 7 Pennell Upstairs 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	9 9:30 AA : Pen	10
11 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath  Newcomer's Corner after service	12 10-12 Chalice Circle: Par 1-3 Chalice Circle: Par 7-9 CUUPS: Par	13 2:15-5:45 violin : Par 6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor	14 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin	15 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	16 9:30 AA: Pennell	17
18 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath	19	20 2:15-5:45 violin : Par 3-5 Chalice Circle: 7 Pen 6:30 Board Mtg	21  3:45 - 6:30 violin : Parlor 6:30-7:30 violin: Office 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 6:30 Songwriters Grp: Par 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin 6:45 Council: TBD	22 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 12-2 pm Strategic Planning Committee: Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC  Winter Solstice	23 9:30 AA : Pennell	24 7 pm Christmas Eve Service: MBC 
25 No Service 	26 7-9 CUUPS: Par 	27 2:15-5:45 violin : Par 6:30 Stories with Soul: Parlor	28 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Group: 7 Pen 5:30 Recovery Team: McLellan Bldg, Bowdoin	29 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC	30 9:30 AA : Pennell	31 Happy New Year! 

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