

July 2012

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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

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick



ALL SERVICES AT 10:00 AT THE MINNIE BROWN CENTER

July 1 - *"Silverstreaks and the 3 B's"*

Worship Leader: **Sienna Dode**. A take-off on the fairy tale Goldilocks and a glimpse into Sienna's spiritual journey, with comments on Beauty, Boredom and Blame. Music by Brad Mitchell and others.

July 8 - *"Do Y'Know Any Good God Jokes?"*

Worship Leader: **Larry Lemmel**. Highlights of fifty years as a Unitarian Universalist layman: God jokes, UU role models, serving with grace, how I almost became a UU minister, and mostly, what keeps me coming back after all these years. Music by Larry Lemmel.

July 15 - *"Hot News from Phoenix (General Assembly)"*

Worship Leader: **Grace Lewis-McLaren**. Average temperatures 102. Number of UUs attending, several thousand. Major topic: Arizona's immigration policies. A former GA junkie reports back to her congregation. Music included!

July 22 - *"Who Me, Prejudiced?"*

Worship Leader: **Nancy Dorian**. The social prejudices typical of your own culture are so insidiously widespread that it takes conscious effort to recognize and combat them in yourself. By contrast, unfamiliar social prejudices encountered in a different culture seem so blatantly irrational that they are easy to resist, especially if you are a supposedly objective scholar. But what if connecting with the culture you're studying requires a behavior that exposes you to acute biases you didn't expect to face, including some of your own? Music by Peter Alexander.

July 29 - *"Passing the Glare Test"*

Worship Leader: **Mary Pat Conroy**. When you are blinded by the glare of the headlights, change the lens! Discover how to find clarity and light when modern life clouds your vision in this medical metaphor! Music to be determined.

FLOWER CEREMONY



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 on vacation for the summer. In the fall, she will be in her new office (place TBD), Wednesday & 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 Tues and Thurs 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. Sylvia will be on vacation from August 1-17.

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

Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515

E-mail: uubruns@awi

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



... MINISTER'S MUSINGS...

Wow. Just look at where we are. Who would have predicted how thoroughly galvanizing the fire would be? Who would have known how our community would pull together? How our leadership would stretch and grow in new arenas? How everyone would contribute what they had – whether ideas, hard work, prayers, money, or all four – to bring us to this amazing juncture? How we would be looking ahead with bright spirits and great hope? Not a day goes by without my marveling at this congregation – its pluck, creativity, and irrepressible spirit.

Now, after an amazing year, our community is throttling down a bit. Sunday School is in recess until fall. Many committees take a break in summer. Summer services are shorter and more informal. (If you are in town, I highly recommend the summer services, incidentally. They lend wonderful variety to our congregation's worship life. They are produced with passion, creativity, and care, and they serve the congregation well. In addition, some folks attend only in summer – so that's when the rest of us can get to know them.)

Members and friends of the congregation often kick back a bit during summer – traveling to favorite places, or recharging our batteries in our gardens, or visiting with loved ones we don't often see during the snowy months. Whatever your plans, I wish you a glorious summer – one that refreshes you and gladdens your spirits. We have been working hard. We have much to celebrate and to feel grateful for. And it's important to rest.

Currently I am serving as an off-site delegate to the General Assembly, the annual meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association. That means I am attending by using my computer to watch the plenary sessions and cast my votes on various issues. It's an interesting way to attend – not really the full experience, but the next best thing. As I watched the opening ceremony on Wednesday night, I could see our on-site delegate Grace Lewis-McLaren carry our temporary banner in the parade of banners from all the congregations. She was beaming!

By the time you read this column, I will be serving as an expenses-paid Visiting Scholar at the Aspen Ideas Festival in Aspen, Colorado. Having never gone to the Ideas Festival, I am not fully sure what to expect. But the line up of speakers and topics looks fascinating. Take a look: <http://www.aspenideas.org/>. I hope to return with lots of sermon material for the coming year.

After I return from the Ideas Festival, I will take a break for a while. During July I will be taking study and reading time. I will be preparing my sermon schedule for the coming year, doing some of the research for some of those sermons, and spending some time reflecting on how best to address the needs of the congregation. After a year of “full steam ahead,” I know the time I take to reflect will benefit both me and you.

For the first part of August, I will be on vacation. I will return to work on August 17 and be in the pulpit on August 19. Office administrator Shirley Bernier and members of the Executive Committee (Mike Heath, Cindy Parker, David Roundy, and Laura Jackson) will know how to reach me in an emergency.

Even though church may seem quieter than usual right now, a lot is still happening. The Building Team still meets weekly. In addition to finishing up the plans for the new building, they are gearing up for choosing a contractor, planning to move the church office, and handling a seemingly infinite number of details associated with creating our new church home. By the time we convene for Homecoming Sunday in September, construction may have already begun on our new building!

Nicole and I have been busy packing our offices. Shirley will be packing closer to moving day. Please be patient with us during this period of relocation. When the call goes out for help with the move, hop on board if you can. Many hands make light work, as the saying goes.

In the meantime, enjoy the fresh strawberries and, later, tomatoes. Spend some time at the water's edge. Kick back with a good book. Enjoy the blessings of summer.

Love, Sylvia



WELCOME CATHERINE KNOWLES



church. After her Mom passed away in 2010, she moved back to Brunswick.

Catherine's two grown sons, Brian and Alex, live in New York state, and when the last one left home she decided it was time to do something for herself - to finish her master's degree by enrolling in Bangor Theological Seminary in Portland. She says that when she worked at Mt. Holyoke College, she was a volunteer spiritual advisor to students and loved it. Her plan is to be a spiritual advisor at a college when she graduates. When she took a class in UU History at seminary, she felt she could really identify with UU's and decided to join our church.

Catherine was an art education major in college and for a class project in seminary, has made a graphic novel. Unfortunately, she is too busy to pursue her art interests these days. She loves science fiction and Star Trek; in fact, she laughingly calls herself a "geek" since she also plays around with computers.

One of Catherine's passions is trains-- both full sized and model railroads. She just finished building a 4x8 foot layout table and is excited about getting it all set up in her basement. Her love of trains began with her Dad, who worked on the railroad. She also belongs to Operation Lifesaver and goes to schools, civic organizations, etc. to train people in safety issues and legal issues and practices around railroads and trains.

Please welcome Catherine to our congregation and "chat her up" at coffee hour!

Jessica Tracy

Catherine Knowles first experience with a UU church was when she was living near Northampton, MA around 2000. Her son was in a UU youth group and, as she became acquainted with his friends' parents, she would attend occasionally. She moved to Brunswick in 2004, came to the Flower Service with one of our interim ministers, and attended services now and then.

In 2007, she moved back to her home town of Syracuse, NY to take care of her ill mother. She connected with the large UU church there, and got a lot of support and caring for both her and her Mom through the

WORKING FOR MARRIAGE EQUALITY

Equality Maine is gathering people who would be willing to work in teams supporting the marriage equality referendum in the upcoming election. Teams could work in phone banks, visit door-to-door, or other ways of getting the word out.

For More Information or to sign up, please call Dotty Hassfeld 729-4704

EQME
EQUALITYMAINE



UU QUOTES

"Universalists are often asked to tell where they stand. The only true answer to give to this question is that we do not stand at all; we move." – Lewis Beals Fisher

"Social advance depends as much upon the process through which it is secured as upon the result itself." – Jane Addams

"The idea that we perform any service in order to escape punishment renders that service tedious and irksome to us; while, on the contrary, duty is supreme delight when love is the inducement and the labor." – Hosea Ballou

"Jesus taught us...to love God and to love our neighbor...The word neighbor applies to one, and all. Our neighbor is the small child dying of AIDS in Africa, the elderly Thai woman scratching in the rice paddy, the Amazonian native pressed away from his home by a burning forest. Our neighbor lives, and dies, in Tonga, in Estonia, in Afghanistan. Our neighbor wears a hoodie. Our neighborhood knows no boundaries, and we are instructed to love every neighbor." – Lee Richards

"Blessed are you who know that the work of the church is transformation of society, who have a vision of Beloved Community transcending the present, and who do not shrink from controversy, sacrifice, or change. Blessed are you indeed." – Rev. John Buehrens



FUNDRAISING

Bowdoin's "Give and Go"

The Bowdoin "Give and Go" Sale held on Saturday and Sunday, June 9-10 was, as usual, a great success. 21 non-profits and over 300 volunteers participated this year over the 4 weeks of preparation, sales, and clean-up.

Over the two days of sales we brought in about \$44,000.00.... a little less than last year, but nothing to sneeze at.

The final amount earned for OUR church was pennies under \$1,850. This is about \$300 more than last year!

Thanks to all the volunteers. It's hard work, but fun, AND profitable!



Merrymeeting Singers and Moving Spirit Dancers

The Merrymeeting Singers & Moving Spirit Dancers raised over \$500 with our June 16th concert! Thanks to all the performers and volunteer help for their generous efforts!

Fall Auction

Keep your eyes peeled for information about the upcoming auction coming in November. To make this even more successful than our Spring Auction (resulting in a profit of almost \$8,000), we will need church members to donate items, dinners, or services AND solicit donations from outside restaurants and businesses. We already have one donation: Kim Mondoneto, Lucille Jewell's granddaughter, will be donating some of her handmade jewelry.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE AND IMMIGRATION



On June 12 over 60 people gathered in the Morrell Room to participate in a UUCB hosted community conversation about newcomers making their homes in Maine.

The Working for Justice Steering Group was pleased to welcome people from area churches, schools and the wider community as well as new Mainers making their homes in Portland, Lewiston and Topsham. (Their home countries included Somalia, Iran, Iraq, Sudan, Democratic Republic of Congo and Burma.) Most of the evening's newcomers are or have been students of Rosemarie De Angelis at Southern Maine Community College. Together they have created an organization called Color of Community and go to schools, churches and community gatherings to tell their difficult ("sacred") stories of leaving their homelands and coming to this country.

With the rich experiences and insights offered by these new Mainers as well as shared "immigration" stories from others in attendance, those gathered moved into small groups to consider the questions, "What stories and experiences do we share?" and "What can we each do to assure a welcoming community for all who wish to build their lives here?"

Comments offered at the end of the evening affirmed the importance of being together to listen to and learn from each other. Many hoped for more opportunities to connect with Maine's newcomers – both for fun and for support; many seek specific ways to reach out and make a meaningful difference to those who are creating new lives here. Working for Justice will be meeting to consider how our church might work in collaboration with others to identify effective actions we can take as individuals and as a congregation. We also encourage people to pay attention to the UUA Justice General Assembly happening this week (June 20-24) in Arizona as it focuses on the immigration issues facing that state and our country.

Our congregation is lucky to have made a connection with Rosemarie DeAngelis and Color of Community who will return to be the heart of an October UUCB worship service and also offer a Sacred Stories presentation at Morrell Room in the fall.

Many thanks to all who participated in the evening and to those who brought the delicious desserts that helped our church "welcome all and nurture one another".

The Working for Justice Steering Group
Cathey Cyrus, Jane Danielson, Catherine Knowlton, Ed McCartan and Hope Russell

JULY CHARITY WITH SOUL

MIDCOAST HUNGER PREVENTION PROGRAM

MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program is well known to UUCB and was selected for the July Charity. Serving residents of Brunswick, Topsham, Harpswell, Bowdoin, Bowdoinham, Lisbon, Lisbon Falls and Durham MCHPP's mission is to reduce hunger by providing food assistance, sustainable living education, and referral services to households living at or below poverty. Currently seven programs are managed by staff at MCHPP: the soup kitchen, food pantry, food bank, elders program, summer feeding for school age children & summer day camps, weekly workshops-living education program and the food security coalition of midcoast Maine. UUCB members volunteer regularly at MCHPP and have for many, many years. Together we all make a difference. To learn more go to <http://www.mchpp.org/> and please donate generously through the month of July in the weekly offering. 1/2 of the plate goes to the charity.



GREEN SANCTUARY

Green, green, I'm a goin' away/To the far side of the hill ...
 Green, green, I'm a goin' away/to where my chu-urch has been built.

I t's not easy being green, when we have no physical church of our own.
 I t's not easy being green, when all our dishes and glasses are locked up Somewhere.
 I t's not easy being green, when our cloth napkins are in an undisclosed location — perhaps
 in a bunker in West Virginia.

But pretty much, we've done it.

- We've pretty much answered the call to bring our own cups to coffee hour.
- We've pretty much used members' cloth napkins and members' dishes and flatware for church sponsored events.
- We've pretty much tried to carpool to church—although that is a little dicey since not everyone goes to church every Sunday.

So, here are thoughts to keep up our sustainable living spirits in the face of difficulty.

- Our clean, ironed napkins are at Pennell right now, in the closet in the Minister's Parlor.

Downside: Everything's going to be taken out of Pennell before construction begins.

Upside: I will know where they are when you need them. Even if they're in my guest room for the duration, they are available.

Upside: Paper napkins are not mentioned in our re-usable dishes policy, and paper napkins are compostable, so just make sure they get composted. Shredded napkins compost well in worm bins.

Upside: The Green Sanctuary annual budget allows for rental of clean, ironed napkins in a variety of colors for formal church occasions and church sponsored occasions. The rental company both launders and irons them. :-)

- Our dishes, glasses, and flatware are Somewhere.

Downside: They are only available in tiny quantities for coffee hour.

Upside: Most plastic flatware can be washed and re-used. Just do it if you can't locate anything better. PS: I have a lot of same available.

Upside: Many members have dishes to lend for large church, or church-sponsored, events.

Upside: A member of the committee organizing an event can purchase sets of dishes at Goodwill for less than the cost of paper dishes. Same member can get them home and clean and donate them back to Goodwill, thus getting a nice IRS write-off.

Yay, us!

Robin Hansen
 Green Sanctuary chair



A BICENTENNIAL MOMENT

Last month I reported on the building of the Unitarian Meetinghouse, dedicated in 1878 on the corner of Federal and Pearl Streets (Jordan Avenue.)

There is a scrapbook kept by a member of the Brunswick Unitarian Society in the collection of the Pejepscot Historical Society dating back to the church's more active period. The congregation was a lively part of the life of the Brunswick community. The items, many clipped from Brunswick newspapers of the time, tell of weddings and funerals, and many describe activities of the women's group such as fairs and dinners.

One such article reports a meeting of the women on November 25, 1881:

"...the ladies of the church, formerly known as Unitarian, have voted to call it hereafter 'The Church of the Unity,' and thus, whenever we speak of it, it will be under this name."

Such was the power and influence of the ladies of the congregation that many newspaper articles, from then on, refer to "The Church of the Unity."

There were many plays, fairs and other entertainments put on by the congregation. In February of 1886, for example, the congregation produced two short plays in the Town Hall on Maine Street. They charged 25 cents for a seat and 35 cents for reserved seats. At this perform-

ance, the Bowdoin College orchestra played in public for the first time *"to an enthusiastic audience."* The proceeds earned were \$44.00

In the scrapbook there are many receipts for money given by the church to the American Unitarian Association in response to requests for support of missionaries working to build new Unitarian churches. The Church of the Unity always sent something. The church also contributed to the Maine General Hospital of Portland, and the Unitarian Sunday School sent money annually to the Children's Mission to the Children of the Destitute in the City of Boston.

In 1885, they called the Rev. Edward C. Guild. He worked very hard to get the Unitarian message out in the Brunswick community by giving two or three months annually of Sunday evening lectures at the church. One series of lectures in 1887 was on "The Doctrine of Future Life" with individual topics such as "The Evidence of Immortality," the series ending with the topic, "The Silence of the Scripture Concerning Details of Futurity." (I would like to have attended this one.) He also gave several series of literary lectures in Memorial Hall on the Bowdoin campus. His lectures on the poet Wordsworth, according to the local paper, attracted *"a larger audience than we have seen there for a long time..."*

But an 1889 report on the status of Maine churches by the American Unitarian Association said that Brunswick was *"a parish numerically stationary."*

After five more years, there appears in the record a handwritten letter, probably an early draft, to the American Unitarian Association by Rev. Guild, dated June, 1894 wherein he tenders his resignation and informs them that the church has voted to close its doors.

By Christine Mitchell

HOSPITALITY

Ayuh, It's Summah!

And, my, didn't it come in with some HOT weathah? As a born-in-Mainer from the County, I heard more French than English as a kid, so I'll stop my nonsense and keep it short!

More great hosts to thank: Helen Johnson, Nancy Dorian, Joan Bayer, Pat Harris and Deb Silverman. Beyond being kind enough to volunteer for those last Sundays, they truly "served with Grace." Thank you.

Have a lovely summer, everyone!

Blessings,
Valerie
for the Hospitality Team

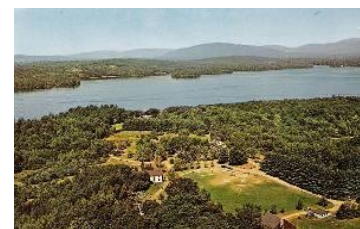


NNED UU WOMEN AND RELGION FALL RETREAT



CREATING CONNECTIONS

September 21-23, 2012
Geneva Point Conference Center



Please join the women of the UU Northern New England District for a weekend of connections and community building. This weekend we will be offering several workshops including Laughter Yoga, Sacred Circle Dancing, Writing and Discussion, Art, and Yoga Dance. In addition we will have time for pampering and foot soaking, the Water Ceremony on Saturday evening, entertainment by us, and a Worship Service and business meeting on Sunday morning. Remember that this is your weekend and you may participate in as many or as few of the workshops, events as you want.

For registration information, go to: <http://www.nned.uua.org/calendar.shtml#/?i=2>

GENERAL ASSEMBLY



General Assembly (the Annual Meeting of the Unitarian Universalist Association of Congregations) took place this year in Phoenix, Arizona on June 20-24. Grace Lewis-McLaren was our delegate to the General Assembly and carried our banner proudly. Sylvia Stocker was an at-home delegate and watched the proceedings from her computer. We can all watch many of the highlights by going to UUA website: <http://uua.org/>

THE WARE LECTURE

The UUA President, in consultation with the General Assembly Planning Committee, invites a distinguished guest each year to address the General Assembly as the Ware Lecturer. This has been a tradition since 1922.

This year's speaker was **Maria Hinojosa**, the anchor and managing editor of the NPR's Latino USA. Previously a senior correspondent for PBS's *Now*, she is currently a contributing correspondent on PBS's *Need to Know*. Throughout her career Hinojosa has helped define the conversation about our times and our society with one of the most authentic voices in broadcast.

Hinojosa has reported hundreds of important stories—including stories about youth and violence and immigrant communities, the immigrant work camps in New Orleans after Hurricane Katrina, teen girl victims of sexual harassment on the job, and Emmy-award winning stories of the poor in Alabama.

Maria Hinojosa believes we are living in a profound historic moment. Things are happening before our very eyes that are wreaking havoc with the core values of who we are as a country. As a journalist, Hinojosa has been able to see much of what is hidden in plain sight in the story of the detention and deportation of immigrants, both legal and not. What is of concern is not only the treatment of these human beings, but what this entire experience is doing to American citizens, their rights, due process and the core values of a free American society.

To see the video of this lecture, go to: <http://uua.org/immigration/re/ga/208868.shtml>

OUR MILLION-DOLLAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: HOW DID WE DO IT?

It helped a lot when our early votes were clear-cut: We would rebuild in town, on our old site, and we would rebuild from the ground up. After those votes were taken, our purposes were clear and all we had to do was raise the money... !

To help us with that we hired a consultant who had taken on the same role with other UU churches. Peter Heinrichs had just the right experience and gave us excellent advice at every stage of the campaign.

Well ahead of the official campaign, two volunteers held a series of small-group discussions in which a cross-section of members of the congregation were asked to reflect on what the UUCB church meant to them and what they wanted from their church. The reports from those discussions were important in helping us focus on aspects of church life that we wanted to emphasize in our new church and even to build into its design. (Natural light and visual connection with the outdoors, for example, and interior and exterior openness and accessibility to all.)

Next came a feasibility study that Peter Heinrichs undertook. He interviewed various community leaders in the Brunswick area, including representatives of the town, the religious community, Bowdoin College, Mid-Coast Hospital, and local fundraisers, and passed along to us the good news that they were well aware of our UU church and particularly valued our downtown presence. They were eager for our rebuilding efforts to succeed. Peter also began a series of conversations with congregants, including those who had been major support-

ers of the church in the past, to try to get some sense of the potential level of support for this new and very daunting building project. At the same time he talked extensively with our Capital Campaign team about their goals and the capacities that each member brought to the undertaking as well as about their own likely pledges to the campaign. When the augury seemed positive, he passed on to the team his conclusion that our campaign had an excellent chance of succeeding. He suggested a basic goal of \$750,000 and a stretch goal of \$800,000; the Capital Campaign Committee optimistically increased the latter to a \$850,000 legacy goal and the congregation voted in agreement.

At this point the campaign went into high gear. Small-group conversations began to take place in the homes of some of the Campaign Committee members, with Peter present at most of them, too, to raise awareness of the level of effort and generosity that would be needed in order to succeed. Pledge packets were sent to members and friends who had expressed a willingness to make an early pledge, and soon volunteer stewards began a series of visits to these congregants in their homes, to ask each person or family to make pledges for the three-year period of the campaign. Responses were wonderfully beyond original expectations. Things were humming along.

Meanwhile other sources of funding had quietly been accumulating. Contributions had begun coming in from sympathetic members of the wider Brunswick community almost from the moment the fire in

our church was reported, and likewise from other UU churches and congregations. Friends and former members sent checks. The children in our RE program began saving their own money for the rebuilding fund, and graduates of our RE program also contributed. Special fund-raising events were planned and carried out. Then on May 5 the Capital Campaign Committee joined with the Bicentennial Committee for a gala celebration and kick-off of the general phase of the campaign, followed by more visits and phone calls from campaign stewards to every member of the congregation not yet visited. Everyone seemed happy to be involved, at whatever level was possible for them, and to be contributing to what was proving to be an extraordinary group effort. The sense of excitement was palpable as optimistic assessments of our fund-raising work began to circulate.

On June 10th, all those optimistic assessments were confirmed. We had funds and pledges in hand that not only met but surpassed our original goals (\$750,000 as a basic goal, to build a church that would house us adequately, and \$850,000 as a legacy goal, to build a church that would be a legacy to those following us in the next 100 years). The total of pledges and gifts from all sources had risen to the point where they actually topped the one million dollar mark. This is such an extraordinary achievement for our small church that it seems hard to believe, but here is the financial breakdown of how it went:

OUR MILLION-DOLLAR CAPITAL CAMPAIGN

Contributions from outside sources prior to the campaign:	\$47,259
Contributions from special fund-raising projects:	\$10,000
Contributions from children in the RE program:	\$ 600
Contributions to campaign from friends, former members, and community members:	\$83,700
Pledges from church members	\$871,342
Grand total as of June	\$1,012,901

What an achievement! There is nothing to be said but heart-felt thank-yous all around. This is a success in which everyone has had a part, and an outcome that could only be achieved by a shared and intense sense of involvement, confirmed by the fact that no fewer than 109 pledges were received by June 10 from members and friends in our own congregation. We had a congregational vision of a new and revitalized church rising where our old church stood, and though much remains to be done (as we learn from each report our Building Team sends out), *we will see that church rise*. We are still inviting and gratefully accepting contributions (see our website), but the fundamental work has been gloriously and successfully done. Again, thank you, everyone and every one.

thank
you!



Cindy Parker
for the Capital Campaign Committee

BUILDING TEAM NOTES

SUMMARY OF JUNE MEETINGS

Owners' Representative (Clerk of the Works)

Having received about ten applications and interviewing four experienced and highly qualified people, we have signed a contract with Arthur Kreidler of Bath to oversee our building project. He will expect to spend about 20 hours each week over the next 9 months documenting the construction and acting as our eyes and ears. After spending the last 11 years overseeing numerous construction projects for the Navy, his eyes and ears are well equipped to make useful observations. We look forward to working with him as soon as possible.

We should all be pleased to know that he strongly believes in doing things "by the book." He is particularly focused on safety, having been recognized by OSHA for his diligence and knowledge.

Visits to the Construction Site

We hope to arrange a few guided tours of the building as it is being constructed, but not many. Please do not visit the construction site on your own. Any issues or concerns you may have over the course of construction will be welcomed by the building team but NOT by the contractors or Art. .

Inscriptions

The committee voted on two inscriptions to be displayed on the outside of the church: one over the entrance on Middle Street and the other facing Pleasant Street. Our aesthetics committee will be working out the details with the architects. Here are our choices:

*"Be ours a religion which,
like sunshine, goes everywhere"*
— Theodore Parker —

*"This is a house of freedom,
guarding the dignity and worth of each person"*
— Kenneth Patton —

Platform

We have resolved that there will be a permanent platform at the north end of the sanctuary, about 2' high by 12' deep by the width of the sanctuary, with a ramp tucked neatly along the east wall and behind the tower. This will have a wooden floor with storage closets in each corner. It will be quite similar to the raised area at Minnie Brown Center.

Solar Power

We have been having pleasant and encouraging discussions with ReVision Energy about installing photovoltaic solar panels on the south facing roofs on Pennell and the new sanctuary. This Maine based company has done scores of installations for a wide variety of buildings and companies throughout the state including many school districts and other non-profit institutions like ours. This is an excellent time to consider installing solar panels due to the overabundance of panels on the world market (therefore very low priced) and the significant tax credits which will soon expire.

Assuming we can make the agreeable arrangements, the short and simplified scenario is that ReVision will do the installation and own the hardware for the first six years. We will buy the electricity generated by the panels directly from ReVision rather than CMP. There will be NO initial or additional costs to us for this time. After six years, ReVision will have used all the tax credits and will then sell the equipment to us for about 20-30% of its initial cost. We then use all our freely generated solar electricity for as long as the system works which could be 20-30 years. It will be great!

Wires and Poles

Poles are still needed for wires other than electrical lines and, as many have noted, the current poles and wires on our side of Middle Street may create aesthetic and access problems. The problem is complicated, involves many stakeholders, and the few potential solutions may be costly. We are working on it.

Disruptions

The wayside pulpit will be removed during construction but is "grandfathered" and may be reinstalled once construction is finished. There is also a redbud tree (*Cercis canadensis*) planted behind the Pennell parking lot that is a clone of a redbud at the home of Clara Barton (another well respected UU). We hope to remove, preserve, and replant this lovely tree.

Space for Our Staff and Stuff

A nice three room office "suite" has been located for only slightly higher cost than what we had budgeted. Since we have yet to have a signed lease the location cannot yet be disclosed but we expect that you will be pleased.

BUILDING TEAM NOTES (CONTINUED)

Negotiations are also under way seeking space for much of the contents of Pennell. We hope this can be in a secure space within short walking distance of the door.

Bucket Brigade

Construction is likely to start early August so please be ready to sort, box, and form a major "bucket brigade". **Your help will be required in moving and storing nearly everything that is currently in Pennell. Be ready to help move stuff BEFORE August 1.**

In Progress:

- Stained glass windows. The Swanson window is under repair, and a subcommittee is working with the architects to find a place to display the Dennison window as well.
- Tables and chairs are being investigated, but will not be part of the building contract.

Finally

We expect the plans will be completed and sent out to selected bidders by the end of June. We also expect to have our own copy of plans and possibly a model that will be available for all to see by July 1. We will be getting bids from the various contractors by July 19th.

We still have many miles before we are there but we have come a long way in just a year!.

We believe a lot of the tough choices have been made and if the bids are within our budget, we hope to have a moderately relaxing summer that does not involve weekly meetings.

Building Team Committee:

Jessica Tracy and Steve Eagles, co-chairs

Bill Clark, facilitator

Debbie Zorach, Erik Hansen, Jud Caswell,

Laura Jackson, Dave Damour

Mike Heath and Sylvia Stocker, ex-officio

SERVING WITH GRACE OPPORTUNITY NOMINATING COMMITTEE UPDATE & VACANCY

Nominating Committee welcomes **Judy Chamberlain** to chair the Committee for the July 2012 – June 30, 2013 church year. Judy is appointed to that position by the Board since Mike Heath will serve a second term as Board Chair and will not be moving on to chair the Committee as stipulated in the UUCB bylaws.

Elected at the Annual Meeting to serve on the Committee were Larry Lemmel, who will complete the 2011-2013 term to which he was appointed by the Board to fill a vacancy, and Paul Schaffner, who begins a second 2 year term to end June 30, 2014.

Ann Spencer continues into her second year on the Committee while Jim Michaud leaves the Committee having served two 2 year terms. Cathey Cyrus retires from Chair following 3 years in that position. There remains vacant a fifth position on the Committee to be filled by Board appointment until that person can be voted in at the next Annual Meeting.

Anyone interested in serving on the Nominating Committee is encouraged to talk with a Nominating Committee member or a Trustee of the Board.

Thank you from the Nominating Committee

NO Coffee House in July
Even musicians need vacations!!



UUCB PROGRAM PLANNING "HAPPENING"

On that recent lovely June 7th evening, the planners were ready: plenty of delicious desserts, some activities to warm us up, calendars posted, markers ready – and all that was left was to wait for the participants to arrive! We shifted nervously from one foot to the other, hoping upon hope that the event would interest enough folks to carry the program we had planned. As it turned out, we needn't have worried! Most of UUCB's committees and program facilitators sent representatives to see what this new idea for the Council was all about, and it seems fair to say that most left feeling that we are definitely headed in the right direction.

What generated interest in making changes? Over the past two years, the Council has struggled to find a way to be relevant, to be an organization that committees felt they needed and wanted to be part of, and to be a place where the programs of the church could see themselves as part of the bigger picture rather than as separate entities each with their own missions and agendas. To that end, the Council took advantage of our situation post-fire to take a good hard look at how we could accomplish those goals. We met less frequently, but spent the time in between gathering information from other churches about how their Councils functioned...or, in many cases, didn't! From that information, we decided that what we most needed were not more meetings, but rather a new way of thinking about the meetings we did hold. We also determined that what would be most helpful of all

would be to develop a year-long calendar of all church activities and programs, and from that, to decide what could be added to enrich or expand our offerings. What new thoughts and ideas might folks have about how best to live according to the tenets of our mission statement? After all the attendees of the Re-Visioning finished putting the information they knew about on the calendars we had posted, we stood back and gasped! It was incredible! For many of us, it was eye-opening to see just how many events and activities currently take place from July of one year to the next!

As the evening progressed, new ideas were generated for future programming and activities. Bill Clark had led the group through some warm-up exercises at the beginning of the evening, so we already knew we came from varied backgrounds and church experiences. In our small groups, those differences produced an absolutely amazing variety of hopes and wishes, dreams and passions. Some of the new ideas were immediately adopted by individuals or committees, while others were "parked" for later consideration. (A complete list of all ideas will be published at a later date.) As for the Council itself as a body supporting the programs of the church, we will look and work differently than we have in the past. Instead of meeting monthly, Council will hold only five (5) meetings per year: October, November, January, March and May – the May event being the one that creates the 2013-2014 calendar. Each meeting will have a specific

purpose, such as to set goals for the year, to refine, update or resolve scheduling conflicts, to assure that programs are functioning successfully, to prioritize programs and events, etc. The Council will also operate as a place to support leadership, to promote training or address problems that might arise, and to provide an opportunity for committee chairs to gather and share fellowship. We plan to have at least two potluck events (January and March) and refreshments at the others. Programs are also proposed for the January and March meetings...more on that later.

So, in conclusion, a huge round of applause for all who attended! Your input, enthusiasm, and willing participation were so appreciated! A second round of applause goes to all those who helped with the event – planning, cooking, setting up, putting away, leading groups – you are wonderful people! How can all this terrific energy take us anywhere but into a bright future in our new church home! Have a great summer!

Pat Harris for the UUCB Council



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR...

On June 10th we passed another milestone in year of milestones. Among other items, the members attending the Annual Meeting passed a healthy, balanced budget for 2012-13. Only through the hard work of our Annual Budget Drive group (RIGHT NOW!) and the generosity of members and Friends we were able to gather the pledges which will fund our operations for the coming year. I can't say strongly enough how symbolic it is to have the congregation show such deep support for UUCB, our goals and our mission. In this difficult year, one that has required so much understanding and flexibility, we are honored to have the profound level of support shown in the financial commitments, and of course the programmatic involvement of the congregation.

Special thanks are also overdue to the entire Capital Campaign committee. This tremendously successful effort involved a wide ranging and talented group. We have been blessed with outstanding results due in large part to the tireless efforts of Cindy Parker, Sally Horne, Cathey Cyrus, Diane Kew, Catherine and Alex Dauge-Roth and Kearly Lay. Many others contributed to the messaging and other fundraising, and of course the pledges and gifts of members and friends are the real success story. The Board and the entire church are humbled by the great work and success we have seen. Thank you all!

I want to express my deep appreciation for outgoing Board members Elaine Hartman, Sally Horne and

Vicki Simpson. Each has invested a productive three years in serving the leadership of the congregation, without which we could not have achieved the remarkable milestones we have. We should all remember that church leadership opportunities come in many different forms, only one of which is serving on the Board. Elaine, Sally and Vicki all have plans to shift their UUCB involvement to other arenas, just as many committee members turn responsibilities over to new or different leaders, and take on new commitments themselves. A new church year is a good time for new ideas and energy as we shift and settle into new roles.

We welcome new Board members Louise Gephart, Kearly Lay and Steve Musica to help guide us through this next exciting year. We will be meeting in both July and August, so the work of the church does not seem to go on vacation. In fact, we anticipate announcing a Congregation Meeting in the middle of the summer so that we can approve a contractor and building budget for the new church. Stay tuned!

Important things are happening on so many fronts, as is evident in all the articles of this *Messenger*. We are fortunate to have such a vibrant congregation and church community, with tireless commitment across the board. Thank you, and have a wonderful summer!

Michael Heath, Chair
Board of Trustees



July 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 10:00 Service: MBC, Beth Israel in Bath	2	3 Church office closed 	4 Church office closed 	5	6 Church office Hours: 10 am-2 pm 9:30 pm AA : 7 Pennell Upstairs	7
8 10:00 Service: MBC, Beth Israel in Bath Newcomer Corner after church	9	10 9-12 violin : Par 3-6 violin: Par 6:30-9 Stories with Soul: Par	11 39-12 violin : Par 3-6 violin: Par 5:30 Building Team: McLellan Bld	12	13 Church office Hours: 10 am-2 pm 9:30 pm AA : Pennell Upstairs	14
15 10:00 Service: MBC, Beth Israel in Bath	16	17 9-12 violin : Par 3-6 violin: Par 6:30-9 Board	18 9-12 violin : Par 3-6 violin: Par 5 :30 Building Team: McLellan	19	20 Church office Hours: 10 am-2 pm NO Side Door Coffee House in July 9:30 pm AA : Pennell Upstairs	21
22 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Newcomer Corner after church	23	24 9-12 violin : Par 3-6 violin: Par 6:30-9 Stories with Soul: Par	25 9-12 violin : Par 3-6 violin: Par 5:30 Building Team McLellan Bld	26	27 Church office Hours: 10 am-2 pm 9:30 pm AA : Pennell Upstairs	28
29 10:00 Service: MBC Beth Israel in Bath Congregational Meeting to vote on building	30	31 9-12 violin : Par 3-6 violin: Par	<p>Summer Hours at Church Office <i>(July and August)</i> Tuesday – Thursday 10:00am-4:00pm Friday 10:00am-2:00pm</p>			

Newsletter editor:
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NEXT DEADLINE
for August issue is
Fri, July 20, 2012, 5 pm
Rare exceptions: 729-4857

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

Church events are in **bold** type.