



NUUWSLETTER

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BELFAST
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Co-chair Corner

My Last Hurrah

Our congregation has been incredibly active this year, especially with new endeavors and accomplishments. Soon after welcoming Rev. Deane (and Sue) to our midst, Deane became active in forming a youth group, YRUU, that recently traveled to New Orleans for a service project (see report, page three). Fund-raising wondrously exceeded the amount they were expected to bring in. The newly formed Adult Religious Exploration Committee has been offering programs and coordinating activities with other committees.

Congregational Life offered a wide variety of activities every Wednesday throughout the year. We have a successful Facebook presence. And after creating a Covenant for Right Relationship for ourselves, the

Church Council began to have regular Visioning Meetings to explore “the big picture” issues about our church and its future, which we never had time for in the regular monthly business meetings. All of this in addition to the regular work of our 20 (!!!) committees.

Yes, it takes a lot of committees to run our church. And that means a whole lot of individuals contributing their valuable time and energy to ministering to our congregation and the wider community. I recently asked several members why they devote their time and energy to this beloved community. Here are some responses:

PERSONAL – I feel useful and appreciated. Working in a group pushes me to grow as a human being. I like understanding how the church works. I have some skills that I love to share. I just feel good doing something so worthwhile.

RELATIONAL – It deepens my relationship with others in the church. I value the friendships formed in small close-knit groups. There's a kinship that happens, even when the task at hand seems like work. I do it to be with people I enjoy spending time with. I enjoy the laughter with others.

CONGREGATION – I want to further the work of the church. I want to repay some of what the church has given me. I want to contribute to the betterment of an organization that is important in my

life and the community. It's a privilege to be part of this wonderful church and I feel responsible to assist. I want to contribute to a community that is so invested in children and youth.

COMMUNITY - I feel very passionate about our principles and want to do what I can to promote them. This church is an important resource in our community. I want to promote, with others, the UU values and visions in the larger community.

Wow! I think they're onto something here. I, too, find it rewarding to join with others in the sacred work of our church. It truly takes a village. . . only in this case it's dozens of people, united in our spiritual UU principles that guide our lives.

So my last hurrah is a **Hurrah!** for all of you who make this church possible. It wouldn't happen without you. My heart is filled with gratitude.

Blessed be,
Debbie Baily

PS: We love seeing new faces come forward to become involved in this beloved community. And you don't have to join a committee!

UU summer clothing sale
to be held on Friday, June
8 and Saturday, June 9.

Social Action

In May our Co-chair, Stephen Allen, appeared in front of the Belfast City Council to update them on the Accessibility Project. He gave them the

Looking for a new mission?

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast is! We are looking for people with energy and skills to guide the congregation through the process of finding and articulating the new mission for our church. What exactly does that mean?

Read the lead article in the May Newsletter, which describes what a mission is and why we need one.

Interested? Know someone who might be? To ensure that we have a diverse and balanced team, we are accepting applications. The application can be found in the church office. We will also send the application out through the UUNews. The application deadline is Sunday, June 10th/ Completed applications can be left in the church office or returned to Sarah Nicholson at snicholson@woodardcurran.com or Marty Daniels at mertsquirt@ne.twcbc.com.

June 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!

June 3**NOLA**

with Rev. Deane Perkins

The group who went to New Orleans will do a service describing, through music, photos, and words, the significance of their experience.

June 10**Applesauce**

with Rev. Deane Perkins

How do we integrate our children into our church community? How do we help and support them become who they truly are? Sometimes, we need to make applesauce.

June 17**Coming of Age Closing Ceremony**

For the last few years, the members of the Coming of Age group have been working towards this moment. The day they get to share with you, their beloved church community, their Credo Statements: the beliefs they hold at this critical point in their spiritual lives. Please join the DRE, the LifeSpan Committee and the YRUU group as we celebrate the completion of this phase of their spiritual pilgrimage. We urge you to join us for this momentous occasion and stay after the service for special refreshments to mark the occasion.

June 24 An Invitation To The Banquet: reflecting on Life and Death

with Kitsy Winthrop

“All the powers in the universe are already ours. It is we who have put our hands before our eyes and cry that it is dark” — *Swami Vevekananda*

July 1**Spiritual Adventuring/Sacred Traveling**

with D Andrews

As we venture abroad or to the lake, our state of mind shifts. We become sacred travelers with permission to approach the ideas, cultures and people with wide-eyed wonder and open hearts. As spiritual adventurers, can we capture the magic and bring it home, making us adventurers in our lives?

last eight names of the businesses that haven't made their places ambulatory disabled accessible. It is still important that the congregation help us with this project, so please pick up an updated list on the Social Action bookcase.

Also, in May, the Committee wanted to help the YRUU with their New Orleans trip, so we gave them \$75, which was half of our remaining budget. We will be giving the rest of

our budget to the Middle East Children's Alliance for their MAIA Project. This project brings clean water to the children of Palestine.

In 2011, MECA's MAIA Project installed sixteen new water purification units in Gaza schools and community kindergartens – providing safe, clean drinking water for more than 8,000 additional children and families – and raised funds for five more that will be installed early in

2012. There will be a box on the Social Action bookcase if anyone else would like to donate to the project. We will be sending our check at the end of June.

UU Bed and Breakfast program seeking referrals

If you have family or friends who plan to travel to our area this spring/summer/fall, why not tell them about our UU Bed and Breakfast fundraising program? Have them call or email Kathy Kreamer, 338-9513, kreamers@myfairpoint.net, or check it out on our website:

<http://www.uubelfast.org/bb/>

Our YRUU Experience in New Orleans: A REPORT!*A Meaningful Experience*

Our spiritual pilgrimage to New Orleans was meaningful in many different ways. It is always rewarding to help and care for others through volunteering and making a difference in someone else's lives. The journey to New Orleans was also emotional for me. I was scarcely prepared to see the poverty and witness the hatred and huge amount of destruction that had occurred to a large part of the city.

Our NOLA group consisted of twelve youth from three different churches. In the beginning, we shared an awkward unfamiliarity that was pervasive throughout our group. For the first leg of the trip, we tended to self-segregate ourselves from one another. All twelve of us had different stories, unique concerns and interests, yet shared a desire to help others while in New Orleans and identify with our Unitarian Universalist churches.

The trip meant a lot to me! I have

JUNE VOLUNTEERS**GREETERS**

June 3	Ezra Kreamer & Ivy Lobato
June 10	Judith Simpson & Jane Moffitt
June 17	Gina Cressey & Judith Grace
June 24	Joan Bennett & Jacqui Lee

HOSPITALITY

June 3	Happy Bradford & Patty Crawford
June 10	Lila Nation & Sarah Nicholson
June 17	RE & Susan Coe

HANNAFORD SALES

June 3	Jane Dopheide, Anna Wood-Cox
June 10	Patty Barnhart, Dagmar Moravec
June 17	Corliss Davis, A. or C. Richardson

traveled to different regions of our country, but I have never witnessed the vast amounts of poverty that define an area as they do in New Orleans. The devastation from Hurricane Katrina was still very evident, leaving thousands of people still homeless and uprooted from where they call "home." Their sense of loss and sadness truly overwhelmed me.



Our new Church banner!

Each resident we worked with was eager to express their gratitude towards us as volunteers for helping reconstruct the community they once knew before the hurricane.

I would like to thank everyone for making this trip happen for our group and me in particular. I know that I will carry this experience through the rest of my life, being able to feel like I have helped those in need. The NOLA group couldn't have gone on this outstanding journey without the help of all of the

donations, support and love that the community as a whole has given us along the way.

-- Mika McKinney

Observations along the Way

"We have been in a whirlwind of activity since we arrived. Maybe one night there will be time for the blog, but so far, there has not been. We arrived after uneventful flights and transfers, picked up our two vans, found our way to the church, and went out for dinner at 9:00 PM Central time. We had Mexican food -- it was great! We got up early and headed to Bataria Preserve where we went for a 4-mile hike and did actually see alligators. A big one swam under the bridge where we were watching, so we had a good look. We saw other smaller alligators along the trail. We had a really nice lunch (nicer than we were expecting!) at a nearby restaurant. Then back to the church for orientation to the situation in New Orleans, and a session on racism. We had a red beans and rice dinner, then headed to the French Quarter. It was insanely busy because

WHO'S WHO & WHO TO CALL

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Rev. Deane Perkins	338-4482
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	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	
Corliss Cavis	930-3562
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 Kreamer	338-0129
Welcoming Congregation	
Patty Smith	338-5802
Sound Coordinator	
Cary Bradford	338-8448
Hospitality	
Chris LeGore	589-4421
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Marty Daniels	338-0129
Newsletter	
Douglas M. Coffin	567-3707

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it was the end of the French Quarter Festival. We missed the festival but saw the crowds. We didn't have a lot of time, but it was a good introduction to the party atmosphere of the French Quarter! Tomorrow we are painting a house for the day." -- Sue

"Amazing. Awesome. This experience has been life changing already. This morning, we woke up to the warm sun and outdoor showers. There is even a banana tree in the court yard, the little things jumping out and surprising us at every turn. By 9 am we were in the upper ninth ward, and the drive there, the contrasts between houses were astonishing. Miss Campbell, the women that we were helping out, owed a house where on one side there was a newly furnished house but on the other side there was a vacant lot. Over the course of the day, little stories from the days of the storm and the aftermath came out. The vacant lot, only two months ago had been a boarded up remains of a house, the owners still unable to return. Miss Campbell had been lucky, she was able to come home after two years but the repairs to the house has required her to take out a mortgage on the house that pre-storm had been a rental. She had evacuated before the storm with her family, and then moved unexpectantly to Texas with her elderly mother and aunt, and two sons, one of them severely autistic. The hardships were very difficult to overcome, but home was all that she was working for." – Jessie and Rowan

"First off, we FINISHED PAINTING A HOUSE IN TWO DAYS! Phew. Got that out of the way. Our hands are covered in paint and caulking, and Emma at least has

Minister's Report – May, 2012

Was it really only nine months ago that Sue and I moved to Belfast, to live in a new community and become part of the life of a young, energetic Unitarian Universalist church? That the members and friends of our congregation have embraced us so openly has made our transition remarkably easy and enjoyable? For this, we are grateful to you.

I am honored, too, to be your minister. Your decision to support a full-time minister was, I suspect, both exciting and anxiety-producing. If nothing else, there is the trust issue. It usually takes many months, even a couple of years, for a congregation to trust its new minister. And in this case, the whole idea of having a full-time minister is itself rather novel. Yet I think we have worked extremely well together this year.

One of my major goals this year was to listen and learn from you. I needed to know how you "do church." And you have been very patient with me as you continue to educate me. While change in any organization is inevitable, especially when a new minister comes on board, it is important to make changes together and openly. Granted, I came with some hopes—e.g. making sure that all staff are fairly compensated; creating a Sr. High Youth Group and possibly doing a major service project; con-

necting substantively with colleagues and some of our sister churches in the area; having an understanding of ministry that allows us to "nurture the spirit and help heal the world," and so on. But I believe sincerely that ministry, leadership, church responsibilities, and visioning are all shared among us all.

When I first arrived in August I had a sense that church "space" might be problematic, but I had not anticipated how dramatic and quickly that would come to be a major concern. When we heard from the children's RE program that 60 children were registered, and saw in the sanctuary how many seats were filling up during services and new people coming in almost weekly, the Council realized it needed to be proactive.

Whatever is decided—as a congregation—space will constitute a major change in our lives as a growing faith community. We will also look at the possibility of creating a church covenant, as well as reviewing our mission and vision statements. These are all good, healthy processes for a church as energetic and exciting as is our community.

One last thing. I was told at my ordination to always love the congregation where I was the minister. The great gift to me is how easy this has been here.

Indeed, in the metaphor of a marriage, "I do."

a slight sunburn. We drove back to Ms. Campbell's house again today, despite the damp weather and forecast of rain. All day we painted, with many people in the scaffolding or on ladders. We worked with other young

men from the neighborhood to complete the house, painting the sides and front of the house, as well as the balcony and columns. It was a fun-filled day despite erratic sprinkles and thunder combined with hot sun

and a forecast of flash flooding. As we worked on the side of the house, high up on the scaffolding, we felt good about what we were doing and how we were improving Ms.

Campbell's house. It began to rain. Although we had not reached some of the very top parts of the house, we decided to clean up, and after bidding farewell to Ms. Campbell and running through the downpour to the cars, we drove to the Lower 9th Ward.

The one and a half hour driving tour that we took of the area was eye opening and remarkable. We read about the levees, housing projects, and abandoned lots in the tour packet, but it was really seeing the wreckage that made the story come alive. There is still so much work to be done, and at least 2000 people still need to return to their homes. We saw a lot of rain in addition to the devastation in the city, and were happy to be back in our dorms. Dinner in a little bit, and then chores--much more difficult than what we accomplished today!" -- Audrey and Emma



