

Harvest the Power Conference, Nov. 11-12 & Dec. 2-3

NINE OF THE 15 participants at the NNED's "Harvest the Power" leadership conference this fall came from our own Belfast church! Rev. Deane attended, as did our co-chairs, Debbie Bailly and Rick Davis; three Members-at-Large of the Council, Marty Daniels, Dean Anderson, and Sarah Nicholson; and three lay members of the congregation, Ezra Kreamer, Ian Howard, and D. Andrews.

Each of the two weekends we arrived around 4:00 and worked from 7:00 to 9:00, after settling in and enjoying dinner. On Saturday morning, we started right in again at 8:30 and worked until 4:00 or 4:30 with a break for lunch.

Despite the rigorous schedule, the workshop proved to be both fun and enlightening. Our facilitators provided a mix of activities that allowed us to move and often laugh while working with a variety of different people. It was interesting and encouraging to hear from the other three churches that were represented there, one of which began just a year before our own church, and another which has been in existence for almost 200 years! Listening to their struggles and perspectives made us all realize that we are doing a great job here!

We also came to realize, however, that we are definitely in a period of transition, not only because we have just welcomed our first settled minister, but because we are growing by leaps and bounds and can no longer continue to do things the way we

always have.

Most of the activities of the first weekend focused on identifying our own personal leadership styles and the forms of leadership prevalent in our church at this time. We also discussed at length the difference between MANAGEMENT and LEADERSHIP. Management is all about maintaining balance. It focuses on solving problems as they come up, with the goal of keeping things running smoothly. Because we are such a young and dynamic church, much of what we do falls into this category out of the simple necessity of keeping our heads above water!

Leadership, on the other hand, often rocks the boat and makes people uncomfortable! Leadership is about having a vision, and taking the necessary steps to bring that vision about. It frequently challenges the status quo, and consequently risks alienating some individuals. The roles of church leaders in this context are not focused on short-term solutions, but rather on guiding the congregation towards long-term goals that may feel scary and that embody elements of change.

Good examples of management is the bulk of the work that the various Committees in our church do. Good examples of leadership have been our decisions to buy the church building and to hire a settled minister, including the process of having an interim minister for two years. A well functioning church needs both manage-

ment and leadership.

The second weekend of the conference focused on how to lead, and specifically on the challenges of asking our congregations to make changes that may feel scary or threatening. We spent a lot of time talking about the biological responses of individuals to the anxiety that change can produce, and how this is not necessarily a negative thing so long as we recognize it for what it is. We talked about the need of leaders to not become reactive themselves, to not fall into the trap of becoming judgmental, choosing sides or taking the responses of others personally.

Most importantly, we talked about leadership as a PROCESS, and often, a slow one! As leaders, it is not our job to dictate how things should be, but neither is it our role to surrender the church's vision or mission when there is resistance.

One of the biggest realizations we had is that we have not revisited our church's mission statement in nearly ten years! A lot has changed in that time, and we need to go back as a congregation and revise that mission statement to reflect our current vision for the future. With that in mind, look to hear from us all in the months to come!

Life of the Church

Council Co-Chairs Column

The UU Church of Belfast is hopping and happening! The RE space is

December Sunday Services

Services are at 10:00 AM at the UU Church of Belfast, 37 Miller St., behind the Belfast Free Library. Please call 338-4482 for more information.

Children, infants and new faces are always welcome. Please join us!

JAN. 1st

New Beginnings

with Kathy Muzzy

It's the first day of a new year! How could we not acknowledge the beginnings and changes that are a part of our lives. As part of new tradition a few members of our congregation will share their reflections on new beginnings that have happened in their lives. Come start the year with us.

JAN. 8

Paradise Lost

with Rev. Deane Perkins

Unitarianism and Universalism have strong roots in early Christianity. What is fascinating is that the primary Christian image in the first millennium was not Jesus on the cross, but rather Jesus and paradise on earth. This service suggests that our faith community actually preserves the values and thinking of the first millennium.

JAN. 15

Heroes Among Us

with Lane Fisher and David Smith

On the Rev. Martin Luther King Jr.'s birthday, we honor the spirit of non-violent action and moral necessity by probing what we can learn from Congressman John Lewis, a surviving leader of the Civil Rights Movement, and from Occupy Wall Street, in which David's son, Andrew, has been active from the beginning.

JAN. 22

Finding Paradise

with Rev. Deane Perkins

As the second part to the story of Paradise, this service discusses the dramatic change that occurred in the second millennium of Christianity, where the primary image is the cross, and violence and war become institutionalized.

JAN. 29

Roger Williams

with Rick Davis

This revolutionary 17th century minister and founder of Providence and Rhode Island believed in the separation of church and state.

FEB. 5

A Good Death?

with Linda Buckmaster

Wandering off into the snow like an Eskimo is one fantasy of a good death that some have. As a culture that expects to control life, our fear of the chaos of death can lead us to these fantasies. What is a "good death" and how can we prepare for it?

Yes, we have accomplished tremendous achievements since our beginnings just seventeen years ago. With the growth of our numbers and programs, we are encountering new levels of complexity. We must improve our communication and coordination. We must establish a consistency of purpose and practice through written policies and procedures. At the same time, our committees need to work with creativity and flexibility to keep up with the changes going on.

Our new governance structure is an attempt to accomplish much of this. The Church Council will concentrate on our vision for the church, and the policies and procedures needed to accomplish that vision. The Program Council, consisting of representatives of all our many committees, will meet quarterly to foster communications, planning, and problem solving. Our committees will go forward, armed with the empowerment to make the decisions they need to, within the scope of their committee mission and goals.

What this means for everyone is that most questions and concerns can be and should be handled at the committee level. The committee members are the ones who are closest to the situation and are most knowledgeable about why things happen as they do. They welcome suggestions that will make our church community stronger and better. Simply put, if you have a question or comment about the Sunday services, contact the Services Committee. If it involves the RE program, contact the Lifespan Education Committee (or the RE Director!). If it's about fundraisers, contact the Fundraising Committee. And so on. A list of the committees, and contact information for committee chairs, has been posted on the Church Council bulletin board in

bursting at the seams, and Sunday attendance has soared to more than 100 adults on a fairly consistent basis. It seems like every night of

the week something is going on at the church. On one recent night, we had four different activities at the same time!

January hospitality

- Jan. 1 Marion Brown & Diane Braybrook
- Jan. 8 YOUTH GROUP with Denise Pendleton and Tera Kennedy assisting.
- Jan. 15 Kathy Muzzy & Molly Lebel
- Jan. 22 Jessie Gower & Jane Dopheide
- Jan. 29 Phyllis Coehlo & Joanne Moesswilde

January greeters

- Jan. 1 Judith Simpson
- Jan. 8 Marion Brown & Francine Brown
- Jan. 22 Ezra Creamer & Jane Moffitt
- Jan. 22 Jacqui Lee & Judith Grace
- Jan. 29 Anna Wood-Cox
- Feb. 5 Judith Simpson & Marion Brown

very pleased with all the signatures that each of the letters had on them. Hopefully, this will let the prisoners' of conscience know that they are not forgotten.

There are many changes happening for the Social Justice Committee this year. On a sad note, our longtime Chair, Dan Avenor, has decided to step down. We are sorry to see him go and want to publicly thank him for all of his hard work. Dan was so good that the Committee has decided it

the main hallway.

You may not always know what committee to contact, but we urge you to make your best guess. If it isn't within their mission, the committee chair may be able to point you in the right direction. If not, the next step would be the Cluster Representative who is a Member-at-Large on the Church Council. Committees have been grouped into Clusters based on their similarity of interest.

Cluster Representatives may also become involved when a situation or a concern involves two or more committees and can't be resolved among the committees involved. If the Cluster Representative cannot resolve the issue, or it involves policy considerations, she or he will bring it to the Church Council for a decision.

In the 1980s, the answer to the question, "Who you gonna' call?" was "Ghostbusters!" Today, at UUCB, the answer is "Committees!"

Rick Davis

will take two people to replace him. They have voted to make Stephen and Neva Allen Co-Chairs of the Committee.

The Committee has also decided to change our name to the Social Action Committee. We feel this better represents what we do, which is "actions" for Social Justice. With this in mind, look for a survey to come out for the congregation. It is about what actions the congregation wants to join with our Committee in focusing on this year, and also asks what charities the congregation would like to give "special collection plates" to for the year.

We are also changing the date and time that we meet to the first Thursday of the month at 6:00 PM. It will still be at Stephen and Neva's house, which is fully accessible. You can find all the information on the Social Action Committee's web page on the church's website, or you can call Stephen Allen (338-0613).

A Few Brief Notes

Children's pageants, Solstice Celebrations and Christmas events are behind us. Your UU Choir now turns its attention to new music for the

WHO'S WHO & WHO TO CALL

- Minister
Rev. Deane Perkins 338-4482
minister@uubelfast.org
- Administrative Assistant
Maret Knight 338-4482
Email: office@uubelfast.org
office hrs: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-12:30
- Church Council
Debbie Bailly 338-4143
Rick Davis 930-3562
- LifeSpan Education
Sue Coe 691-5153
- Children's Religious Exploration
Danielle Bannister 342-2096
- Music
Lila Nation 338-5002
- Finances
Roger Lee (treas) 338-6837
- Sunday Services
Jeffrey Mabee 338-4408
Dan Kirchoff 975-4134
- Membership Chair
Diane Braybrook 338-0609
- Social Action
Stephen Allen 338-0613
- Congregational Life
Chip Curry 930-3590
- Green Sanctuary
Jasmine Fowler 342-3260
Corliss Davis 930-3562
- Buddhist Sangha
Judith Simpson 338-0579
- Caring Circle
Ezra Creamer 338-0129
- Welcoming Congregation
Patty Smith 338-5802
- Safe Congregation Committee
Karen Ireland 338-0142
- Sound Coordinator
Cary Bradford 338-8448
- Hospitality
Chris LeGore 589-4421
- Greeters
Marty Daniels 338-0129
- Newsletter
Douglas M. Coffin 567-3707

To change address, tel. no., email, newsletter status, or to subscribe to the UUBB or UUCB, email office@uubelfast.org

Social Action

We want to thank everyone who participated with us in Amnesty International's Write For Rights. We were

spring, especially new music that it will be learning for the 2nd Annual Multi-Choir Festival to be held this year at the Unitarian Church in Bangor, Sunday, March 25. The UUCB choir will be joined by the choirs of Ellsworth, Castine, Waterville, and, of course, Bangor, to sing two individual works of their choosing, and four works on which all five choirs will be combining into one glorious chorus. If music is in your soul, this may just be the time to turn it outward. Come join us for rehearsals Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:45 PM in the church sanctuary.

Don't forget the "Musical Love Fest" on Saturday evening, Feb. 4. Many individual singers in the choir will present songs of the heart, some funny, some serious, and all with the goal of entertaining you while raising some much-needed money for the choir and the greater church community. For more information, please, contact Mandi Hubbard.

Blessings,
Lila Nation, Music Director

The Utterly Unbelievable Auction is coming soon!

This year the fundraising committee is trying a new approach to the annual auction. This year's auction will be entirely online. We are partnering with the online organization, Bidding For Good.

Bidding For Good is providing us with tools designed to help us expand our audience, get more auction items, and raise more money. Bidding For Good is a place where we can open up a virtual storefront and sell donated items to people all over the country...it is a charitable commerce marketplace. One of the great benefits of Bidding For Good is that sponsoring or donating businesses can have links

to their own websites right on our auction page...free advertising!! Check out their website, www.biddingforgood.com, and see auctions currently up and running.

The Utterly Unbelievable UUCB Auction will open for bidding on April 1, 2012. There is much to do to be ready for opening day and many hands will make the work light. Jenny Kirchoff will be heading up this effort and is looking for a few people to join the planning team. The planning team will set financial goals, create a timeline, set up the auction home page and train volunteers to solicit items from businesses.

If you have fundraising experience and like working behind the scenes please contact Jenny Kirchoff, 975-1913 or jkirchoff@rsu3.org. The planning team will be meeting on Sunday, January 8th at 11:30 AM at the UUCB. Towards the end of January the team will be looking for volunteers to help promote the auction as well as get donations from area businesses.

This is a really exciting opportunity for our church. Step up and help Jenny make this be the best auction we have ever had!!!

Green Sanctuary News

The Green Sanctuary Committee has a few upcoming events you will want to be sure not to miss:

- Beginning March 4th we will be hosting a Northwest Earth Institute discussion group on Climate Change. This will be a five-week discussion group, with a guest speaker on the final week. We'll be meeting Sunday evenings at the church. The only cost will be the price of the booklet (usually about \$20) and we will have a few copies for participants to borrow and return to the church library, free

of charge. A group size of 10-12 would be ideal. If you have never participated in one of these discussion groups you are missing out. The readings are always informative and well written, and the conversation is hard to beat!

- Also, keep your eyes out for a Climate Change survey that will be sent out on the UUBB sometime after the holidays. Test your C.C. knowledge, then get your facts straight by joining the discussion group in March.

- Sunday, February 26 from 1:00-3:00 PM CSA/CSF FAIR: Green Sanctuary will be co-sponsoring this annual event with the Co-op and MOFGA. This is an opportunity to meet several local farmers who offer their veggies, milk, meat, fish and more for sale in a community supported agriculture format. CSA's typically require full payment in early spring in exchange for fresh, local, and sometimes organic produce on a weekly basis as it is harvested.

Don't forget to check out the bulletin board each week for updates on events and climate change information.

Membership committee news

It's not too late!!! Have you been considering signing up for the NEW TO UU classes being held this month? It's easy to do. Just contact Diane Braybrook at 930-5979 or dbraybrook@yahoo.com and let her know. Need childcare? Check! It's provided at no cost to you. Wondering about food? Check! A light lunch will be provided. Already a UU and not sure about attending? We invite you to at least join the 2nd session which will focus on our own UU Church of Belfast, but you are welcome to attend both sessions.

If you are seriously considering becoming a member of the church, these sessions are the stepping stones to formal membership. Not sure where you are on your journey? These classes may help you clarify your direction. Deane Perkins, our minister, will be leading both sessions. What a great way to get to know him and other members of the group!

Here are the details:

WHEN: Sunday, January 8 and Sunday, January 22, 11:30-1:30 PM

WHERE: UU Church of Belfast

When you contact Diane please let her know if you will need childcare or if you are gluten free.

Looking forward to hearing from you – *Diane Braybrook*
Membership Committee chair

Women's Spirituality Group

Maret Knight and Cyndi Parker will lead a women's spirituality group once a month for the winter. We start on Tuesday, Jan 17 from 7:00-8:30 PM and it is open to all women who want to participate in spiritually enriching activities. The gathering will include song, prayer, meditation, movement and discussion. Please contact Maret at 338-0019 for more information.

Youth Lifespan committee

Get ready...set...Maybe Sooner than you Think!

These days I suspect we all wonder where our UUCB will take us as we run (not walk!) our flourishing path of participation, leadership, commitment and gratitude. My most indubitable joy on Sunday morning is to watch the faces of our children and youth. They rush up the steps into the arms of a UU family eager to catch

FROM REV. DEANE PERKINS

DEAR FRIENDS:

I saw Santa crossing High Street yesterday as I was driving through town. Yes, red outfit, big black belt, and fluffy white-grey beard. I checked it twice, just to make sure my eyes were not deceiving me; they weren't.

Of course, I have had no verification of this sighting from anyone else, nor have I heard any news items declaring a landing in Belfast. But then, I have to admit that I think he got out of a SUV, scurrying across High Street rather rapidly—clearly he was on a mission.

You would think this incident to be fairly innocuous, which it is, but I don't always leave things well enough alone.

You see, three things happened: first, I found myself so amused and actually in wonder that I smiled broadly—it brought joy; second, I was relieved that Santa was in the streets and not in the mall—he seemed, in fact, quite human and down-to-earth; and third, Santa

always confronts me with the issues of faith and belief—kind of like the Gnostic Jesus (maybe a Santa sermon?).

Speaking of faith, while we UUs do not convert people, we do have opportunities for people to get to know our faith better, and to seek membership in our community if they wish to do so.

I will be offering a "New to UU" course in January (two sessions on Jan. 8 and 22, from 11:30-1:30 with lunch and child care provided).

While anyone is welcome to attend, I particularly encourage new people who wish to know more about Unitarian Universalism, and those considering becoming a member, to attend.

This holiday season is, for most of us, filled with all sorts of different feelings. Sue and I send you our best wishes, hoping that there are moments of peace and joy within your heart. And if you see Santa, smile.

Deane

their energy, innocence and innate joy. Danielle, our director, checks off their names on the ever-growing list of registered Sunday RE students, cultivating the jubilation of childhood; addressing questions from parents, new snack procedures to accommodate fifty mouths excited for a treat agreeable with their tummies, guides ready to review the day's lessons; then at last she joins the congregation as worship begins. Seating is getting scarce – no more encouragement is needed to try a seat in a new part of the sanctuary! After the prolific announcements which seem

necessary to the growing Sunday and mid-week activity, the children of all ages are invited down front, and half way up the aisle, to hear their special weekly story. That is when we can truly see how many seats in our congregation have been filled with our future! We sing them out to a familiar melody and rhythm. And for the next hour, every accessible square inch of 37 Miller Street is immersed in worship, thought, learning and a spiritual realm of fostered growth and love.

Our vibrant Youth RE Community is bustling with ministry. Our "new"

minister is engaged on behalf of their interests. Guides and mentors are teaching and giving of their time and energy beyond the Sunday hour of presence. Parents are committed to RE attendance and rotate time assisting. Our COA and Youth groups are leading services where content is spiritual and indicative of the significance of their knowledge of the UU principles.

They look forward to retreats, field trips, regional conferences, and national service opportunities, fundraising to make these ventures possible, and sharing their experiences with the rest of us. From the littlest ladybug in this year's pageant and the brave soloist closing last week's service, to our church elders moved by the energy of our youngest generation, the energy of RE is everywhere!

Recently the RE Lifespan Committee held a retreat at the UU for a Saturday's review of this ministry of love and community to explore a vision of the near future and beyond for our RE programs. Our effort to

embrace the gifts of our youth and meet their evolving needs and wants quickly became unleashed with imagination and dreams that we fully intend to bring to reality. Hold onto your seat and grasp our vision of what is possible and important. We talked about space and safety, curriculum and fun, rites of passage, the churches of Transylvania, podcasts, leadership development, family orientations, the full and versatile "life span" of our youth programming. We considered the steps our congregation will take to foster its growth and energy, and how the youth will reach out and connect with their peers and other congregations to bring home continual spiritual learning and development.

Some of our ideas may seem beyond the realm of possibility at first - a rec center, a UU school, a children's choir, service arrangements to accommodate our growth as we literally build around ourselves, social and enrichment programs for the community, multi-generational efforts to effect change and inspire par-

ticipation. The diverse list grew, and the possibilities seemed endless knowing the UUCB is on a verge of a collaborative effort to maintain our community of compassion and service as we experience change and outreach. With our feet still on the ground, this retreat also gave us opportunity to prioritize a few glaring needs to accommodate our growing numbers on Sunday. I was amazed to learn that just five years ago we had 16 students registered for RE; this year to date we have 56. Same size work tables, supply closet, square footage and thank goodness, the same magnificent part-time director.

Creativity takes on new meaning! We will continue to grow, prosper and teach in an effort to hold on to the momentum and discovery of our youth. You will continue to see their vitality, spiritual growth and leadership as our UUCB evolves!

Thank you to everyone who cherishes our youth and takes a moment to consider their gifts to us. Blessed Be.

Susan Coe
Chair, Youth Lifespan Committee