

Parish Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church
of Brunswick



June, 2016

Annual Meeting	3
Appraisal Fair	10-11
Board Report	3
Calendar	16
Charities with Soul	6
Concerts for a Cause	11
End Inequality	15
Fundraising Events	10-11
Habitat for Humanity	4
Hannaford Cards	5
Housing Need	13
How to Reach Us	2
Larry and Grace Concert	13
Maine-Wabanaki REACH Workshop	9
Membership	14
Men's Luncheon	13
MUUSAN	7
New Mainers and UUCB	8
Plant-Powered Potluck	13
Pride Parade	7
Public Policy Forum	8
Religious Education	2-3
Rental and Building Use	5
Side Door Coffeehouse	12
Summer Hospitality	15
Tutoring Opportunities	8
UUA General Assembly	4
Youth Advisor, Hanna Cain	3
Working for Justice	6-9

*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

Derek Herzer, Choir Accompanist

Shirley Bernier, Office Administrator

Tony Sulkoski, Sexton



SUNDAY SERVICES AT 10 A.M.

June 5 Membership Sunday

The Membership Committee will conduct the worship service and welcome new members to our congregation. Music by Derek Herzer, piano and Glenn Williams, clarinet. Learn about our newest members on page 14.

June 12 Service of the Living Tradition and Flower Communion

At this service we mark the major milestones within the congregation – births, graduations, marriages, and deaths – saying goodbye to the church year that is passing and turning our sights to the church year ahead. The service will end with our annual flower communion ceremony. **Please bring a flower to share in the ceremony.** Music by Derek Herzer and the choir under the direction of Heidi Neufeld.

Following the service, please stay for our important Annual Meeting (See Board Report on page 3.)

Jun 19 “Salvation Through Writing”

Grace Lewis-McLaren

Writing it down. Shopping lists, packing lists, proposals, journals, letters. Grace Lewis-McLaren has used writing as a healing practice, too. She'll share some of her tricks and experiences with writing as a saving art. A member of UUCB starting in the mid-70's, Grace has UU church and family connections here in Maine and in the San Diego area where she spends her winters. Music by Derek Herzer.

June 26 “Cultivating Loving-Kindness for Ourselves and Others”

Lynn Deeves will offer music, readings and meditative practices for us to explore. Maine singer-songwriter, massage therapist, teacher and meditation practitioner, Lynn has performed at our church services as well as at the "Side Door" coffeehouse. She is known for her light-hearted spirit, soulful vocals and uplifting lyrics.

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Another great program year has come to a close. Many thanks go out to our volunteer RE leaders, without whom our programming would not be possible. We recognized our RE teachers in May during the RE celebration service, but another group of RE leaders that is often doing more of the behind the scenes work is the RE Committee. I had the pleasure of collaborating with Jean Lay, Melissa Fochesato, Cathey Cyrus, Kate Phenix, and Nathan Haynes this year (and some of those folks for several years now!). They are a great group of people who bring energy, enthusiasm, great ideas, vision, and much more the planning and implementation of RE programming. Last month I mentioned that there will be some changes taking place in the structure of Sunday morning RE programming. The RE Committee has been working with me

to develop those changes and I'd like to share some of those changes with you here.

In the 2016/2017 program year, RE will shift from traditional classroom Sunday morning programming to a workshop model which the RE Committee and I feel I will best fit the needs and interests of our children, families, and congregation. We will still follow the three year rotation that focuses on the meta-themes of Community and Justice, UU History and Identity, and World Religions. This coming year our theme is World Religions. Each month RE will have a topic and a story of focus that the children will explore in different ways through workshops each Sunday of that month. These workshops will be created and led by members and friends of our congregation (hopefully you!) who have a skill, interest, or hobby that they would like to share with the RE program. On Sunday mornings the children will still start out in the worship service through the "Time for All Ages". Following the "Time for all Ages", the children will head back to their RE age groups and spaces where an RE "Guide", an adult volunteer who is part of a team of people assigned to each age group, leads the opening ritual. After the opening ritual (about 5- 10 minutes) the group will participate in a workshop activity led by a volunteer from the congregation. By offering workshops we hope to draw in many people from the larger congregation who would enjoy sharing their love of painting, cooking, music, writing, drawing, sculpture, sewing, knitting, gardening, poetry, movement/dance, fitness, video, theater/drama, service, building, magic, martial arts, science, nature, origami, quilting, pottery, animals, woodworking... As you can see, there are practically endless possibilities! We expect that there are many people who would be wonderful mentors to our children who would not necessarily consider volunteering throughout a year-long program.

Please consider offering your time and talents with the RE program in 2016/2017 by sharing your skills, interests, and hobbies to create and lead a workshop(s). The RE Committee and I are eager to engage more of the congregation in getting to know our children and helping them feel welcome in our church community. If you have any questions or would like to talk about this request and opportunity, please let me know!

Have a great summer!

Blessings,
nicole



HOW TO REACH US

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

Office Hours at 1 Middle Street are
Tuesday through Friday from 10-4.

The office administrator is
Shirley Bernier.

As of April 15th, **the Minister**,
Rev. Sylvia Stocker is on sabbatical and
will resume office hours in mid August.

For information on how to reach
a **Pastoral Care Associate**, call
207-729-8515

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 church staff.

Telephone/Fax: 207 729-8515

E-mail: uubruns@zwi.net

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

IMPORTANT RE DATES

May 29: No RE Programs, nursery will be unstaffed

June 05: Multi-Age Activity

June 12: Multi-Age Activity

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

MEET HANNAH CAIN OUR NEW UUCB YOUTH ADVISER!

This April, after a long search, Hannah Cain was hired as our Youth Advisor. Hannah will work with the DRE to plan and facilitate programming for youth in grades 7-12 so that our church is able to offer meaningful activities for youth on Sunday mornings during the worship service. Hannah is currently a student at SMCC in Brunswick. She is an English Lit major and has interest in working in the field of education. Hannah loves animals, hiking with her dog, spinning classes and other fitness activities, and literature. She was very active in 4H during high school, both participating in and leading 4H programming. Hannah was born in Texas and lived in New Mexico when she was younger, but has spent most of her life in Maine. She lives in Brunswick with her parents and her really cute dog, Rags. Hannah says: "I enjoy working with teens because I like teaching them leadership skills and helping them to live out their ideas and explore their interests. I am looking forward to being able to do this with teens in our church." Expect to see a lot of Hannah with the youth group this coming fall!



FROM THE BOARD CHAIR

ANNUAL MEETING—JUNE 12

The UUCB Annual Meeting needs you! On **June 12**, following the service, the UUCB Annual Meeting will be held. At this all congregational meeting, we will be determining the budget for the new year, elect new trustees and officers for the Board, and learn about the ongoing fiscal health of the church as well as any new initiatives.

This is your opportunity to ask questions, state your opinions on how things are managed at UUCB, and express your joys or concerns about life at UUCB. During this year when Sylvia has been on sabbatical for over seven months, the Board has attempted to be accessible to you so your voice can be heard. We welcome any input from you privately or at this meeting. The Annual Meeting is place for you to communicate and hear what others are thinking. Please make every effort to attend.

As an early alert, although you were all so kind and generous in pledging, we also had some large increases in items in the budget that we cannot control (health insurance,

for example). Consequently, the pledges made to date do not meet the needs of the church, so we will be looking at a deficit budget this year. We will be offering several opportunities for you to view this budget ahead of the Annual Meeting so we can re-view the proposed budget and possible solutions to this deficit as well as to address any issues you see as problematic. Please make an attempt to attend one of those sessions if you would like to learn more. Please watch for the scheduled dates in the announcements.

The Board is responsible for conducting the worship service that day, and I assure you, it will be timely so we can start the Annual Meeting quickly and efficiently following the worship service. We will be looking for each of you that day, as your opinion matters!

Thank you!
Mary Larson, Chair

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

On **Saturday, June 18th**, UUCB volunteers will be working on Build 3 on Hope Lane. Don't know what we will be doing yet, but if you have a willingness to work, we would love to have you. We usually work from 8:30 until 3:30 with a break for lunch. Volunteers under seventy are most welcome!

We are also seeking a team of 3-4 volunteers to work on the **Habitat weatherization program** this coming fall and spring of 2017. This involves two Saturdays in fall and two in spring. The first Saturday the team will visit 3-4 homes to see what their needs are and then come back a month later to work on those needs. **Ashley Richards** has volunteered to be team leader and we have another volunteer so far. This is very worthwhile project which helps tighten up older homes, many of which are owned by elderly citizens.

More information, please contact, Gretchen Kamilewicz at 833-5125 or gkamilewicz@gmail.com. Many thanks.

Thank you.

Gretchen Kamilewicz and Catharine Chase.



UUA GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS YEAR!

UUA's General Assembly is the annual meeting of the UUA. It is a chance to meet with many UUs from across the country to worship, witness, learn, connect and make policy for the UUA in a democratic process.

DATES: June 22-26
LOCATION: Columbus, OH

THEME: Heart Land: Where Faiths Connect

If you would like to attend, or to be a delegate from UUCB, please contact Mary Larson, 406-4266 or by email at marniel@windstream.net

We hope our church will be represented!

RENTAL AND BUILDING USE NOTES

The Rental Subcommittee (of the Building & Grounds Committee) has some good news, a reminder and a request.



Good news: Rentals from groups outside the church are on track to generate over \$5,000 this year. This is money that goes into Operations for UUCB, and helps cover utilities and building infrastructure. UUCB is gaining a reputation as a great venue for musical events in particular, and a convenient place for nonprofit group meetings both large and small. We expect rentals to be strong in the upcoming year as well.

Reminder: Keeping our building secure is a critical issue. *If you have access to the building after-hours (with a code or key) and you open up for a committee meeting or other activity, then YOU are responsible for locking and securing the building when you leave.* It may happen that another group comes in and stays later, so if you are not the last to leave, it is **YOUR RESPONSIBILITY** to hand off closing duty directly to another person who also has a key /code, and who knows how to close properly. All this info is included in a Closing Procedures document on the website at <http://www.uubrunswick.org/member-info/policies-and-procedures/>. Check it out, don't take closing up lightly, its serious business.



Calendar: The whole-Church calendar, including rentals, is available online. If you want to look ahead from the calendar posted on the last page of the Parish Messenger, or want the most up-to-date information about what's going on, look at <https://teamup.com/ks93ed2f2dbdde5ef3?view=w> which is more easily accessed at www.uubrunswick.org/member-info/

Avoiding Conflicts: If you are planning an event, meeting or activity, you can check availability of a particular date in a particular room or part of the building first, then contact Shirley to get things set up. Remember that the dates and times in the calendar are firm commitments, and your reservation time should include setup and cleanup times, as another group could reserve the same space at either end of your reservation and we can avoid conflicts as long as each respects the time reservation of the other.



We are a very busy community with lots of activity throughout the week and the year. And yet there is room for even more! Working together we can make it work for everyone. Thanks for your attention and your help!

Mike Heath, for the Rental Subcommittee

HANNAFORD CARDS REMINDER



Every dollar you spend at Hannaford, using one of our cards, nets a 5% return to the church -- easy money indeed! Cards are available for \$25, \$50 or \$100, and do not "expire" so you may spend as little or as much as you want each time. Please see Caroline Evans or Ann Spencer during Sunday coffee hours (we stand at the sanctuary side of Fellowship Hall), or you may see Shirley Bernier during church office hours. We appreciate your support with this ongoing fundraiser!

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

JUNE CHARITY WITH SOUL MIDCOAST HUNGER PREVENTION PROGRAM

MidCoast Hunger Prevention Program is well known to UUCB and was selected as the June 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/](http://www.mchpp.org/) and please donate generously through the month of June in the weekly offering.



2016-2017 CHARITIES WITH SOUL

UUCB divides its weekly collection plate with charities selected annually by the congregation. This year, the nomination process ran for 3 weeks in April, when the congregation was invited to submit nominations for their favorite charities. A record 20 organizations were nominated and voted on in the first two weeks of May. Eighty-six ballots were turned in. Ranked by votes in descending order (most votes first), the charities are:

Tedford Housing
Gathering Place
Oasis Free Clinic
Immigrant Legal Advocacy Project (ILAP)
Boys to Men
Spindleworks
Independence Association
Four Directions
Addiction Resource Center (ARC)
Maine Family Planning

Please note that Habitat for Humanity/7 Rivers and MidCoast Hunger Prevention are always included as Charity with Soul recipients.

Thank you to all who participated in the nomination and ballot selection. The months for 2016-2017 will be assigned following approval of the list at annual meeting June 12.

Submitted by Working for Justice Steering Group

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

MUUSAN

ANNUAL MEETING

MUUSAN Annual Meeting - May 14, 2016. What a wonderful day -- nearly 50 UUs from 13 congregations, with speakers from the UU Service Committee and the UUA-New England Region. MUUSAN's legislative ministry had a great year of development and excellent advocacy work at the State House and with coalition partners was reviewed.



PRIDE PARADE 2016

UUCB will join MUUSAN and other UUs at the 2016 Pride Parade on **June 18**.

For more information contact Lynn Ellis at 479-5208 or lynnsellis@yahoo.com. We'd love to have a good number from UUCB this year. Photo is some of us from 2015



MUUSAN

Maine Unitarian Universalist
State Advocacy Network

WORKING FOR JUSTICE

NEW MAINERS AND UUCB

Working for Justice Steering Group is exploring ways to engage the congregation in offering support and welcome to new Mainers finding their homes in the Brunswick area. Our initial hopes for a supportive partnership with a local Congolese family have been put on hold as the family deals with many intra-family changes. Thank you to all who offered to reach out to them. We will be back in touch should that opportunity for support and friendship return.

In the meantime, we have formed a relationship with the Merrymeeting Adult Education English Language Learners (ELL) teacher, Vincent Liu. Vincent and his students, with their families and other invited guests from more than 12 countries, held their May Culture Fest potluck at UUCB on May 6. UUCB members and friends of all ages were invited to join with more than sixty people to share cultures through food, music, games and conversation. It was a heartwarming (and delicious!) event. Vincent is already looking forward to working with us on a bigger celebration next year!



SPECIAL TUTORING OPPORTUNITY

If you are interested in tutoring refugees or new immigrants, contact Amy Poland (207) 784-2928 at the Lewiston Adult Ed program.

For more information speak with Jim Spicer or Pat Moore, members of the Working for Justice committee.

PUBLIC POLICY FORUM – FALL 2016

The Working for Justice Public Policy Focus Group will offer an educational opportunity to learn about all FIVE ballot initiatives for November voting this fall. Date/time to be announced. December will, for the 4th year focus on a Sandy Hook Remembrance Vigil.

The 5 ballot questions are:

- An Act to Establish Ranked-Choice Voting
- An Act to Legalize Marijuana
- An Act to Raise the Minimum Wage
- An Act to Require Background Checks for Gun Sales
- An Act to Establish the Fund to Advance Public Kindergarten to Grade 12 Education

NO monthly public policy forums will be held on 4th Sundays from June – December.

WORKING FOR JUSTICE



Maine-Wabanaki REACH

ALLY WORKSHOP



Maine-Wabanaki REACH and the Maine Wabanaki State Child Welfare Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Saturday, June 18, 2016

9:30 am – 4:00 pm in Damariscotta

This free workshop is designed for non-Native people. It provides an opportunity to reflect on our shared history and future with Native people. It includes: a very brief history of US government relationships with Native people; awareness of white privilege; and ally responsibilities.

Space is limited and registration is required, so please register by emailing Barbara@mainewabanakireach.org or calling 951-4874. Questions are welcome. This workshop is co-sponsored by the Midcoast Outreach and Peace Center.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

ARTS & ANTIQUES APPRAISAL FAIR

SATURDAY, JUNE 11 @ 1-4PM

Highland Green Community Center

7 Evergreen Circle, Topsham



Four appraisers from Freeman's Auction House will be verbal appraisals of your antiques, fine art, decorative arts, historical documents, or jewelry. Freeman's, based out of Philadelphia, is one of the oldest and most respected auction houses in the country.

To reach the Highland Green Community Center, turn in the entrance off Rte 196/Topsham Connector and drive past the golf club. The Community Center is just beyond on the right with ample parking and easy access with no steps.

Freeman's Appraisers

Kelly Wright, New England Director

Virginia Salem, International Jewelry Specialist

Matthew Wilcox, VP, Trusts & Estates

Ben Truesdale, Books, Maps & Manuscripts

FREEMAN'S

\$10 for each appraisal OR 3 items for \$25

Reservations are preferred, but walk-ins are welcome. To place a reservation and **avoid long waits**, register online at <http://uucbAppraisal.brownpapertickets.com> at the Fundraising Table after church service, or contact Sue Michaud at 729-4857 or at michaud_susan@comcast.net.

FUNDRAISING EVENTS

CONCERTS FOR A CAUSE

MAY CONCERTS

May 15—We sold 95 tickets for the **Maine Gay Men's Chorus** concert and earned another **\$618** for local charities.

May 21—For the **Cul de Sax** concert, we sold 75 tickets and netted **\$577...** also headed to charity.



CONCERT COMMITTEE SEEKS NEW MEMBERS



- Do you like music?
- Would you find satisfaction in bringing a variety of high quality talent to the Brunswick Community?
- Would you get an adrenaline rush when lots of new people step through the doors of our church for the first time?
- Would you feel good about making money for the church budget and local charities?

If so, please attend one of our meetings and give it a trial run. Concert Meetings are scheduled for the **4th Tuesday** of each month. Contact Sue Michaud to sign up or for more information

Studies Show:

- Volunteering helps you make new friends and contacts
- Volunteering increases your social and relationship skills
- Volunteering increases self-confidence.
- Volunteering provides a sense of purpose.
- Volunteering combats depression.
- Volunteering helps you stay physically healthy.

STILL NEED HELP FOR APPRAISAL FAIR

Which of these jobs would suit you?

Kitchen Helpers—make coffee, wash dishes

Hefty Luggers—help attendees move items from car

Logistics—direct attendees when and where to go



Sign-up at the Fundraising table after a church service OR contact Sue Michaud at 729-4857.



THIRD FRIDAY OF THE MONTH
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH of BRUNSWICK
1 MIDDLE STREET

OPEN MIKE SIGNUP - 6:45 PM
OPEN MIKE START - 7:00 PM
FEATURED PERFORMER - 8:30 PM
SUGGESTED DONATION: \$8



Ruth Hill

Ruth Hill is a musical storyteller of the finest kind. Inspired by the gritty joy of growing up in a large, colorful family, and a wandering spirit that's taken her to both poles of the globe, her songs are packed with powerful imagery, beautiful melodies and

are described as compelling, authentic, charming, challenging and hard-hitting. With an achingly clear voice she delivers her own eclectic mix of folk, Americana, blues, and bluegrass. Ruth has performed from Antarctica to Alaska, with warmer stops in between. Her songs are a feather in the wind, a mason jar of moonshine, a spin on the Tilt-a-Whirl—exciting your imagination and opening the doors to your own heart.

Friday Evening, June 17, 2016

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.

FREE PIANO CONCERT AFTER CHURCH

Grace Lewis-McLaren and Larry Lemmel, Piano



Grand Rondo in A Major Schubert
 Four Preludes Debussy
 Petite Suite Debussy

Sunday, June 5, 2016 at 11:45 am

UUCB Sanctuary

Admission Free – Please Invite Friends

PLANT-POWERED POTLUCK-JUNE 18

The UUCB Plant-Powered Potluck (formerly Vegan Sunday) will be held after church on Sunday, June 18, at 12 noon in Fellowship Hall. Come share delicious plant-based food and camaraderie with us and explore a plant-based diet as a pathway to better health for our bodies and our planet. Sorry, no drop-ins, but if you are planning to come, please RSVP to Sue Kennedy at skennedy@two-echo.org or [207-373-0578](tel:207-373-0578). If you are new to plant-based eating and would like to know more about its benefits and suggestions for recipes, a good site to check out is www.forksoverknives.com.

MEN'S LUNCHEON

Wed, June 29

These monthly fellowship luncheons, which are held on the last Wednesday of each month with the exception of holidays. All men of the church are welcome. For details, contact Brad Mitchell, bmitch10@gmail.com, or Jim Michaud at michaudjim33@gmail.com.

**ROOM
WANTED**

KATHY FRITZ LOOKING FOR HOUSING

UUCB member **Kathy Fritz** (middle-aged female business professional) seeks room to rent (or can house-sit) beginning early or mid-summer in cat-free (dogs are fine) home for several months or long term. References provided.

Please call (207) 841-0424 and leave message with your phone number and best time to call.

MEMBERSHIP

NEW MEMBER RECOGNITION

On Sunday, June 5th the Membership Committee will conduct the worship service and welcome the latest new members to our congregation. Please be sure to join us for this important event in our church life.

Ryan and Erika McKenney

Erika and Ryan have lived in Topsham for the last eight years. Erika was born and raised in Brunswick; Ryan grew up just down the road in Poland Spring. They met at the University of Maine Farmington where they both graduated in 2006. Both are trained special education teachers. Currently Ryan is teaching in Topsham and Erika is a stay at home mom. They have three children Bryce 6, Evelyn 4 and Jocelyn 10 months.

Sharr Mellott

Sharr has lived in Brunswick for five years. Before moving to Maine she lived in five different states from Tennessee to Virginia. Sharr and her husband, Michael, have three children: Sylvania, age 7, Mikey, age 5, and Sophia, age 3. Sharr homeschools her children. She describes her home as "one of those old one-room school houses," which she loves. Before becoming a stay at home mom, Sharr worked as a nursing assistant. Sharr identifies her religious background as Pagan. Her interests include hiking, sewing and cooking.

Alan and Suzanne Azzara

Suzanne and Alan currently live on Westport Island. Suzanne has been a life-long Mainer but Alan moved to Maine from Long island, New York 19 years ago. Two of Suzanne's three children have spread their wings and now reside in New Jersey and Maryland but, thankfully, her daughter and two grandchildren live nearby, and they love spending time with them.

Alan's career included nearly thirty years of practicing law, college teaching and writing in New York and Maine. Suzanne currently works as a pharmacy technician but also has a background in real estate sales and retail management. Interests include travel, music and reading.

Both Suzanne and Alan were raised in the Catholic religion but have not practiced Catholicism for more than 30 years. In the last several years they developed an interest in Buddhism and are happy to say that UUCB feels like home.

Linda Stelman

Linda moved to Brunswick last August from NJ. Her 3 children are spread out from NYC to the Rockies. Her parents live in Topsham. Linda enjoys animals, nature, reading and learning about many things, both arts and sciences. Her career has been in software development.

Linda Stelman (continued)

Linda was raised in the Episcopal church and was unaware of Unitarian Universalism until she found UUCB. She has missed being a part of a choir and is so happy to find a church (with a great choir!) that aligns closely with her beliefs and vision of responsibility to our shared communities.

Leigh Peranteau

Leigh and her husband, Paul, moved to Brunswick a year ago from Philadelphia. They have five children, and grandchildren ranging in age from toddler to young adult!

Leigh was raised a Roman Catholic but has been a Unitarian Universalist for the past 20+ years. She was active in the Church of the Restoration in Philadelphia and has jumped right in at UUCB bringing her great energy and experience to our Membership Committee.

Leigh's career included being a middle school teacher and director of clinical services for the treatment of individuals with mental illness and substance abuse disorders. Her interests include "all things family", traveling, reading, volunteering in church activities and gardening.

Gar Roper

Gar has lived in Freeport since 2002 with his childhood sweetheart, Betsy, with whom he has been married for almost 50 years. The Ropers came from Fairfield, CT, where they raised two children, who are now adults with children of their own. Having been a camp counselor in Maine in the '60's, Gar considers himself a true "Maine-ah from away."

Gar's career has taken him from school psychologist and therapist to psychological consultant in consumer behavior. He retired in 2013. He was raised a Congregationalist (UCC) and, as a young man, considered pursuing a career in ministry.

Gar now considers himself as having reached self-fulfillment and identity in various expressions as a philosopher and educator. He teaches at the Mid Coast Senior College, serves as a lay preacher, writes fiction and non-fiction, and does acting/story telling. Other passions are folk and country music as well as gardening. He is also an avid appreciator of the British Isles, especially Yorkshire Dales and Ireland.

END INEQUALITY FORUM, MAY 21



Church members turned out to hear the five study groups present information and potential solutions to equity issues which they have studied for six months.

Our topics included education, healthcare, income, justice, and shelter/food. Each group offered a slide show describing early considerations, focus areas, facts they learned and recommended actions that we can take as individuals, small groups or as a whole church. Every study group created a poster with graphics, pictures and text for a “walkabout” session when we could absorb and talk about the information. Finally, the whole group asked questions and offered ideas that we could get behind. Working as a church or partnering with other churches and organizations, we can impact these issues with our time, resources and talents.

Though it is impossible in this space to highlight all that we learned, here are some key points:

- The education study group found that the greatest long-term benefit comes from working with pre-school children, as brain development is the foundation for lifelong wellbeing. We can support programs such as “Best Start” to achieve results or launch a diaper program.
- The healthcare study group found that 130,000 Mainers are without health insurance under our current, dysfunctional system. Maine Hospital Association and 64% of physicians support a single-payer system. Support Maine AllCare to create legislative pressure. Oasis health clinic in Brunswick needs volunteers now.
- The income study group urges “scrapping the cap” on Social Security contributions after the \$118,000 ceiling via a letter writing campaign. We can all support the November ballot initiative on the minimum wage.
- Shocking statistics on incarceration were offered by members of the justice study group who attended meetings and conferences in Maine. Some good news: ME Prison Advocacy Coalition speaks for prisoners about humane changes. ME Council of Churches is focused on this issue and Maine’s juvenile justice system has become a model.
- The shelter & food study group focused on those in the most immediate and local need. 206,000 Mainers experience food insecurity, defined as not knowing where their next meal is coming from. There are numerous ways we can provide food, shelter and clothing, working with others or as a church.

One group highlighted the three ways we can work together on all these issues: 1) advocate 2) help plan local solutions and 3) provide direct service. The slide presentations will soon be made available on the UUCB website. From the home page, click on the link to “ending inequality.”

The Ending Inequality Leadership Team thanks all of the study group participants and dedicated facilitators for your outstanding work. You have given us great leverage as we move forward with this important work. Our team will be meeting in June to shape a

SUMMER HOSPITALITY...

... Just like regular Sunday Hospitality, only Heidi will not send personal reminders (though the Sign Up Genius website will send one) and if no one signs up, there will be no hospitality that week.

If you are thinking you don’t know how to do hospitality, full instructions are in the white binder in the kitchen, as well as instructions about how to run the coffee maker and dishwasher.

You may sign up on the paper copy during hospitality, or log on to:

<http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c0444a8a72ba5fa7-uucb>



JUNE 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
SAN = Sanctuary FEL = Fellowship Hall WBR = Wendall Berry Rm MSR = May Sarton Room MBR = Merrymeeting Bay Room	RE = All RE Space HIL = Hildebrant Room CAR = Carson Room MAN = Mandela Room CL = Curtis Library Seminar Room		1 3 Writers Group: MSR 7 RE Committee	2 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 7 Choir: SAN	3 Tedford Shelter Meal	4 10 AA Rental: MBR <i>Office Closed</i>
5 10 Church Service 11 New Comers Chat: WBR 11:45 Larry & Grace Piano Concert 12 Chalice Circle: WBR <i>Office Closed</i>	6 4 Working for Justice: MSR 5pm-12am Cleaning Time: entire church <i>Office Closed</i>	7 4-6 Membership: MSR 5-6 Staff Mtg: WBR 6:30 Worship : MSR	8	9 10 Rental Cmte: MSR 11-1 Abnaki: MSR 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" & OOW 12:30 Chalice Circle: WBR	10 10 Friday Chalice Circle: WBR 10:30 Buildings & Grounds: MSR 3:30 End Inequality : MSR 5-8 Art Walk: SAN & MSR	11 10 AA Rental: MBR 1-4 Appraisal Fair: Highland Green Community Ctr. <i>Office Closed</i>
12 10 Church Service Annual Meeting after church service 12 Green Sanctuary: MSR <i>Office Closed</i>	13 5pm-12am Cleaning Time: entire church <i>Office Closed</i>	14 12:30 Women's Alliance: MSR 6:30 Stories: WBR 7:30 Pastoral Care: MSR	15 3 Writers Group: MSR	16 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship	17 5 Parish Messenger Deadline 7 Side Door Coffeouse (Ruth Hill)	18 8:30-3:30 Habitat Build 9:30-4 REACH Workshop 12 Pride Parade <i>Office Closed</i>
19 10 Church Service 12 Plant-Powered Potluck: FEL Happy Father's Day <i>Office Closed</i>	20 5pm-12am Cleaning Time: entire church 	21 6:30 Tuesday Chalice Circle : WBR 6:30 Board : MSR	22	23 12 Noon Deadline: "This Week" email & Order of Worship 9:30 Memoir Writers: WBR	24 9:30 Angel Cleaners 5 Parish Messenger Deadline	25 10 AA Rental: MBR <i>Office Closed</i>
UUA General Assembly						
26 10 Church Service <i>Office Closed</i> General Assembly	27 5pm-12am Cleaning Time: entire church <i>Office Closed</i>	28 6:30 Stories with Soul : WBR 7 Concert Task Force: MSR	29 12 Men's Luncheon 3 Writers Group: MSR	30 12:30 Chalice Circle Facilitators: WBR	July 1 Tedford Shelter Meal <i>Office Closed</i> (Office Administrator on vacation)	2 10 AA Rental: MBR <i>Office Closed</i>

ANNOUNCEMENT SUBMISSIONS/DEADLINES

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 **Thursday at 12:00 pm**

If you want an announcement or article to appear in the monthly Parish Messenger, send it to the newsletter editor, Sue Michaud, on or before the **3rd Friday of each month** (usually). The deadline for the July Parish Messenger is **Friday, June 24th**. (michaud_susan@comcast.net)