

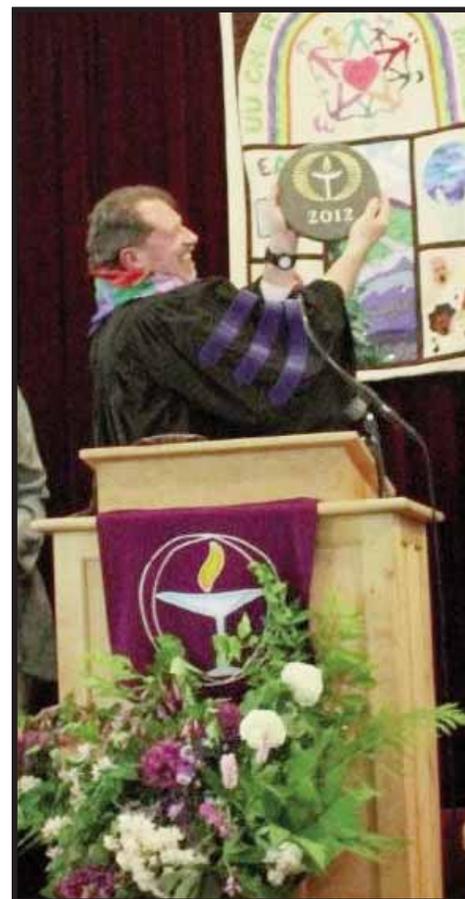
Going Deeper, Growing Stronger

When Rev. Deane Perkins and Sue Cobb moved to Belfast last August, Deane said he came with few expectations. “I just really wanted to learn from the congregation—from the leadership and from the members—what the place was all about, what it meant to them, how it ran, and how did it exude the kind of energy that’s so palpable to me, to Sue, to anybody that comes here.

“I still am in awe at how remarkably healthy this congregation is and the joy that seems to connect this faith community,” Deane said. “I’m seeing a healthy kind of processing, healthy ways of relating, a healthy kind of organization. I see us trying to work together as much as possible.”

Although he did not intend to seek change during his first year, changes happened. Attendance at Sunday services jumped, religious exploration classes burst at the seams, and the church’s membership grew and probably will keep growing. “I know a few people who are just totally uncomfortable with having a hundred people at service on Sunday morning,” said Deane, “and I understand that.”

Issues surrounding growth are some of our church’s primary challenges, in Deane’s view. “Just a few years ago, we were a family-size congregation (a small church where community occurs in gatherings of the whole and much of its communication hap-



“It’s beautiful!” exclaimed Deane as he opened his gift from our congregation: a circle of Maine slate engraved by Sigrid Coffin, one of the earliest children who participated in our church (and now very much an adult).

pens informally), and that’s not the case anymore.... Part of what I see as my work is to embrace the inevitable and to help people feel that this will work,” he said. “We can do this, and we can do this together. It’s going to take time and patience from all of us. We have to trust that the process is going to work and that somehow growth will still allow us to meet our spiritual needs.”



NEW MEMBERS: Jen Oldham, Nate Oldham, Kelly Kelsey-Davis, Dagmar Moravec, Meredith Hill, Patty Barnhart, and Marion Brown. (Not pictured: Sandy Keller)

JulyAugust Sunday Services

Summer services start 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!

JULY 1	with D Andrews
JULY 8	with Bonnie VerbonCoeur
JULY 15	with Jason Bannister
JULY 22	with Ian Howard
JULY 29	with the Services Committee
AUG. 5	with Dawn Fortune
AUG. 12	with Rev. Deane Perkins
AUG. 19	with Kathleen Hannon
AUG. 26	with Rev. Deane Perkins
SEPT. 2	with Jessie Gower and Kathy Muzzy

Growth, both physical and spiritual, will influence how committees work. “How do we understand what our committees are doing in relation to transition into a program church?” Deane asked. (In a program church, deeper community is created in small groups, the overall structure of the church is more complex, and communication among its parts needs to be more intentional.) “We’re creating a Committee on Ministry that asks the question, ‘What is ministry?’ If everything we do as a church is ministry, then what does that mean, and how do we see that in everything we do? When we do our work as committees—services, RE, whatever it might be—do we really take that on as part of our calling, our ministry in relation to the church community, for the greater good of the whole? Do we understand that this is actually feeding us and helping to feed other peo-

ple?”

The Church Council and others have already begun two processes that will involve the entire congregation and will result in a covenant for right relations and clarification of our church’s mission. The Space Needs Task Force has put in motion some changes to meet the immediate needs of our RE program, but it has a larger and more difficult task ahead in determining whether and how our church should

add on or build elsewhere. “We have to do this so that it meets the needs of the future really well,” said Deane, “because we can’t keep adding on or

building another place. We need to be very intentional about how much space we need and how we’re going to create it....

“So there are logistical and polity challenges,” said Deane, “but I think, ultimately, that the real challenge is how do we go deeper into our own spiritual needs and express those?” Acknowledging that some are not comfortable with language they associate with churches from their pasts, Deane said, “Part of the challenge is to be able to find a theology, if you wish, that touches our innermost understanding of who we are as human beings and as spiritual human beings.

“It’s OK to say, ‘I want to be inspired on Sunday mornings.’” he continued. “It’s OK to feel that we’re doing something spiritual. But there needs to be a larger context—I call it a theological context--in which we more deeply understand ourselves as a unique faith community, as sacred beings, and as doing ministry. It might be that we talk about a theology of peace, a theology of compas-



The installation: Deane and Sue beam in appreciation as the Rev. Dr. Lynn Ashley and the Rev. Becky Gunn issue their charge to him as our minister.

JULY/AUGUST GREETERS

July 1	Gina Cressey & Lucy Carver
July 8	Lucy Carver & Francine Brown
July 15	Cheryl Richardson & Joan Bennett
July 22	Marion Brown & Judith Grace
July 29	Ezra Kreamer & Su Wood
Aug. 5	Gina Cressey & Cheryl Richardson
Aug. 12	Francine Brown & Su Wood
Aug. 19	Marion Brown & Francine Brown
Aug. 26	Ezra Kreamer & Susan Coe

understanding and experience with other congregations often has been that there's pressure and a tendency to be relatively negative when it comes to their vision and finances," he said. "That's not true here. I don't see that at all. It's 'What's possible?'"

sion, a theology of joy, a theology of humility. Talking about these kinds of things provides a larger context for understanding our deeper selves."

So many special initiatives forming alongside regular committee work can feel like a daunting load. "I suppose one wonders, *Will it ever stop? Or, How do we put this all together?*" Deane mused. "Again, I think it's a matter of having faith that we're working on these things because it will make us even stronger. That's powerful stuff."

The minister's first year with us has solidified such faith on his part. "My

"This is an unbelievably potent, powerful, exciting, substantial community that is, in part, struggling to understand what it is and who it is, while, at the same time, knowing to a certain extent what and who it is and loving it, just loving it," said Deane. "That is what the installation was about: bringing all of these energies together, as well as creating a covenant between me and the congregation."

And now, together, we go forward....

by Lane Fisher, Church Council member

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	Jane Dopheide 338-1730
	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	Jessie Gower 525-4427
Membership Chair	Corliss Davis 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
Nominating Committee chair	Ezra Kraemer 338-0129
Endowment Committee	D Andrews
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 UUCC, email office@uubelfast.org



2012 Graduating COA's, left to right, are Leander Andrews, Jeremiah Chaplin, Sean Kennedy, Jordan King, Quinn Walauski, Alex Johnson, and Emma Bowe.

Watching our COAs grow into themselves and our congregation

As a congregation, we have had the joy of watching these young people interact with one another as they grow and create their own sense of being. Some have been coming here since they were toddlers. Others have joined as our congregation grows. Some come because their friends tell them about our COA program, and they want to see for themselves the experience we offer. As a group they covenant to respect themselves and others, observe their faith, and aid their church.

Thanks go out to all you for all the ways you support them. Your commitment to our youth is a necessary component in their UU journey, as they focus on our principles to guide them. Each with their assets and challenges, they do what we have all done - stumbled on their way toward adulthood.

This spring our COA group of 13



The 2012 COA group at UUA Headquarters in Boston: Back row: Derek Hill, Danielle Bannister, Kathy Muzzy, Alex Johnson; 3rd row: Leander Andrews, Avery Kreamer, Jordan King, Sean Kennedy, Qwynn Walauski, Mackenzie Barnhart; second row: Rev. Deane Perkins, Soren Moesswilde, Max Howard, Emma Bowe; front row: Stephen Crawford, Jeremiah Chaplin.

Minister's Report – May, 2012

Dear Friends,

The Installation Service in May was, for me, a wonderful expression of the year that we have had together. I have tried earnestly to learn from you as to how you “do church.” I hope I have been respectful and open. In a few areas, I admit that I have also been a fairly strong advocate (the Council might use a different word, like annoying!); e.g. getting staff salaries to meet UUA compensation guidelines, supporting the Sr. High Youth group, and creating a Committee on Ministry.

The Installation Service also symbolizes the significant relationship that, together, we are establishing. There is always a fairly lengthy period where congregation and minister learn to trust one another. On

Sunday mornings when I am in the pulpit I look out over the congregation, and prayerfully say, “I love you.” Trust and respect flow easily for me when based in love and compassion. And pain. We have shared much pain, much loss from death, much sadness from illness. Why do “bad things happen to good people”? I don’t know. I just know that we need to be present to one another in our pain, as well as in our joy.

The Installation Service brings all these things together and says that we will engage in shared ministry, both to “nurture our spirits, and help heal the world.” It was and is a call for celebration—and gratitude.

Thank you!

Fondly,
Deane

traveled on a pilgrimage to Boston where they visited the UUA head-

quarters, Walden Pond, the Museum of Science, and many city sights. Last Sunday, eight of this group made their passage into the next phase of their UU lifespan, the YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists). These are but a few of the crossroads they will stand at as they continue to pursue their dreams and visions.

Their quotes below reveal their impressions of these experiences and allow us to reflect on the time they have been a part of the tapestry of our congregation. Their energy, spirit, chaos and charm are ours to celebrate.

“I really thought that we all came to Boston as friends, and left as best friends. I found out so many things about my fellow COA that I didn’t know.” - Max Howard

“Often I feel like a rock. I have plenty of potential but I still need some time to crack open. And when the gems inside are finally revealed then I’ll need to polish them.” - Alex Johnson

Derek Hill wrote: *“being able to get closer as friends and bond with everyone”.*

“I am still working on figuring out my beliefs. I try to be nice to other people and treat them as I want to be treated.” - Sean Kennedy

“During our time in Boston I learned that no matter how fearful or scared you are it’s always good to laugh and have a good time. While some may not feel the same way, it is good to see the helpful and good things in others. I feel this is one of the most important values of my church and faith.” - Stephen Crawford

“When I first joined COA , I was pretty shy. I only had a couple of friends because I am home-schooled. So I don’t get that many chances to meet kids my age. Now I feel like I have a lot more friends ... I believe there’s beauty in all things and people, if you just look hard enough.” - Qwynn Walauski

“The singing and dancing we did on the way to Boston, and back from Boston in the car. Leander, Emma, Alex, Jordan, Qwynn, and I. I believe that it showed how we are comfortable with each other. I have always considered those as something spiritual.” - Mackenzie Barnhart

“When I discovered the UU church, there was a sense of hope. It seemed like a place of wonder, where you

could come from any religion or background and still be welcome. It’s a place that will help you find your religious direction.” - Leander Andrews

“Besides being tons of fun, (COA) has been a crucial support system to me... COA has taught me things about myself ... and reminded me that I am loved and that I do belong somewhere.” - Emma Bowe

Life of the Church

July-August, 2012

Inspiration sometimes comes from strange and unexpected places.

Jeff Atwood is a software developer who writes a blog called, “Coding Horrors.” Addressing his fellow programmers, Jeff recently wrote, “The world just isn’t that into you. Unless what you are sharing solves their problem, provides useful information, entertains them, [or] makes them feel like they rule, why would they care?”

As I read this pointed comment, it suddenly occurred to me that this advice, perhaps slightly revised, applies to churches as well. Let’s look at each of Jeff’s four categories one at a time.

Solves their problem. Why do people seek us out? Probably for the same reasons that brought us here, reasons that we gave in response to the congregational survey conducted as part of our search for a minister. The number one reason we started attending UUCB was for community. Number two was celebrating common values. Almost tied for number three were fellowship, intellectual stimulation, and UU beliefs. The answers to why we continue attend were much the same. The need for belonging and the need for affirma-

tion of one’s values and beliefs are the top problems people come to us with.

Provides useful information.

What kinds of useful information does our church provide? We offer thoughtful Sunday services and education for all ages, which address the need for intellectual stimulation mentioned in the previous paragraph. More importantly I think, the church stimulates us to think about how we can live a fuller, more compassionate, more committed, more fulfilling life. What information could be much more important than that?

Entertains them. Perhaps for us this should be phrased as, “inspires them.” Our emotional responses to both performed and participatory music demonstrate to us that we are more than entertained – we are inspired. The same could be said for some of our nontraditional services like the Story of the Universe and others.

Makes them feel like they rule.

Our first principle says that we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. In the heat of discussion and the whirlwind of church activities and events, we may sometimes act in ways that may contradict this value. I know I do. We all need to reaffirm and be mindful of this belief. Then everyone we meet will feel like they “rule.”

As we encounter visitors and newcomers, it would be helpful to remember these four suggestions. If we aren’t accomplishing these goals, why indeed would they care?

Jeff Atwood concluded this post by writing, “Nobody should be more excited about your mission than you.” Are you “into” our church? Are you excited to be a part of it? Let it show!

Rick Davis

Access

Please note that the combination to the outside lockbox will be changed July 1. If you are a church member who needs access to the building, contact Maret in the office (on Monday and Thursday mornings, please) to get the new combination.

Short (music) Notes

Though the UU Choir does not sing during the months of July and August, we're delighted to inform you that we will be having accompanists at every Sunday service this summer! Regular choir rehearsals will resume Thursday evening, August 30 at 7:00 PM. Have a great summer!!

Lila Nation

Music Director, 338-5002

UUBB: The Big Idea Goes On

The Big Idea UU Discussions are planned for now until the end of November. We'll gather on the fourth Sunday of the month at the church, from 6:00-8:00 and all are welcome to drop in. Join other UUs in thoughtful, thought-provoking, and relationship-deepening discussion. Here's what we have planned.

July 22: TBA

August 26 Marriage Equality (facilitated by Deane Perkins)

September 23: What Do You Do with Your Political Anger? (Jan Anderson)

October 28: What Good is the Bible to UUs? (Linda Buckmaster)

November 25: Dancing with the Dark: Dealing with the Season of Dark (Linda Buckmaster)

We're open to suggestions for discussion topics in the new year. Send to Linda at lsuck1@gmail.com or call 338-1701.

Social Action

We have two events that are happening in July. As part of our search for Income Inequality events for the congregation to be involved in, we are now working with Habitat For Humanity of Waldo County. The next house they are building is in Searsport. There is a chicken barbecue dinner that is being sponsored by the Greater Bay Ministerium for this cause. It is Monday, July 9, from 5:00-7:00 PM, at the First Baptist Church, 95 High Street. The tickets are \$10 each. Our church was also asked to provide the potato salad. If you would like to purchase tickets or you would like to contribute a potato salad, please contact Cathy Mink at 338-4920.

The second event is happening on Saturday, July 14. Medea Benjamin, the co-founder of CODE PINK, an organization working for peace and the human rights organization Global Exchange, will be making an appearance in Belfast at the Waldo County Shrine Club, 85 Northport Ave.

The event, which begins at 4:00 PM, will include a book signing, a talk by Ms. Benjamin, and a potluck supper buffet. There also will be a theatrical performance directed by Lorraine Brown on the subject of CODE PINK.

Ms. Benjamin has been an advocate for social justice for more than 30 years and has been called "one of the high profile leaders of the peace movement." She also has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize because of her work.

She is the author of eight books, the most recent one being "Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control."

Her appearance in Belfast is being sponsored by the Social Action Committee, Peace & Justice Group of Waldo County, Veterans for Peace,

WERU, and Outspoken Women. For more information, call 930-5700.

Quilt!

Dereka Smith, a member of the UU Church and a member of the local quilt guild, has made a queen size quilt that will be raffled as a fundraiser for the church. Tickets will be available immediately and until Sunday, 2 December 2012.

Tickets are \$1.00 each or six for \$5.00. The quilt will be displayed during and after some services and at various events both at the church and elsewhere in Belfast. Ticket holders need not be present to win. This is a great opportunity to help the church at a very low cost... and one lucky person will win!

Membership Happenings

Your Membership Committee is focusing on its mission to welcome and nurture visitors to our church and help those who wish to move towards formal membership in our community. To that end, we have a number of events coming up this summer and fall:

Deane Perkins will be doing his informal Q & A sessions in his office for 45 minutes after church on August 12, September 30, and November 18. Anyone who would like to ask questions about UU or our church is welcome to attend.

For those interested in going a step further, a four-session New to UU class will be held on Sunday afternoons from 1:30 to 3:30 on October 21 and 28 and on November 4 and 11. More details will be available in the fall. These classes are for those who are serious about learning about Unitarian Universalism and who may consider membership in the future.

Our next new member welcome ceremony will be part of the service on December 16. We have welcomed 15 new members so far this year and look forward to more in December!

If you have questions about any of these events, feel free to contact Corliss Davis, Membership chair.

Corliss C. Davis

Green Sanctuary

This summer the Green Sanctuary committee is as busy as ever—putting together interesting speakers and opportunities for the coming year. Here are a few events to watch for in the coming months:

New England Climate Summer Riders, July 16th—22nd: The Church will be hosting the New England Climate Summer group for a second year in a row. This is a group of 6-10 college students who are bicycling throughout New England volunteering their labor in environmental endeavors as they go. They will be sleeping in the sanctuary and spending their days in the community helping with various projects. Last year the group helped with some window caulking and other tasks in the building before riding up to New Forest Institute in Brooks to help with projects up there. We are still working out the details for their time with us this year, but there will likely be a film shown one evening, and a talk by the students about their work. Keep your eyes out for UUBB's announcing dates and times for these events.

Window Dressers, Later this Summer: The Green Sanctuary Committee and Building and Grounds will be meeting with Frank Mundo from "Window Dressers" to discuss the opportunity of having window inserts built for our church.

Mr. Mundo is from the UU church in Rockland and along with fellow volunteers has put together the organization which measures windows and creates double layer window inserts that can be easily popped into any window to decrease drafts and increase insulation values. Mr. Mundo estimates that the Rockland church saved 25% on their heating bill each year since installing the window inserts. To date they have installed 1400 windows in the greater Rockland area. The group is entirely run by volunteers and relies on volunteers from each project to help in the wrapping of window frames. The window inserts are very affordable, and because of volunteer labor the group is able to donate one out of every three windows they produce. This means they often do an entire house for a family in need, free of charge. Please listen for dates in the upcoming months for ways you can volunteer and help bring this amazing program to the Belfast area.

Speakers for fall and winter: We have been communicating with several speakers from the wider area to share their insights with us here in Belfast. Ronald Joseph who spoke at the Belfast Free Library earlier this year has agreed to visit the church in early spring of next year to share his thoughts on phenology, the study of plant and animal life cycle events and how these are influenced by seasonal and interannual variations in climate. Bill Basford of Waterville will present a talk entitled "Driving to the Poor House" on demotorization, or "how to get by without a car". We are working with the Belfast Free Library to see if the talk could be given in the Abbot room to accommodate the larger public. In addition, we are working to coordinate with a third speaker, Paul Kando, an engi-

neer and expert on the rail systems in Maine. Stay tuned for details and dates.

On behalf of the congregation, the Green Sanctuary Committee has enrolled our church as a member of Maine Interfaith Power and Light's "Cool Congregations" program. The program provides information and education on efficiency work, sustainability efforts and opportunities, and a presentation by a visiting expert. We'll be sure to share all of this new information and with you as it comes along.

November election on marriage equality:

How you can help

Equality Maine will be hosting a "regular action" event every Tuesday evening from 6:00-8:30 at the Green Store in Belfast, beginning July 3, 2012 and continuing until the election in November. This will primarily involve making telephone calls, often to people who have been identified as still on the fence about same sex marriage. Other times, we'll be trying to identify people who would like to volunteer to help.

Training will always be available for those who haven't done it before. Learning which strategies and comments have been shown to be helpful will make the callers feel more at ease. There will be other tasks (data entry, stuffing envelopes, etc.) for volunteers who may not feel able to make calls. If you're not able to stay for the whole session, please come anyhow. All donations of time and effort will be gratefully accepted.

From a UU perspective, working to legalize same-sex marriage directly relates to our first two principles: the affirmation of the inherent worth and dignity of every person and the pro-

motion of justice, equity, and compassion in human relations. As a congregation, we can make a real difference by offering our time as well as our votes.

Gina Cressey

Book Club

Hi Readers!

July 25: *Here If You Need Me: A True Story* / Kate Braestrup

Kate Braestrup tells the story of her remarkable journey from grief to faith to happiness as a UU minister and Chaplain for the Maine Wardin Service. It is dramatic, funny, deeply moving, and simply unforgettable, an uplifting account about finding God through helping others, and the tale of the small miracles that occur every

day when life and love are restored.

August 22: *Waiting For Snow In Havana: Confessions of a Cuban Boy* / Carlos Eire

An early 1960's operation called Pedro Pan flew more than fourteen thousand Cuban children out of the country, without their parents, and deposited them in Miami. Eire, now a professor of history and religion at Yale, was one of them. His deeply moving memoir describes his life before Castro, among the aristocracy of old Cuba, and, later, in America, where he turned from a child of privilege into a Lost Boy. Eire's tone is so urgent and so vividly personal that his unsparing indictments of practically everyone concerned, including himself, seem all the more remarkable.

Both books are available online, new and used, as ebooks, through the Belfast Free Library/Minerva, or as audiobooks from Audible.com

Don't forget to support our local Belfast book stores. We welcome Left Bank Books to that growing list.

The book group meets every month on the fourth Wednesday, at 6:30 pm in the UU Church meeting room. Come ready to discuss your impressions of these books, and bring suggestions for future reading.

Read on!

Wendy Watkins

**The annual UU Church
yardsale is scheduled for
Aug 17 & 18!**