

February 2012

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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.*

ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

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

Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

Newsletter editor:
Susan Michaud

michaud_susan@comcast.net

NEXT DEADLINE

for February issue is

Fri, February 18, 2011, 5 pm

Rare exceptions: 729-4857

February 5 – “Father Barnes”

Our first preacher was Thomas Barnes, a circuit riding Universalist minister. What does his life teach us now? Rev. Stocker preaching. Music provided by Judd Caswell and Elaine Hartman.

February 12 – “Darwin Day”

Bring your stuffed monkeys to church today. We'll be celebrating one of the great scientists in Unitarian Universalist history. Rev. Stocker preaching. Music provided by the choir, directed by Heidi Neufeld, and David Dean, accompanist.

February 19 – “Let It Be a Dance”

We UUCB's celebrate the diversity and independence of our thoughts and beliefs- but it is also possible for us to experience the ageless collective joys of moving together as one through dance. Dance has always been a part of human experience, but since the original 1% segregated themselves in courts and palaces, it has often been folk dancing that has brought the 99% much of the shared health and wealth of community. Please join **Ed Pontius and Donna Bann** for a "hands-on" exploration of music and steps together- no level of experience or coordination required- Let's dance!" Music provided by Larry Lemmel.

February 26 – "The Faith Journey of an Agnostic."

Our Minister Emeritus, Rev. Brad Mitchell will take us on an expedition through Ecclesiastes to explore "The Faith Journey of an Agnostic." Music provided by Grace Lewis-McLaren & John McLaren

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Parents are the primary religious educators of their children. Now, I'm not trying to put myself out of a job here, but let's look at the numbers. There are 8,760 hours in a year. Approximately 1,110 of those hours are spent in school, 60 hours are spent per year in church/RE, and 3,650 hours are spent sleeping. That leaves just under 4,000 hours in a year that parents are potentially spending time with their children. When you compare that number to 60, it's easy to see why parents are the primary DREs. Those 60 hours spent in church are important ones, don't get me wrong. RE classes provide a place where children learn the importance of community, have the opportunity to meet like-minded friends, explore Unitarian Universalism, learn about world religions, have a safe place to ask questions, and more. Church also serves as a starting point for many great conversations and learning opportunities that can be built upon at home. But, more often than not, it's when a child and parent are traveling

together in the car on the way to sports practice or eating breakfast together before school that the deep questions pop up: What happens when we die? Do you believe in God?

As UUs we can sometimes find it difficult to address these types of questions. We may try to worm our way out of answering in order to avoid indoctrinating our children. Sometimes we simply aren't sure of the answers ourselves. *Tending the Flame* by Michelle Richards is a practical and useful book that helps parents begin to think hard about intentionally supporting the spiritual lives and Unitarian Universalist faith of their children. For Richards the first step is to "know thyself". As spiritual guides we must be sure that we continually examine our own spiritual beliefs. Richards writes "Sharing our personal religious and spiritual beliefs with our children is not indoctrination. It is offering the wisdom and insight that they eagerly seek from us- just as they look to use

for guidance when choosing between right and wrong courses of action" (p 2). When we work on exploring the meaning of faith, practice putting beliefs into words, and nurture our own souls and spiritual journeys, we become better equipped to serve as spiritual guides to our children.

I'll continue to explore this topic next month. In the meantime, if you would like to borrow *Tending the Flame* or any of the other great resources that our church has for parents, please let me know.

Blessings,
nicole

IMPORTANT RE DATES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

February 5 - RE Classes

February 12 - RE Classes

February 19 - Multi-Age Activity

February 26 - Multi-Age Activity:
Sledding and Cocoa with the Hansens.



Flowers and Focal Points



Just a reminder to sign up for Sunday flowers once again. If you'd like, use Sunday flowers or focal points to commemorate a person or event or to share a particular joy or celebration.

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: uubrun@zwi

... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...

READING OF THE NAMES REDUX



Our custom, these last 15 months, has been to read the names of members of the American armed forces killed in action during the previous week. When we started reading the names in November 2010, one hope of mine was that the ritual would inspire deep thinking about war and peace. What does it mean that our military die? That they kill? That innocent civilians suffer? That war destroys our earth? Are our current wars justified? Are any?

I recognize reading the names causes feelings of discomfort. At least the ritual does so for me. Surely I am not alone. Each of us relates to the ritual differently. For me, the weekly reminder of the tragedy of war hurts deeply.

Still, despite my discomfort, I feel it important to read the names. With news coverage of American casualties censored to a large degree, it's easy to live in a bubble that protects us from the impact of our wars, unless we experience them directly and personally. I feel strongly the bubble itself is wrong, immoral. Even if we do everything we can to ignore the wars, they are *our* wars, supported by our tax dollars. That's true whether we agree with the wars or not. So, together as a congregation, we have a few moments each week to ask ourselves tough questions, to grieve our nation's failure to find peace, and to look squarely at the impact of war.

Our Veterans' Day service in November 2011 explored the Reading of the Names from a few different viewpoints. That day, I appreciated Sienna Dode's and Karen Foley's willingness to share their perspectives. That service inspired many conversations. Those conversations led to changes in our worship service.

First, in our Order of Worship, the words, "You may remain seated or stand as you feel appropriate" now appear. When we first introduced Reading of the Names, I did not envision the congregation standing. Yet some stood. Over time, more stood. Pretty soon, most stood. From my perspective, it was fascinating to watch that evolution. I certainly understand both the impulse to stand *and* the impulse to sit. I trust you to make the choice right for you.

But, during her remarks, Karen Foley said something to the effect that she hoped people weren't standing because they felt pressured to do so. Hearing that, and listening to later feedback, I discerned the need

for clearer direction: This really *is* a choice. I want your conscience to guide you. Of late, I have noticed more people sitting, giving the visual sense of the variety of feelings I suspect are present among us.

Second, I have changed the verbiage that follows the Reading of the Names. Now I say something like: *Those are the names known to us. We read them, knowing they represent the larger toll of all wars the world over, which despoil our beautiful earth and cut a swath of casualties through military and civilian populations alike. The names represent a sad reality of unnecessary suffering in a world where human beings possess the ability to address conflicts non-violently. We pray for peace.*

In honesty, my reading of the names emerges out of pacifism. But, pacifists or not, I think we can share hope for a world in which differences are settled nonviolently.

Recent research shows that the world is slowly becoming more peaceful. It may not seem so to us, a country that sends its young people to war, a country that exports significant weaponry to other nations, and a country with sensationalist news media. But statistics show violence is in decline. (See *The Better Angels of Our Nature: Why Violence Has Declined*, by Harvard psychologist Steven Pinker for example.)

How can America access its better angels? Certainly the way of doing so cannot be to fight wars while we keep the effects of those wars out of the day-to-day conversation, experience, and awareness of our citizenry. More to the point is to look squarely at our failure to conceive another way of addressing conflicts.

Reading the names, I look directly into the face of war. I grieve not only the deaths of those men and women, but all the deaths, all the injuries, all the suffering, on all sides. And I pray for peace.

Love, Sylvia

NEW MEMBERS - SUE ELLEN AND DAVE DAMOUR



Both Sue Ellen and Dave were born in Wesson Hospital in Springfield, MA, but not in the same year. They are long-time UU's, beginning for Dave when he was 18 and went to see the then, new, ultra-modern church in Longmeadow, MA. Sue Ellen joined the Wayland, MA church in the late 1970's.

Dave and Sue Ellen met on a blind date after college, married, had two children and bought their first house in Natick. Their son lives in Massachusetts and their daughter is currently the RE Director at the Bangor UU church. Brunswick seemed like a good half-way point between their children.

Dave's professional life has been in banking and finance; he ran the nationwide investment portfolio for Key Corp

before getting an offer he couldn't refuse from a bank in New Orleans where they lived for 11 years. Dave was the co-president of the 1st UU church there.

When Dave retired in 2005, they sold their house in New Orleans and moved to Albuquerque, New Mexico to be near their daughter and grandchildren. Dave was treasurer of the Albuquerque church. He helped plan and start a big construction project as the church greatly expanded its footprint. Before he left, he wrote a self-audit program for the church which he intends to make available to the UUA.

Sue Ellen has held a number of accounting positions, including a position in the Actuarial Department at Mass Mutual and keeping the books for

Century 21. She says she has focused mostly on raising her children and helping out with the grandchildren. The move to Maine came pretty quickly when their son-in-law accepted a position with Life flight of Maine. Sue Ellen looked in the UU Bed & Breakfast list, which led her to stay with Debbie Zorach as she was house-hunting. She literally came from the airport to the final concert in our church the night before it burned. Since she never attended services in our old church, she brings a really fresh perspective.

In addition to playing Bridge, Sue Ellen has experience in fundraising and RE in some of her former churches. She is a member of our Fundraising Committee and the Women's Alliance.

Dave's passion is automobiles; he joined the Owls Head Transportation Museum immediately after moving to Maine. A few years ago he took some Voc-Tech courses in Toyota computer repair, so I'll be calling him when my Toyota gives me trouble! Dave also has a woodworking shop in his basement, where he recently built a four-poster bed and a desk for his grandchildren.

Dave is a valued member of our Building Committee; he has set up a tracking system for the Building Team and changed the church's accounting system to make things clearer and easier for of us.

Please join me in welcoming these friendly, active, new members!

Jessica Tracy



GREEN SANCTUARY

What does a Green Sanctuary Committee do when there's no sanctuary to green?

Well, the sanctuary -- as people have said repeatedly in the last few months -- is not just the building, although the building is certainly a biggie. The "Green Sanctuary" is the church, the congregation, the beloved community of UUCB.

And so, with our Green Kitchen rubble, our CFL light bulbs trashed (hopefully with hazardous waste), our composter cracked by wrecking machinery, the low volume toilet in Pennell 5, and our butterfly garden moved to new quarters for the duration, we concentrate on people and families, and thoughts of earth friendly buildings, both churches and homes.

Habitat for Humanity. UUCB is a covenant church with Habitat for Humanity. Although we weren't needed this past Weatherization season — Habitat had a Job Corps team to help with that — we'll still provide volunteers as we can.

Working with other churches. As a member of Brunswick Interfaith Earth Care Alliance, UUCB's Green Sanctuary Committee is helping to organize a youth forum on the environment for this coming April. Students from three local high schools will field questions on youth environmental work and attitudes posed by a Bowdoin student moderator. Stay tuned for more information next month!

RE. Green Sanctuary is talking with RE director Nicole Shanks about seasonal projects and trips for our youth.

New church ideas. Green Sanctuary is thinking of ideas to make the new church building beautiful, comfortable, healthy, and both be and *look Earth friendly*. As we think of ideas, we, individually or together, send them on to the Building Team, which will consider what it can or cannot use. Anyone can do this. So can you.

Worm composting. Members of Green Sanctuary visited the Bowdoinham Recycling Center in January. We came to learn about WORMS! Worm Wizard Brett Thompson introduced us to Vermicomposting or "Worms eat my garbage." We hope UUCB families will try out vermiculture as a way to recycle organic waste into something useful — worm-manure, or worm castings, super garden and houseplant fertilizer —and get rid of organic waste without producing more CO and CO₂. Stay tuned! We'll tell you more as soon as we can.

Eco-Maine in May. Green Sanctuary is planning a May multi-generational tour to Eco-Maine in Saco, where huge piles of recyclables are turned into neat bales of plastics, paper, metals in minutes. You'll get to see the amazing operation in person. Non-recyclables are burned in the Waste-to-Energy plant at Eco-Maine, and the smoke is scrubbed clean on its way out. Stay tuned and plan to sign up in late April. (You must be 12 or in 7th grade to attend.)

Green Sanctuary is alive and well! Join us if you are interested! Contact Robin Hansen, Brad Mitchell, Connie Seidner or other members of the committee. —*Robin Hansen*

CHARITIES WITH SOUL

February Charity



Sexual Assault Support Services of Midcoast Maine—an agency of professionals and volunteers dedicated to providing advocacy and support to survivors, families and concerned others affected by sexual assault, sexual abuse and sexual harassment. SASSMM offers services to improve awareness and response by providing prevention, education and risk reduction programs throughout eastern Cumberland, Lincoln, Sagadahoc, Knox and Waldo counties. 24 hour confidential support line 800-822-5999.

MUSIC SUNDAY

CALL FOR MUSICIANS

Calling all musicians, young, not so young, and in between! Please join us in creating a wonderful "Music Sunday" service on March 18th. The theme of the service will be "perseverance" and "transitions." If some music comes to mind or if you'd like to join others to sing, dance or play instruments, please contact Stephanie Bernier (skbernier@pejepscotdayschool.com).



UPDATE FROM ANNUAL BUDGET & CAPITAL CAMPAIGN COMMITTEES

The Annual Budget Drive and the Capital Campaign initially planned to follow a path that would combine the Drive with the Campaign. We reasoned that no one wants TWO pledge conversations, and that finding enough visiting stewards to walk up to your front porch twice seemed a very big task.

Then, Peter Heinrichs (our consultant) walked in with the sensible suggestion that we follow a different track. We'll have two simple and straightforward hikes, and we'll travel in closer tandem with the Building Team. In February during the Annual Budget walk, we'll present the facts about UUCB's budget and the level of pledging needed to support it. Members and friends will get maps in the mail to help each of us



find our own path. You'll receive guides for giving, pie charts, past pledging details, a 2012-13 pledge form and so on. We'll converge at Sylvia's "stewardship sermon" on March 11 and collect pledge cards. No one will walk up to your door, but if you've not turned in your form a steward will make a follow-up

phone call. We want this hike to end by mid-March -- at the foot of the rainbow!

Meanwhile, for the second hike, Peter will do a scouting expedition (officially, a "feasibility study") in late January and February. When we've heard the summary and know the lay of the land, we will seek congregational approval for a campaign goal. The Capital Campaign Kick-off meal will happen in early May. We are excited that the Bicentennial Committee agreed to join forces and will celebrate UUCB's Bicentennial in conjunction with the Kick-off. Following that event, visiting stewards will track people down and arrange a conversation. We hope to celebrate arrival at the Campaign goal just in time to support the Building Team as it opens bids and gets ready to ask for a final vote on the building plans.



Next up—a Victory Party in June!

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

LARRY LEMMEL AT THE PIANO

Sunday, February 12

starting at

11:45 p m

at

Minnie Brown Center



Piano music by Chopin,
Shostakovich, Brahms
and Bartok

WOMEN'S ALLIANCE

Drums on the Kennebec !

Tuesday, February 28 at 10:30

at

Robin Hansen's House

110 Berry's Mills Rd, West Bath



Drum 4 Fun

Experienced drummer and teacher Betty Wurtz will help us build a head of steam in the Maine winter and show us how to let it go with a thump and a bump – or a fun series of thumps. Bring your own percussion instruments or use Betty's. All UUCB women and friends are welcome.

For more information, call Helen Johnson. —
Robin Hansen

FUNDRAISING

Twelfth Night Revels

Our 3rd Annual 12th Night Revels raised **\$1000** for UUCB!

Thanks to all who performed and assisted in so many ways!

CHOCOLATE BUFFET

Maryli, Sue Ellen, and Gretchen would like to thank everyone who came and supported the church at the chocolate buffet. We made **\$446** after expenses. A big thank you to Jud Caswell for setting the "mood" with his music. We know several children who sat there with their hairnets still on mesmerized! It was a fun and delicious time and we hope no one had tummy aches that night.



Can you believe these people are in charge of the Feb 5 worship service?



HANNAFORD CARDS

Don't forget to bring money or checks to church every Sunday and buy those gift cards. You don't spend a dime that you wouldn't have spent anyway, and the church gets 5%.

We have now earned **\$1,150** - on our way to our goal of \$4,000.



Online Auction To Restore Our Church

March 5-18

at <http://biddingforgood.com>

GOAL: \$5,000

But we can't do it unless we have LOTS of businesses donating to our cause.

PLEASE help:

If each person in the congregation solicited 5 businesses, we would have over 500 donations. If each donation brought in \$10, we would have reached our goal. If each donation brought in \$25, that would bring in \$12,500!!! This is very easy if you ALL take a few minutes and get a little out of your comfort zone.

Background:

Sue Michaud has done an online auction in the past with another organization with great success. The auction portal, which is only for non-profit groups, also donates some items to the cause. In addition, you can buy some items on consignment and only have to pay for them after the auction if the minimum bid is met.

Since Sue has experience with the online auction experience, she has agreed to be the auction administrator. She and the fundraising committee have been hard at work

The committee decided that they needed sponsors to cover the upfront annual cost of \$495. At press time, they have received 3 sponsorships (Downeast Energy, Mid Coast Health Services, and Goodwin Chevrolet). And they have solicited the auction items at the right. Sue Michaud has set up the site and entered all the items that have been donated so far with pictures, item descriptions, item value, and the starting bid amount.

Here's some of the items we have solicited so far:

Tickets to: a "Chorus Line" at Maine State Music Theater, "Giselle" by Portland Ballet company, the Theater at Monmouth, Boothbay Playhouse, Theater Project

All Day Pass for 2 at York's Wild Kingdom

Year's subscription to the Victoria Mansion, Downeast Magazine, Maine Magazine, Maine Home Design Magazine, Portland Magazine

Bread from "When Pigs Fly"

Gift Certificates to: Jameson Tavern, Salt Exchange in Portland, Toscano

The album "Hair" in very good condition

A Pearl necklace from Talbots

Overnight stays at: Fairfield Inn, Day's Inn, Inn at Brunswick Station, Hampton Inn, Comfort Inn, Courtyard Marriott, Harpswell Inn

2 Round-trip tickets on the Downeaster

Whitewater Rafting Trip on the Penobscot

A Foodie Walking Tour in the Old Port

3 Pendants from Chalice Art

\$25 Gift Certificate for Uni-Uniques

Memorabilia from the Red Sox

And we have bought several trips to wonderful places around the country and the world on consignment. We also bought some exciting adventures.

As you can see, we have lots of items but nothing yet from area restaurants and businesses. The fundraising team can't do it alone. Thanks for your help!

How to solicit donors:

1. Let Sue Michaud know what businesses you would like to contact. (She will check her list to make sure they have not already been contacted.) OR ask Sue what businesses she would like you to do.
2. Sue will send you donor forms and auction info to handout to the businesses.
3. It's best to go in person when the owner or business manager is there. They almost never say no if you talk to them face to face. (For restaurants, 3 pm is the best time).
4. Tell the owner that you are from the Brunswick UU Church and that you are trying to raise money to restore our church after the fire. Tell them we are having an online auction through biddingforgood.com and were hoping they might be willing to donate a \$50 certificate (They will most likely say, I can't do \$50, but I'll give you \$25.)
5. If they donate something, have them fill out the donation form right away. And walk out with the certificate and the donation form to hand off to Sue Michaud. If they say to come back later, please follow-up!

**Deadline for Donations
February 29**

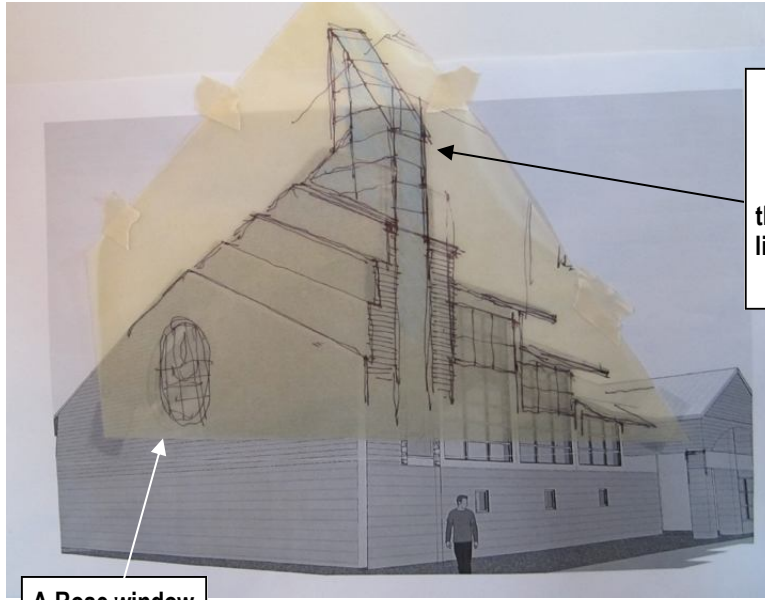


SNEAK PEAK AT OUR NEW CHURCH IN PROGRESS

After church on Sunday, January 22nd our architects presented the congregation with their updated drawings and models of a potential building. It is evident that they have taken all the many suggestions into mind and have come up with a building that seemed to please those in attendance. The architects said it was the first time they had ever gotten applause after a presentation. Here are some pictures from that morning.

There will be additional meetings after church on Jan. 29 and Feb. 5 as well as an evening potluck dessert on perhaps Feb. 7. These meetings will not include the architects, and we hope to talk about our reactions in small groups in order to give the architects further guidance.

Please give us your feedback in person or via our email address (uucbbuildingteam@gmail.com).



Spire-like projection is all glass, will bring natural light into the church and will light up our church at night.

A Rose window displays our chalice on Pleasant Street.



This is the Middle Street side of the church. Notice the tiered roof to save on heating cost.



The 2-D Sketch of the church from the Middle Street side. The option on the bottom connects to the current Pennell House. If we choose to demolish Pennell House, the picture on top would take its place. They have allowed a flat roof in case we later want a 2nd floor.

Our wonderful architect team, Noel Smith and Stephanie Lull



A BICENTENNIAL MOMENT

Did you know that the Universalists of Brunswick have had six meeting places since they organized two hundred years ago?

1812 - 1828 Washington Hall - a tavern and inn on Maine Street named after our first U. S. president who had died thirteen years before in 1799. Universalists held services there for 17 years.

1829 - 1846 The Universalists built their first home on the corner of Federal and Franklin Streets with the Rev. Seth Stetson as their minister. As they declined in numbers, they shared this meetinghouse with the new Unitarian Society formed by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow and others.

1846 - 1884 The Mason Street Universalist Church - The Universalist parish was offered the privilege of building a church on the second story of a block of stores owned by John L. Swift, a parishioner and the son of a founder, on the corner of Maine and Mason Streets. An economical arrangement for the small congregation, it paid Swift only \$5.00 for a fifty-year lease. The church spire was a beautiful landmark, and the bell and clock was a vital part of the life of the town.

1884 -1886 The Odd Fellows Hall - Because of the fire which destroyed the Mason Street Church, the congregation met in the Odd Fellows Hall through the kindness of parishioner and lodge member, Harvey Stetson. They lost everything in the fire, and having had no insurance coverage, parishioner John L. Swift gave the congregation \$1000 towards the purchase of a lot on the corner of Pleasant and Middle Streets.

1886 - 2011 The Universalist Church at 129 Pleasant Street (later, the Unitarian Universalist Church) - On September 9, 1886 the new church was dedicated. The first sum of money pledged to the rebuilding effort was given by the children of the Sunday School. They had raised \$20.00 in an evening of entertainment held in the Mason Street Church just before the fire.

2011- ? The Minnie Brown Center of the Beth Israel Congregation on Washington Street in Bath. The next phase of our history is in our hands.

By Christine Mitchell

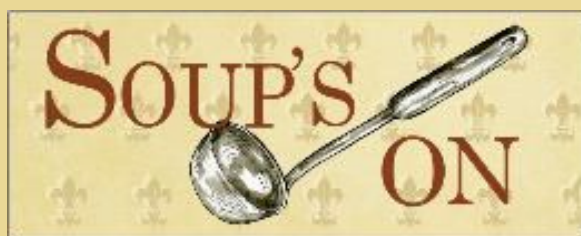


**Odd Fellows Hall,
Home of the Universalist Parish 1884-1886**

SoUUps On!

The Membership Committee plans to host "SoUUps On!" for new members and newcomers (although anyone is welcome with an RSVP, please) on *either* the 12th or 19th of February after church back at the Morrell Meeting Room, 12:30 pm, at Curtis Memorial Library in Brunswick.

Plans are a bit indefinite at this writing because of potential congregational meetings, but **SoUUps On!** will happen! We plan three or four mostly veggie soups, crackers or chips, and, of course, a healthy chocolate dessert! Stay tuned for a lively, friendly event to help us all become better acquainted, and we'll be in touch in a variety of communications in a week or so. What could be nicer than hot soup, warm friends, and good conversation on a cold winter Sunday!



AGING WITH SPIRIT

Karen Foley's retreat will reflect on the issues of aging:
How does aging affect our spiritual life?
How does our spiritual life affect our aging?

Friday-Saturday, March 2-3 (7 pm-4pm)
Living Water Spiritual Center
Winslow, Maine

\$85 (includes Sat breakfast & lunch)

REMINDER: REGISTRATION DEADLINE FEB 17

To register:
info@retreatinmaine.com
www.retreatinmaine.com

*There is still time to register for the Feb 7 retreat
at Rolling Ridge (Andover, MA) as well.*

NNED WORKSHOP REMINDERS

SPIRITUALITY OF GRANDPARENTING

March 31, 2012, 10:00 am - 4:00 pm
Concord UU Church, Concord NH



JUSTICE MAKING TOGETHER

2012 NNED Annual Spring Conference
April 13-14, 2012

Red Jacket Inn North Conway, NH

Keynote Address by Linda Stout:
"Creating the World We All Want to Live In"

For more information and to register:
WWW.NNED.UUA.ORG

MEDITATION FOR WELL-BEING AT PEOPLE PLUS



Guided meditation can :

- ♦ **bring you back to center**
- ♦ **help to create more resource for living**
- ♦ **quiet your nervous system to promote healing**
- ♦ **help you function more calmly**
- ♦ **Help you become more intentionally present in your life**

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.

Resumes Wednesdays in March from 3:30-4:30,
starting March 7th

Cost: \$20/month (People Plus members);
\$28 (non-members)

Call People Plus at 729-0757 for details and to sign up.
People Plus, 35 Union Street, Brunswick

WRITING RETREAT WITH PAT HARRIS

Like to write but have trouble finding time to do it? Wish you could get together with a group of like-minded folks to share your love of writing? Wonder whether you really might enjoy writing, but lack a way or a place to find out? Need something to look forward to while waiting for spring?

Here is your chance to let your writing muse out to play! On Friday evening, Feb. 17th, from 5-9 and again on Saturday, February 18, from 9-3, why not plan to join Pat Harris, an experienced writing workshop facilitator, for a weekend of creative writing, **with a guest appearance by a published Maine author!** The format will be informal and relaxed, with a variety of writing experiences geared to all levels of writers. The retreat will be limited to 10 participants, and will take place at Stephanie and Rene Bernier's preschool (about 3 miles from the Brunswick/Topsham Bridge). A fee of \$15 will be used to cover the use of the space, incidentals and printing costs. Please contact Pat Harris to register for this Winter Writer's Retreat at 725-7772, or by email at pjbharris@aol.com. The retreat is open to members and friends of the congregation (including friends of members and friends). Hope to see YOU there!

Fri, Feb 17th from 5-9 & Sat, Feb 19 from 9-3
Pejepscot Day School
\$15 Registration Fee

CONGREGATIONAL CULTURE CORNER

"Thanks!"

One of the simplest suggestions made in the brainstorming session that led to the drafting of our Strategic Plan was "Say thank you". Our church runs on volunteer energy. The greeters, the musicians, the worship assistants, the RE teachers busy downstairs, the folks who do the coffee hour, the mobility assistant – all volunteers. Someone has to take care of the Penny Jar, someone has to see that the offering is secured. And this is not to mention the planning that goes into assembling all these participants and agreeing on their roles for a given Sunday.

In between Sundays there's a terrific amount going on. Chalice Circles gather, fostering thoughtfulness and caring among their members. The choir rehearses faithfully and exuberantly every week. "Stories with Soul" are shared every other Tuesday by short-story enthusiasts. The Board grapples with Church concerns of all kinds, short- and long-term. As for our committees, they "never sleep" – they work steadfastly for the good of the UUCB, not just during the official part of the church year but during the summer as well. (Finance oversight can't be dropped during the summer, for example, and Membership is busier than ever during that season of many visitors.) Recently our Recovery Team set a stellar example of concentrated hard work, one that the Building Team is now matching.

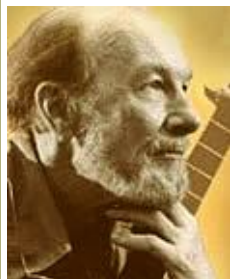
It feels good to contribute, as every volunteer knows, but it feels even better when the contribution is acknowledged. What if there were a little surge of congregants heading not for the back of the room after a service but toward the front, to say a few words of appreciation to a musician for a lovely performance, to the choir for an especially resonant song, to Sylvia for her thought-provoking message or even for one of the humorous asides that enliven her sermons? What if we took the opportunity to greet the Membership welcomers at the door as warmly as they greet newcomers? Made an opportunity to tell the RE teachers how much we value their work? We do, sometimes, but we could do a lot more of it, and the rising tide of warmth would surely raise all boats.

Expressing thanks is always a good way to interact with one another. And at a time in our church life when we're "unhoused" and a bit unsettled by being displaced from our usual church home, it's all the more important to recognize the positive contributions of so many willing workers.

I'll begin: Thank you, cheerful, willing, generous volunteers, for all you do to make our Church experience special!

Nancy Dorian, Chair
Strategic Planning Committee

FAMOUS UU - PETE SEEGER



Pete Seeger, America's best-loved folk singer, has lived long enough to go from being jailed and blacklisted in the 1950's for his political beliefs to receiving Kennedy Center honors and induction into the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame.

Peter Seeger, born on May 3, 1919, was an iconic figure in the mid-20th century American folk music revival. A fixture on nationwide radio in the 1940s, he also had a string of hit records during the early 1950s as a member of The Weavers, most notably their recording of "Goodnight, Irene", which topped the charts for 13 weeks in 1950. In the 1960s, he re-emerged on the public scene as a prominent singer of protest music in support of international disarmament, civil rights, and environmental causes.

As a song writer, he is best known as the author or co-author of "Where Have All the Flowers Gone?", "If I Had a Hammer", and "Turn, Turn, Turn!", which have been recorded by many artists both in and outside the folk revival movement and are still sung throughout the world.

When asked about his beliefs, Pete says, *"I feel most spiritual when I'm out in the woods. I feel part of nature. Or looking up at the stars. [I used to say] I was an atheist. Now I say, it's all according to your definition of God. According to my definition of God, I'm not an atheist. Because I think God is everything. Whenever I open my eyes I'm looking at God. Whenever I'm listening to something I'm listening to God."*

(Quote taken from beliefnet.com)

SERVING WITH GRACE OPPORTUNITIES LOOK AGAIN

How might you choose to serve our church at this important time in the life of our congregation?

Consider whether one of the following service opportunities might be right for you.

1. The UUCB Development Effort is looking for someone to review, renew and re-present to the congregation the church's **Planned Giving Program** so that members and friends will understand and be familiar with this particular option for making contributions to the church. Several people in the congregation have knowledge and wisdom about what already exists and will be pleased to offer consultation. The UUA offers a wealth of resources. Speak with Cathey Cyrus if you are interested in learning more about this opportunity.
2. As our church moves ahead post-fire, the UUCB website has become dramatically out of date in spite of the attentive efforts of our webmaster, Steve Wellcome. While the exact responsibilities of the role of **website coordinator** are still being discussed, it is clear that a person is needed to oversee the gathering of up to date, relevant and appropriate information about our church and to pass that information on to Steve who will post it in a timely manner. Now, more than ever we need our website to be a welcoming and accurate reflection of our current church community. If you might be that person, see Cathey Cyrus who will connect you with others who are thinking hard about this needed service.
3. **Publicity Coordinator** - Grace Lewis-McLaren, our long serving Publicity Coordinator is "retiring" from this interesting and needed role. While the conversation about assuring effective communication within and without UUCB continues to evolve, we are most immediately looking for someone who can oversee our church communication with the "outside" - newspaper articles, posters about events, signs, etc. (For now the website will be overseen separately.) Please see Cathey Cyrus for more information.
4. **Nominating Committee welcomes a new fifth member** - Larry Lemmel has been appointed by the Board to fill the open fifth member position on the Nominating Committee. Vacancies on the Nominating Committee are filled by Board "appointment" until the following Annual Meeting at which time the congregation votes to fill the position.

Thanks for your Attention.

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

HOSPITALITY HOUR

It's a whole new year for Hospitality!

Coffee Hosts no longer need to spend time running on the "stairMaster" at Minnie Brown. Our sexton, Tony, makes the coffee, brings it upstairs in the "airpots" and whisks it onto the table for us. He cleans and stores both urns and airpots, washes the kitchen floor AND takes care of the trash. Do YOU believe in miracles???



Have you said HI to Tony Sulkoski ?

We send our gratitude to the hosts who served us with grace in January: Vicki and Hank Simpson (again!), Connie Seidner and Helen Johnson, Irene Chance and Paul Schaffner.

We very much hope to hear from some of you who hesitated to volunteer before Tony's arrival - NOW we have an Equal Opportunity to serve the church and each other!



Here's to great Hospitality Hours in 2012,

Valerie Heath
for the Hospitality Team

vheath@gwi.net
729-9254



UUSC GET-TOGETHER WITH CYNTHIA BARNETT



**Sunday, March 4, 2012
4-5 pm**



Cynthia Barnett, Author

Justice is the Human Right to Water

Join UUSC for a compelling conversation on U.S. water scarcity with **Cynthia Barnett**, author of *Blue Revolution: Unmaking America's Water Crisis*. In her book, Barnett examines the illusion of water abundance and proposes that the most important part of the solution is also the simplest and least expensive: a shared water ethic among citizens, government, and major water users.

UUSC's Get-Together features a live interview and Q&A with the author via conference call and webinar, with a traditional book discussion guide to support the dialogue. Stay tuned for the discussion guide and registration details..

Purchase your copy of Blue Revolution today through the UUSC bookshelf at Powell's - every purchase generates a donation supporting UUSC's human-rights work! You can also order it directly from Beacon Press (UUSC members get a 10% discount for online purchases from Beacon Press.)

BLUE REVOLUTION - UNMAKING AMERICA'S WATER CRISIS

By Cynthia Barnett

Description from Beacon Press:

Americans see water as abundant and cheap: we turn on the faucet and out it gushes, for less than a penny a gallon. We use more water than any other culture in the world, much to quench what's now our largest crop-the lawn. Yet most Americans cannot name the river or aquifer that flows to our taps, irrigates our food, and produces our electricity. And most don't realize these freshwater sources are in deep trouble.

Blue Revolution exposes the truth about the water crisis-driven not as much by lawn sprinklers as by a tradition that has encouraged everyone, from homeowners to farmers to utilities, to tap more and more. But the book also offers much reason for hope. Award-winning journalist Cynthia Barnett argues that the best solution is also the simplest and least expensive: a water ethic for America. Just as the green movement helped build awareness about energy and sustainability, so a blue movement will reconnect Americans to their water, helping us value and conserve our most life-giving resource. Avoiding past mistakes, living within our water means, and turning to "local water" as we do local foods are all part of this new, blue revolution.

Reporting from across the country and around the globe, Barnett shows how people, businesses, and governments have come together to dramatically reduce water use and reverse the water crisis. Entire metro areas, such as San Antonio, Texas, have halved per capita water use. Singapore's "closed water loop" recycles every drop. New technologies can slash agricultural irrigation in half: businesses can save a lot of water-and a lot of money-with designs as simple as recycling air-conditioning condensate.

The first book to call for a national water ethic, *Blue Revolution* is also a powerful meditation on water and community in America.



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

Being in a position to gain perspective is usually an asset – looking at the big picture from a little way up offers some distance and “space” for reflection without having to hack through the weeds to see the next clearing. On most days I would agree with that sentiment. The desk at my day job at Curtis Library is a literal perch from which I can see the UUCB property and the comings and goings of church activity. No, I don’t spend my days tracking the traffic in and out of Pennell, but it is obvious that the flow does not stop!

The main point here is that there are so many contributors of, and contributions to our church community that it’s hard to see it all at once. Committees, staff, members, volunteers and visitors are in and out of Pennell; the hours at Minnie Brown each week are more than full; volunteers are going nonstop behind the scenes week after week. The Board of Trustees has oversight of the business of the church, but doesn’t direct church activity – that work has its own momentum. We can only say that we appreciate that everyone is contributing and want to express our gratitude for the love and caring that your work represents. Truly it advances the mission of UUCB, and I hope it nurtures you as well.

The Board is looking forward to the models and images that the architects are presenting to the congregation. By press time, they have yet to be revealed publicly, but by the time you read this you should have a good

idea of how the architects and Building Team are trying to incorporate the hopes and dreams of the congregation into a structure to serve the needs of our community for the next two hundred years. The Board applauds their work and commitment, and trusts in the spirit and good will of our members to settle on the future look of our building; all this in good time to meet the schedule, budget and needs of the church as a whole. We ask you to participate fully in the presentations and discussions – this is our time to get it right!

Board business now focuses on supporting committees in their essential work of the church. The building, planning and development of the Capital Campaign, budgeting for 2012-13, Annual Budget Drive, Long Range Planning and policy development are items now on the table. You can read about some of the developments in this *Parish Messenger*, and other reports will be coming.

The real message is that we are strong and becoming stronger. The Board is encouraged about UUCB’s future in large part because we have so many energetic members working their way through the “weeds”, clearing pathways for the rest of us to get a glimpse of the big picture. Thank you.

May we all live peace,
Mike Heath

FROM THE TREASURER...

Winter is here and we have snow!!! So at least some of us are happy.

It is budget time and soon to be followed by pledge drives as the cycle of finances continues around. We will be planning for a half year in our current location at the Minnie Brown Center in Bath and then for the second half of the year in our new home back in Brunswick. This will be challenge as we are still in the early planning stages for the building and its systems. We need to make our best educated guess about both the expenses and the possible income from the rental of the new space. Also we need to think about how our programs may change in the coming year. We need input from all those on committees as well as others with good ideas and insights into the possibilities for the coming year.

At this point in the year we are doing well. We have had successful fund-raising for the current year operational needs and there is much planning for the future building needs as well. As always it is important to continue with pledge fulfillment.

Things are looking good, keep up the good work.

Laura Jackson
Your Snow Loving Treasurer

| 2011-2012 | Actuals | Budget |
|-----------|------------|------------|
| Income | \$ 132,595 | \$ 242,084 |
| Expense | \$ 121,013 | \$ 242,084 |
| Delta | \$ 11,582 | \$ 0 |

FEBRUARY 2012

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

| | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|---|--|---|-----------|
|  | | | 1 3:45-7:30 Violin Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Grp: 7 Pennell 5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld | 2 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor Happy Groundhog Day!  | 3 9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs | 4 |
| 5 10:00 Service: MBC Newcomer's Corner Congregational Mtg with Building Team Green Sanctuary Mtg See Robin Hansen | 6 | 7 2:15-6:45 violin : Par Worship Committee | 8 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Counseling Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld | 9 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC | 10 9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs | 11 |
| 12 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Concert by Larry Lemmel after Coffee Hour | 13 10-12 Chalice Circle-Par 1-3 Chalice Circle - Par 7-9 CUUPS - Par 7:00 Chalice Circle- Karen Foley's Home | 14 2:15-5:45 violin : Par 6:30 Stories with Soul Parlor  | 15 3:45 - 6:30 violin : Parlor 6:30-7:30 violin: Office 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 7:15 Songwriters Grp: Par 5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld Council: TBD | 16 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 12-2 pm Strategic Planning Committee: Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC | 17 9:30 AA : Pen Newsletter Deadline 7-10 Sidedoor Coffee House -MR | 18 |
| 19 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Newcomer's Corner after service | 20  | 21 2:15-5:45 violin : Par 6:30 Board Mtg | 22 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld | 23 2:30 -6:00 violin : Parlor 7-8:30 Choir: MBC | 24 9:30 AA : Pennell Upstairs | 25 |
| 26 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath | 27 7-9 CUUPS - Par | 28 2:15-6:45 violin : Par 1-3 Chalice Circle 3-5 Chalice Circle - Pen (Cathy Cyrus) 6:30 Stories with Soul Parlor | 29 3:45 - 7:30 violin : Parlor 5-7:30 Couns Grp: 7 Pen 5:30 Building Com McLellan Bld  | <div data-bbox="883 1457 1243 1495" data-label="Text">Deadline for Auction Donations</div> <div data-bbox="1058 1528 1419 1608" data-label="Text">Church events are in bold type. Guest events are in regular</div> | | |

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