Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

August 2014

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The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, Minister

Rev. J. Bradbury Mitchell, Minister Emeritus

> Rev. Karen Foley Affiliate Minister

Nicole Shanks, Director of Religious Education

Stephanie Bernier, Music Coordinator Heidi Neufeld, Choir Director Wilson Bristol, Choir Accompanist Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Tony Sulkoski, Sexton

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.

SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10:00 a.m. *

August 3. "A Canary in a Coal Mine"

Worship leader Larry Lemmel. Exploring the UU Statement of Conscience on Ethical Eating and what it means to us as individuals and as a congregation. Music by Anne Miller and Ross Miller. Accompanist: Grace Lewis-McLaren.

August 10. "Pathways to Faith"

Worship Leader Matthea Daughtry, Maine State Representative from House District 66 discusses the multiple pathways and journeys people take to find their own faith. Larry Lemmel will provide music.

August 17. "If I Had a Tape Measure"

Worship leader Sam Teitel. What does it really mean to do work? Is work simply something that we must do to get the things that we need to survive like money and food? Or does work have a deeper purpose – is it possible that some of the things that we get from work are not physical things at all, but mental, emotional and spiritual lessons? Lynn Deeves will provide music.

August 24. Weeds"

Rev. Stocker preaching. Ann Hartzler will provide music.

August 31. Worshiping with 5000 other Unitarian Universalists.

Usually we don't hold church on Labor Day Sunday, but this year we decided to try something new. We will show the closing worship service from this year's General Assembly in Providence. Come sing hymns with a few thousand of your brothers and sisters! Hear the Rev. Mark Stringer of Des Moines, Iowa,

ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS/DEADLINES DURING THE SUMMER

If you have items to be placed in the "This Week" email, Announcement Insert (The green sheet) or the Order of Worship, please submit it to Shirley, the office administrator, by Wednesday at 12:00 pm.

If you want an announcement or article to appear in the September Parish Messenger, send it to the newsletter editor, Sue Michaud, on or before **Friday**, **August 22nd**. (michaud_susan@comcast.net)



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick PO Box 129, Brunswick ME 04011

Summer Office Hours at 1 Middle Street are <u>Tues through Thursday from 10-4</u> The office administrator is Shirley Bernier.

The Minister, Rev. Sylvia Stocker works from home and her church office. Her regular office hours are on <u>Tuesdays and Thursdays from 1-4 pm</u>. She is also available by appointment. To guarantee an appointment, it's always best to call and schedule a meeting. 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.

The Director of Religious Education, Nicole Shanks, is available by appointment. You can call her at the church office or email her at uubrunswickdre@gmail.com.

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

Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515 E-mail: uubruns@gwi Website: http://www.uubrunswick.org



Just a reminder:
the church office is closed on Fridays
during August. It is also closed on
Mondays and weekends, as always.
If you need to reach Shirley Bernier,
the church administrator, contact her on
Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursdays
from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m.

SAVE THE DATE

BUILDING DEDICATION September 7

Our grand, fancy schmancy building dedication will be held on **September 7 at 4 p.m.**We will be honored to welcome special guest the Reverend Peter Morales, President of the Unitarian Universalist Association, at this service.
An intergenerational service, we will have a special but simple part for kids to play.
(No rehearsals required for this special role.)
Glorious music by the choir, Grace Lewis-McLaren, and Jud Caswell. Reception to follow.
Mark your calendars for this historic occasion!

Sylvia Stocker

RE Announcements & Dates

Save the Date!

Wed, Sept 3— Tentative Date for RE Teacher Workshop and Orientation

Sun, Sept 7-

3 pm: Tentative Date for Coming of Age Parent Orientation (COA)

4 pm: Intergenerational Homecoming Service/ Building Dedication

Sun, Sept 14— 2014/2015 RE Classes and Youth Programs Begin!

Fri, Oct 24- Halloween Party and Potluck

Nicole is on vacation from July 20-August 17.

... MINISTER'S MUSINGS ...

"LOST"



Steve and I have been enjoying watching our two raised beds of vegetables flourish. But when we stepped outside this morning, we found most of our pole beans

nipped off at about 3 feet. Deer, we think. They did a nice job of trimming most of our crop. We're not too surprised, for yesterday morning we spotted two does crossing the street about 200 feet from our front door. But we're sad and a little annoyed.

Life is full of losses, big and little. Our church has endured some big losses – the loss of our former church to fire being a recent one. And we have suffered some small losses, too. Unpacking in the new building, we discovered an entire box of silver gone missing. We remember it arriving in the new building, but someone has carried it off – either to shelter it, or to fence it, or to mistakenly give it away. We don't know.

Many, many people were in the building in those days – church people, construction workers, and curious members of the wider community all coming and going. In the face of considerable chaos, we tried hard to protect our valuables, but we were challenged by the fact that we were moving boxes of things we had packed away three years ago. Until we unpacked some of those boxes, we didn't always know what we had in our hands. Anything could have happened to that silver. Unless someone finds it tucked away in their basement or garage, we will never know. I feel sad for the historical and sentimental loss and more than annoyed.

A desk has gone missing, too. For many weeks, it was set up in the Hil-

debrandt Room, waiting for our intern who had been planning to join us in September. (She has since postponed her internship with us.) I don't know precisely when the desk disappeared. It was there until a few weeks ago. It wasn't a spectacular desk or an antique. Just a simple pine desk that used to be my office desk until we moved into the new building. It had been constructed to fit exactly into a little nook in my office in the former Pennell House. Its disappearance utterly baffles me. And I feel annoyed.

Buddhism teaches that attachment to things, people, outcomes – anything – brings about suffering. Whether pole beans, silver, or desks, my feelings of sadness, annoyance, and bafflement embody the wisdom of that teaching. So I have been trying to look at things another way. Maybe those deer are hungrier than I am. Foraging for food, they have to take what they can find. And even though food is more plentiful for them in summer, it can't be easy. Those beans were certainly at just the right height. The deer didn't even have to bend down or reach of to harvest them. I hope they were tasty!

Maybe someone took the silver, stored it away to keep it safe, and forgot they have it. Can you imagine how embarrassed they will feel when they find it? I feel compassion for whoever might be the players in that scenario. Or maybe someone stole the silver and sold it. It can't have been worth much, so the burden on their soul will weigh far more in balance. But if someone was so desperate for money that they stole, especially from a church, then perhaps I need to reach into my heart to find some compassion for them.

The same goes for the desk. Either someone will feel terribly embarrassed when they realize their blunder or someone is pretty desperate. Either way, my heart goes out to them.

More often than we realize, we get to

choose our reactions to what happens to us in life. Feelings are mixed and sometimes even confusing. There is nothing wrong with our feelings, whatever they may be. My annoyance, bafflement, and sadness are just feelings, and it's OK (even unavoidable) to have them. At the same time, it helps when I can turn the corner to compassion. That's a pretty sharp turn sometimes — sometimes perhaps too sharp even to navigate. But most always it's worth the try. The closer I can come to compassion, the better off I will be.

"FOUND"



When I was at General Assembly, I met, by chance, the daughter of one of our former minsters. Connie Dolphin Kite is the daughter of the Rev. Earle Dolphin, a Minister of Music in our church many decades ago. He served as part-time Assistant Minister beginning in 1961, when the Rev. Herbert B. Cousins was the called minister. A musician, Rev. Dolphin served primarily as organist and choirmaster. While serving our church, he also taught mathematics at Brunswick H.S. Before he came to Brunswick, Rev. Dolphin served the Universalist church in West Paris. His daughter Connie said she remembered our church, but she had already grown by the time her father was here. Small world, this Unitarian Universalist world!

Love, Sylvia

No Man is an Island

No man is an island,
Entire of itself,
Every man is a piece of the continent,
A part of the main.
If a clod be washed away by the sea,
Europe is the less.
As well as if a promontory were.
As well as if a manor of thy friend's
Or of thine own were:
Any man's death diminishes me,
Because I am involved in mankind,
And therefore never send to know for whom the bell tolls;
It tolls for thee.

John Donne

MARY HILDEBRANDT RECEPTION

We honor the many years of love and dedication **Mary Hildebrandt** has given to UUCB. Now, as she plans to move to South Berwick to live with her daughter, we send her our love and our promise that she is always in our hearts, no matter where she is. We held a lovely reception for her on July 13. She held court in the Bob and Mary Hildebrandt Room in our church!



Mary (with grandson and great-grandson) greeting Esther Palmer and other visitors in the new Hildebrandt Room.

PEACE FAIR 2014

Working for Justice and Green Sanctuary invite you to come to the 10th Annual Peace Fair on the Brunswick Green. Join with others in our congregation and the wider community to participate in fun and thoughtful activity and conversation. Help to celebrate Pete Seeger's remarkable life! He would be the first to say, "We've got the whole world in our hands...."



PEOPLE'S CLIMATE MARCH

MUUSAN (Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network) has chartered a bus to New York City for the *People's Climate March*.

This march will be the single largest mobilization about climate change in history! On **September 21st**, world leaders are coming to NYC for a UN summit on the climate crisis. With our future on the line and the whole world watching, we'll take a stand to bend the course of history.

To change everything, we need everyone on board. We need you on Sunday, September 21 in New York City.

To learn more about the People's Climate March, go to http://peoplesclimate.org.



MUUSAN BUS TRIP - September 21, 2014

(Round-trip from Marginal Way, Portland ME to NYC, NY)

Regular seats \$40 Student/reduced price seats \$30

- Leaves from Marginal Way in Portland, ME at 5:00 am
- Arrives in NYC at 11:30 am
- Departs from NYC at 8 pm
- Arrives in Portland at 2 am.

(Times are subject to change as details of the march are finalized.)

TO REGISTER:

Seating is limited. Reservations and payment must be made by Sept. 7th.

Seat reservations or donations can be made through Eventbrite (<u>www.MUUSAN-bus.eventbrite.com</u>)

OR by sending checks to: Trudy Ferland, 279 Somerset Avenue, Pittsfield, ME 04967

Please let me, Lynn Ellis, know that you plan to go. Thank you.



posted by Lynn Ellis, UUCB liaison with MUUSAN



WATERING HELP IS NEEDED

for the second week of September on through the month. Watering needs to be done only once a week. If you can take a week, please email me at gkamilewicz@gmail.com or call me at 833-5125. The gardens are looking very nice now and an hour of your time

A HEALTHY LUNCH

Thursday, July 14

Please join us for a tasty, plant-based, organic, gluten free meal in the Community Room.

To reserve, call the church office by Wednesday, June 13.

Seven dollars per person, no tipping, please!

VEGAN SUNDAY August 17

Our monthly vegan pot luck is at Noon. (after church) on August 17 in the Fellowship Hall.

If you are interested in cooking vegan and want to attend, please email Jessica Tracy at jtracy21@myfairpoint.net. Include what you wish to bring.

AUGUST CHARITY WITH SOUL



The Coastal Humane Society is a non-profit charitable organization, animal shelter, and companion animal adoption agency founded in 1950 by Bowdoin College Professor of English, Stanley Chase. Beginning as a strictly volunteerrun shelter in an old barn not far from where the current shelter stands, the organization is now one of the largest animal shelters in Maine with a staff of 20 (including their own veterinarian, Dr. Mandie Wehr) and over a hundred active volunteers.

They currently serve 75,000 people across 450 square miles. In animal terms, that's over 2,000 stray, abused or abandoned cats, dogs, rabbits, ferrets, chinchillas, birds, hamsters and guinea pigs we care for annually.

Towns Served

Bowdoin Brunswick Freeport Phippsburg Topsham Bowdoinham Durham Harpswell Pownal Woolwich

Since their founding 60 years ago, the Coastal Humane Society has cared for and adopted out tens of thousands of animals, and each one is spayed or neutered, fully vaccinated, tested, and ready for a new home. They run a

number of programs and services committed to compassionate care and excellent animal placements, returning lost animals to their families, providing support and resources for pet owners, and educating the community.

They receive NO funding from the state or federal government, and town contracts make up less than seven percent of what it costs to run the shelter for the rest they rely on charitable donations to keep their doors open.

Mission

The mission of the Coastal Humane Society is to protect and save animals' lives; to educate and advocate for their welfare; to provide exemplary shelter and veterinary care; to place adoptable companion animals in loving homes; and to enhance the bond between humans and animals.

Jane Danielson

Letter to the Editor of Parish Messenger, Sue Michaud,

RE: Annual Report Church Year July 1, 2013 -- June 30, 2014.



Is a Compliment ever too late? In hopes that it is not, here it is, as spontaneous as if it was sent when written.

WOW!! I am awed by all the work U, Busy Bees, have done this last year. The Annual Report is not only the best written and organized I have ever seen in the 24 years since I joined (in 1990); it also reflects an incredible amount of work and numbers of volunteer hours U have all done to make this physical church and spiritual community be the proud Beacon it is on Pleasant (aka-Maine St) in Brunswick, Maine. A LARGE (Barclay size) Congratulations to all U, UU's.

THANK YOU, Esther Lacognata-Palmer

MUSIC AT NOONTIME

SCHEDULE FOR AUGUST

Please join us in the sanctuary at 12:15 every Wednesday for 30 minutes of quiet, restful and meditative music by UUCB musicians.

August 6, 13, 20 and 27.

Always free for everyone.

LONG RANGE PLANNING: ON THE MOVE!

rainstorming, brainstorming about music, Congregational voting, priorities agreed on at an expanded Board meeting – what's next?

A close look at where we want to go is next, and this time we have the advantage of being in our magnificent new church building. We can begin to see the possibilities and think about ways to realize our brainstorm dreams. Pretty soon invitations for brainstorm actions will go out to people already working in areas where our dreams were most clearly concentrated -- music, children's programs, fund-raising, membership, just to name a few. Those were already major directions for us, and now we want to step up our speed and expand our targets.

Other brainstorm visions emerged pretty strongly, too, some in directions

we've only made early steps towards Our votes showed that so far. we're concerned about aging, for example, helping our own elderly and other elders in the area get needed assistance and find or stay in suitable housing. Our votes also made it clear that we would like to have a much stronger connection with Bowdoin, from mounting joint programs with the college to attracting more student participation in our church events. Not surprisingly, we also voted strongly for a higher community profile: hosting and putting on more programs of wide community interest, from lectures to concerts to political forums.

Ideas – we've got lots of them! When you think about who we are as a congregation and what we hope to become, please think too about where your talents and interests fit. Do you already take part in programs at People Plus or Spectrum Generations? Do you go to programs at Bowdoin frequently, or audit courses there and get to know students? Does your involvement with local planning bodies, conservation groups, or political action initiatives give you ideas about speakers who would have something to say to our congregation and the community at large?

The UUCB can use your experience and your skills. As our new Long Range Plan emerges, keep an eye out for your personal place in it. The one thing that's sure is that you have one!

Nancy Dorian for the Long Range Planning Committee



NEW CHALICE CIRCLES FORMING THIS FALL

For five years our UUCB Chalice Circles have drawn together members and friends in monthly small groups, where we learn to know each other more meaningfully by together addressing thought-provoking topics. In a Chalice Circle we are committed to deep and respectful listening to each other, and to thoughtful sharing of our own thoughts and experience. Groups meet for a year, at the end of which they disband for new groups to form—comprising both those who wish to continue and those new, or returning to, Chalice Circles. If you'd like to try a Chalice Circle but aren't sure it's for you, we ask only that you commit to attend four times before making your final decision.

The September newsletter will have a sign-up form for those who would like to join a Chalice Circle for the coming year (new groups to start in November)—whether you are already in one, have previously been

but not currently, or have never participated. For new-comers to UUCB, a Chalice Circle can be a wonderful doorway to knowing others. People often tell me that once they've been in such a group, when they come to church services, they see among the congregation people they now know and otherwise might not have.

Questions or concerns? Ask someone at church, "Have you been in a Chalice Circle?" There are plenty of us! Ask what the experience was like for them. Or contact me at revKLFoley@comcast.net.

*Karen Foley (*affiliated community minister)



FROM YOUR BOARD CHAIR

any long-time church members (including my husband) have told me how different summer used to be 20 or 30 years ago. The church year ended in mid-June, the doors were locked, the minister went on a well-deserved vacation, and the congregation scattered for play, travel, gardening, or just plain laziness every Sunday until soon after Labor Day. I've visited entire summer colonies in Maine that used to be filled with vacationing clergy, and I'm sure some of them wonder how present-day ministers manage without a two or three month break. I doubt that today's congregations are any less tiring to those who lead us!

Since Sylvia arrived, however, we have been moving away from that model and towards one that splits her vacation and reading time into smaller parts that are spread throughout the year—perhaps a month in the summer and a month in the winter. The rebuilding project may have been the initial impetus for Sylvia to take less of her vacation in the summer, but a new building that attracts summer visitors as well as locals also plays a big role. We are no longer a nine-month church: even during Sylvia's time away we have lay-led services and visiting speakers, and committees and working groups

continue their tasks with little regard for the season.

In a similar fashion, I think the Board used to take the summer off. Surely most everything can wait until fall? On the contrary! Your board, with its three new members, has a lot on its plate. We are working on new rental pricing and policies as one way to help bridge our budget gap. A completely new website is under construction and will soon be unveiled. We need to revise the safety policy to fit the new building. Sylvia's annual review will be finalized. And on and on. We will use our August meeting as a retreat, looking for a little of that old summertime feeling, but also to establish our goals, to take a fresh look at our congregation and the opportunities before us, and to revitalize ourselves for the coming year.

I hope you and yours are finding that same summer refreshment and revitalization.

Cindy Parker, Board Chair



THE CONTINUING SAGA OF SEMINARIAN/FUTURE MINISTER, CATHERINE KNOWLES



I am pleased to announce that I have been accepted into a Clinical Pastoral Education (CPE) Residency program at St. Luke's Hospital/Temple University Medical School in Bethlehem, PA. This one-year resident training program will prepare me for accreditation as a board certified chaplain, and will also meet the

internship requirement for ministerial credentialing in the UUA.

The difficult parts are (1) I am moving 8 states away from my beloved Maine and my wonderful home church, UUCB, and (2) the costs associated with the move are extensive.

I have set up another fundraising account online (http://www.gofundme.com/btucd8) to accept much -needed donations, and donations can also be made

through the church office (let Shirley know the check is for my fundraiser with a note and by noting as much in your check's "memo" field.) Renting a moving truck and getting it to Bethlehem alone will cost around \$1,000, and on top of that, securing an apartment will require first month's rent plus a month's amount as security - sometimes more! (I am still apartment hunting there, and rents seem a bit higher than here.)

So, thank you again for any support you can give. I promise to share/pay it forward somehow, some day!

This is a rather urgent appeal - I do not have the money I need to move and the program begins Aug. 18th! I just found out I was accepted last Friday, so just over a week ago now. The sooner people can donate, the more I will appreciate their help!

Catherine

10 July 2014 Parish Messenger

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

GORDON BOK CONCERT A HUGE SUCCESS

Playing to a FULL house, Gordon Bok and our own Jud Caswell totally delivered great performances at the July 19th concert at the UUCB. The audience was delighted with all aspects of the show, including the opening act (many had not seen Jud before and were very impressed), the emceeing by David Roundy, the new building, the refreshments, and of course the main act.

The fundraising events committee is pleased to announce that the event raised \$4,135.50 for the church's budget shortfall.



IMPORTANT SURVEY COMING

Since we did not receive enough pledges to meet all the needs of the church, fundraising is more important than ever! We need YOUR help to raise extra funds. We need people to help organize events, to work at events, to publicize events, and to attend events.

The Fundraising Events Committee is opening an umbrella for all to share as the fun comes pouring out and the funds com pouring in!!! Just choose your favorite event(s) team(s) and come play "with us."

This week you will be sent a link to *Survey Monkey*, an online webpage where you can answer survey questions easily and quickly. The committee is trying to find out which types of events church members may be interested in, and what level of involvement you would have for a particular event. There will be a few paper versions of the survey for people without Internet access, but we are hoping to keep our commitment to being a "Green Sanctuary" by having as little paper as possible. PLEASE help us plan our year by completing this survey as soon as possible.



HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

Habitat for Humanity volunteers are needed for the next build. The Habitat sign has gone up on Route 123 near Bowdoin College and the first home for a veteran should be started in August. Habitat is looking for teams of 7-10 workers for Saturdays starting the second Saturday in September. Would you like to participate? While we welcome women, this is a great opportunity for the men in the church to become involved. So far three men from the church have signed up. I am trying to see if there is enough interest in doing this, so please give me a call at 833-5125 or email me at gkamilewicz@gmail.com. If I see that we can provide help for one Saturday, then I will work on setting a date in late fall. If you can't commit to a Saturday and are free on Thursdays or Fridays, you could join a crew then. Let me know and I will connect you up with Michele Ober from Habitat. Many thanks.

Gretchen



THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of BRUNSWICK 1 MIDDLE STREET OPEN MIKE SIGNUP - 7 PM FEATURED PERFORMER - 9 PM

TICKETS: \$8 - SENIORS & STUDENTS - \$6

Dave Bullard

Dave Bullard began performing in Colorado ski towns in his teens. He has traveled the globe learning different styles of music from folks of many colors and many countries. A California native, Dave spends about half the year on the road out west and the other half from Maine to Georgia.

Now working on his 28th CD, "Islands of Time" may be ready for sale in August.



Friday Evening, August 15

Feature set preceded by the Open Mike

The Side Door Coffeehouse has been a fundraiser for the Unitarian Universalist Church of Brunswick since 1993.

It is entirely volunteer run.

AUGUST 2014								
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat		
					1 4:30 Pactoral Care: MSR	2 10 am-3 pm Brunswick Peace Fair: Brunswick Green Office Closed		
3 10 Church Service Office Closed	4 7 Pagans: WBR Office Closed	5 6:30 Worship: MSR	6 12:15 Noontime Concert: SAN	7	8 10:30 Building & Grounds: SAR Office Closed	9 Office Closed		
10 10 Church Service Green Sanctuary: MSR Office Closed	11 Office Closed	12 6:30 Stories with Soul: WBR	13 12:15 Noontime Concert: SAN 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship	14 12 Healthy Lunch: FH	7-10 Side Door Coffehouse (Dave Bullard): SAN Office Closed	16 Office Closed		
17 10 Church Service 12:00 Vegan Sunday: FH Office Closed	18 7 Merry Meeting Singers: SAN Office Closed	19	20 12:15 Noontime Concert: SAN	21 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship	22 5 Parish Messenger Deadline Office Closed	23 Office Closed		
24 10 Church Service Office Closed	25 7 Merry Meeting Singers: SAN Office Closed	26 6:30 Stories with Soul: WBR	27 12:15 Noontime Concert: SAN Men's Luncheon: Off Site 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship	28	29 Labor Day Weekend Office Closed	30 Office Closed		
31 10 Church Service (Come at 9:45 for hymn singing) Office Closed	RE = All RE Space SAN = Sanctuary HIL = Hildebrant Room FEL = Fellowship Hall CAR = Carson Room WBR = Wendall Berry Room MAN= Mandela Room MSR = May Sarton Room MER = Merrymeeting Bay Room Newsletter editor: Susan Michaud michaud_susan@comcast.net NEXT DEADLINE for September issue is Fri, August 22, 2014, 5 pm Rare exceptions:729-4857							