

A Covenant of Right Relations: How Shall We Be Together?

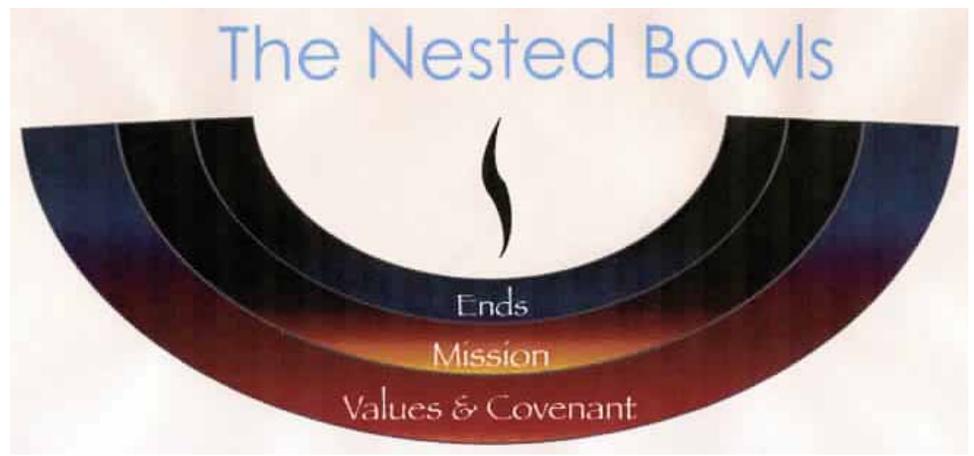
What are our hopes for how we will be together when we disagree or when times are hard?

Just as most married couples attempt to answer this question in their wedding vows, many congregations articulate their own “vows” through covenants of right relations (also called behavioral covenants). This fall, our congregation will create our own covenant of right relations, promising to strive to meet it in routine interactions as well as in challenging times.

With so much else going on in our church, why is the Church Council asking us to make covenanting a priority now? A primary reason is this: our growth in number and partnership with our first settled minister are creating change, and change can be stressful. The council believes that having a church-wide behavioral covenant will help us maintain loving community, grounded in our values, as we negotiate challenges and changes.

But the most vibrant case for creating a covenant of right relations does not surround the question of “How can we avoid trouble?” Rather, it focuses on becoming more skilled and loving as individuals and as a congregation. Consider these questions:

- Whether we are 50 in number or 350, we cannot always agree. How do we behave when we disagree?
- Can our church community support each other in learning how to deal



Three nesting bowls make up the chalice of our church’s ministry: In creating a covenant of right relations, we will articulate our values and goals for how we will be with one another as we work toward our church’s mission. Our mission statement will define our overarching purpose—the difference we, as a congregation, are called to make in our community and our world. The “ends” are our vision, or long-range plan, which will specifically articulate how we aspire to fulfill our mission in the next five years. Our moral commitment to these three lights the flame.

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respectfully and lovingly with conflict?

- If an issue arose that was so severe as to make you consider leaving the church, would you be able to see a more productive way to address it?
- None of us follows all the rules or meets our highest aspirations all of the time. How can we be reminded to return to our best selves?
- When we are not our best selves, can we count on one another’s forgiveness?
- Many of us have ideas about what “right relations” within a faith community means, but have we tried to express such values out loud?
- Might a process of agreeing upon ways to bind our religious and indi-

vidual values in a congregational covenant of right relations be another step toward creating peace in our community and world?

- If something very stressful befell our congregation, do we have working agreements that could help us thrive rather than flounder?

After attending the Northeast New England District’s “Heart of the Matter” workshop last March, Debbie Bailly, Jane Dopheide, and Lane Fisher offered to lead the congregation in a covenanting process, with help from a district consultant. (A fourth participant in the March workshop, Judith Simpson, has joined the Mission Process Team, which will be working right behind the C-

September 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!

September 2

UUs In the World

with Kathy Muzzy and Jessie Gower

September 9

Ingathering

with Rev. Deane Perkins

September 16

with Hawk Henries, a well-known Nipmunk flute maker and player. He teaches and inspires through his music which he will be sharing along with stories and much more.

September 23

with Rev. Deane Perkins

September 30

A Time for Turning

with Rev. Sara Huisjen.

At this time of year, when the leaves begin to burst into color and the warmth of the sun gives way to cooler days and nights, the change in seasons might remind us again of the value and necessity of turning. What in you longs for change and transformation? What relationships in your life are most in need of attention and care? Come and consider together the how, and why, and where in our lives of making such change possible. Rev. Sara Huisjen serves the UU Church of Ellsworth, and also continues very part time to serve as Hospice Chaplain for Hancock County HomeCare & Hospice. Sarah loved being in New Orleans with the youth from Belfast! She lives in Brooksville with her partner, Dan, and is thrilled to be here among us.

October 7

with Rev. Deane Perkins

ovenanting Team to articulate our church's mission in the larger community.)

"One of the important things we learned," said Dopheide, "is that the process of creating a church-wide covenant calls on the congregation to begin practicing right relations right then and there. That's why our congregation needs to develop its own covenant instead of adopting a boilerplate and putting our name on it."

There are no "covenant police," Dopheide said. The covenant is a set of promises that stays in the congregation's view and is revisited, but it is up to each individual to assess how

well she or he is living up to it.

Our covenanting process will include a congregational workshop on a Saturday in late October—the date to be determined by the availability of the district's consultant—to identify the values and behaviors we want our covenant to hold up to us. Then a writing team will synthesize and draft what the workshop articulated and seek feedback from the congregation. Members are strongly encouraged to express their values and ideas at the October workshop rather than waiting to react to the outcome, but everyone will have an opportunity for input before being asked to vote on it.

In June, reflecting on what he had learned in his first year of ministry to and with our church, Rev. Deane Perkins commented on how clear it is

Building Lost, Church Saved

Rev. Sylvia Stocker, minister at the UU Church of Brunswick and a member of the NNED's Right Relations Team, said that behavioral covenants helped their congregation flourish after their historic building was destroyed by fire in June 2011. The church did not yet have a congregational covenant—though a meeting to begin creating one had already been scheduled with then-District Executive Rev. Mary Higgins—but the board and several committees did have behavioral covenants in place. The first thing the church did after the fire was to create a Fire Recovery Team, and the team's first action was to create a covenant (still posted on their church's website).

The Fire Recovery Team's leading agreement was not to bring personal agendas to the table. "That's the one that saved our lives," said Stocker. "We had a congregational meeting about every ten minutes last fall.... The Recovery Team's covenant was read at the beginning of every meeting, and then people got to see it in action." The team listened openly and respectfully to all, their minister said, adding, "I don't think anyone (in the congregation) felt railroaded."

By last October, when Mary Higgins met with Brunswick members to create a church-wide covenant, "it wasn't this big, scary thing," Stocker said. "It was: 'Of course, we need a covenant!'"

that our members love one another. Creating a congregational covenant of right relations is the next step in living with love and intention in our faith community. Please watch for the date of the October workshop to be announced and join us if you possibly can.

Lane Fisher, Covenanting Team

Life of the Church

September 2012

The American Religious Identification Survey (ARIS) was conducted in 2008 by two researchers from Trinity College in Hartford, Conn. Its purpose was to examine “the nation’s pattern of religious beliefs, behavior and belonging.” The survey found that 76% of Americans identified themselves as Christians. About 15% said they were atheists or agnostics or had no religion. Another 5% responded with “Don’t Know” or refused to answer the question. That leaves about 4% of us who fall into “Other Religions,” which includes the categories of Jewish, Eastern Religions, Muslims, and “New Religious Movements and Other Religions.” This last category comprises 1.2% of the total survey sample. Guess what? That’s where UUs are. We are one of the “Other Religions.”

Rev. Mitra Rahnema spoke of this “Otherness” at one of the worship services at this year’s General Assembly. Her topic was the word ambiguity.

When we fill out forms, she said, we are asked to categorize ourselves by gender, age, ability, race, etc. Checking boxes on a form may not permit the ambiguity that some of us feel. Male and female do not exhaust all the possibilities of gender identity. Boxes for race don’t either. It was not until 2000 that the U.S. census

allowed people to identify with more than one race.

Rahnema says, “The question ‘What are you’ is the clash of cultures working itself out in the flesh of those of us with identities on the margins. In this process we can experience and re-experience the pain, sadness, embarrassment, fear, frustration of our deepest selves.”

Being an “other” is often experienced as a painful frustration: “I’m always an Other.” But another reaction may be that the “other” category releases us from having to be confined to those boxes. It gives us the freedom to be ambiguous, to say, “I Am an Other! Hallelujah!”

Our first principle states that we affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person. Not just some. Not just those who fit into neat boxes. Everyone.

This high standard is not always easy to meet. As another speaker at GA put it, “The church community requires us to be part of a group of people we would not have chosen as friends.” We might have chosen some of them, but surely not all of them. Our personalities may clash. We may disagree about important issues and ideas. Just as we have different religious beliefs, we may have different beliefs about politics. Difficult as it may be for some of us to realize and remember, not every Unitarian-Universalist is a liberal Democrat.

This fall, we’re going to be creating a Behavioral Covenant that will help guide our discussions about the church’s mission and other critical issues we face in our church life. It will help us remember that all of us are “others.” But we all belong. Together.

Hallelujah!
Rick Davis

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 Creamer 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

Book Group

The September 26 selection has been chosen: *Still Alice* by Lisa Genova

A heartbreaking novel about a fifty-year-old Harvard professor, wife and mother's sudden and devastating descent into early onset Alzheimer's disease. *STILL ALICE* debuted at #5 on the New York Times Bestseller list and has spent 40 weeks on that list. It won the 2008 Bronte Prize and the 2011 Bexley Book of the Year, and it was nominated for the 2010 Indies Choice Debut Book of the Year by the American Booksellers Association. It was the #6 Top Book Group Favorite of 2009 by Reading Group Choices. There are over a million copies in print, and it has been translated into 25 languages.

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 Big Idea Continues

The Adult Life Span Committee has lined up its fall Big Idea UU Discussion Series. These are opportunities to engage in thoughtful, lively discussion with other UUs on a variety of topics. Frequently, readings on the topic will be sent out via the UUBB before the meeting date. No registration is required' just drop in even if you haven't done the readings. The gatherings will usually be held the

Minister's Report

Dear Friends,

It was a year ago August that Sue and I came to Belfast. I'm finding, however, that everything still seems so new. When I walk along the rocky shore with our dog, or walk to church over the footbridge, or see people at Sunday morning worship, or look at the work people do for an entire week for our yard sale, or hear the music from the Celtic Celebration and HarborFest, I continue to be in awe. I have often thought of gratitude as a spiritual practice, something that we can cultivate within ourselves and our church community. But it also seems to be something quite natural, something that comes forth from inside when experiencing, for example, awe and wonder. So I am glad to have had vacation, but also to be back. I am glad to be here, and to be here with you.

If you have not had the chance to be at church for the last couple of months, feel free to go upstairs when you return to see the changes in our RE space. You might not recognize the upstairs at all. With the recommendation of the Space Team, the Council allocated funds for creating a different space for our children in

order to accommodate the 72 young people who will be registering in RE this Fall.

This will be a busy year, and I think an incredibly creative one as well. We will be working on a church Covenant, and a church Mission statement--looking toward envisioning the kind of church community we wish to be. We will have numerous adult programs meant to help deepen our intellectual and spiritual self. We will need to make some exciting, albeit difficult decisions regarding space and growth. We will be talking about a Statement of Conscience on Marriage Equality, as well as about the possibility of becoming a Peace Advocacy Church. And we will continue to have an exciting music program with over 30 people in our choir (and more teal hymnals!).

We need to support each other as we do good work in our church community and in the larger community. Welcome back!

Fondly, Deane

Deane's hours:

My office hours are: Monday and Thursday from 9-12pm; Wednesday from 4:00-5:30pm; and other times by appointment.

fourth Sunday of the month from 6:00-8:00 PM at the church (except September, which will be the third Sunday).

September 16: *Marriage Equality* (Facilitated by Jan Anderson)

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

November 25: *Dancing with the Dark: The Challenges of the Season* (Facilitated by Linda Buckmaster)

For more information, contact Linda Buckmaster at lsbuck1@gmail.com.

Membership Committee

Please mark your calendars for the following fall events:

Q & A sessions with our minister, Rev. Deane Perkins August 12, October 7, and November 18: These very informal gatherings take place from about 11:30 AM to about 12:15

PM in the minister's office. They are designed to give you a chance to ask any questions you have about our church, about Unitarian-Universalism in general, or about anything else!

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

New member Sunday Dec. 16, 2012: 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!

Corliss Davis, Membership

Lifespan Committee

The adult lifespan committee is sponsoring a multiple-session workshop in three parts, entitled *The Sermon Within*.

Part 1, facilitated by Deane Perkins and Jan Anderson, is designed to enable participants to answer the question, "What would I like to say?" Participants will be asked to write about the sermon topic they would

A workshop-discussion is being offered at the church on Thursdays @ 1:00-3:00 PM, September 13, 20 and 27 2012.

The title of the workshop is **Gnostic Gospels and Misinterpretations of mythic Metaphors.**

please contact steve collins for more information: 323-5547

Small Group Ministry

. . . an intentional spiritual growth experience through lay-led groups

If you are looking for a place to belong, and a place to seek meaning, Small Group Ministry may be just right for you.

This program provides a format with which we can create and nurture connections with each other and explore spirituality in small groups. Covenant groups of 6-10 people will be forming this Fall and will meet monthly through June. Each group will be led by a facilitator and discuss topics which might include grace, money, family, joy, or social justice.

Unlike other programs or committees, Small Group Ministry focuses on personal interaction. Ours is a religion of tolerance, compassion, openness and hope. We are guided by reason, intuition and principles. In small groups we can welcome our diverse opinions, backgrounds and personalities. There we reflect on our own motivation, confront and refine our emotions, consider our ethics, deepen our attentiveness to others, cultivate wisdom, and express our love through service. In other UU congregations, many people feel new joy and fulfillment, and discover new meaning in their lives when they follow the simple covenant and process of practicing right relationship in these small group settings.

If this is what you are looking for in your religious community, consider joining a covenant group this Fall. Each group is designed to give its members a spiritual connection beyond the Sunday service and a challenge to take a faith journey right here in Belfast. Watch for more information about group formation. For more information or to register please contact:

Rev. Deane Perkins • minister@uu.belfast.org • 338-4482 or
Susan Coe • bsky13@yahoo.com • 691-5153

like to explore.

Jane Hirshfield wrote in *Nine Gates: Entering the Mind of Poetry* about the "threshold," that space in heart and mind that is poised to enter new realms of experience. She wrote that "in any good lyric poem – even one as brief as a haiku – a tiny narrative exists: there is a moment of transformation. Something happens, to writer, to reader, over its course." The sermon is also a tiny narrative and it begins with thinking and writing. What has happened to the writer that was transformative and calls to be shared with others?

Again from Jane Hirshfield: "The activity of poetry is to tell us we must change our lives. It does this by posing a question again and again that cannot be answered except with our whole being: What is the nature of this moment? Poetry asks, and we have no rest until the question is answered. Then it is asked again."

Part 2, facilitated by Deane Perkins and Lane Fisher, will transform the idea of the sermon to written word.

Part 3, facilitated by Deane Perkins and Linda Buckmaster, will give the written words life in the oral presentation.

COMING THIS FALL!!

A UU Church of Belfast COOKBOOK

Summer BBQs -- Family Treasures -- Holiday Gatherings
Pickles and Jams -- Fresh from the Garden -- Delicious
Desserts -- All of your Favorites!!

Regardless of the category, just send your favorite recipes! This is a community effort, and we need you!

Here's how to submit your recipes:

Place them in any format in the "Recipe Box" in the hospitality room, email them to Susan Coe at blsky13@yahoo.com, or mail them to Susan at 263 High St. #2 Belfast, 04915.

Be sure to put your name on your recipes!

Feel free to include anecdotes, photos, illustrations, or anything else that tells the recipe's story. *[If you would like your recipe returned, please put a note on it.]*

The cookbook project is being coordinated by Sue Cobb and Susan Coe. It will be sold at church and at local venues. Proceeds will go 50% to the UU General Fund and 50% to RE Programming and Supply needs.

Questions? Call or email Sue Cobb at 338-6776/alaughingdog@gmail.com, or Susan Coe at 691-5153/blsky13@yahoo.com

A free cookbook goes to the person who contributes the most recipes!

The workshop will be held on Tuesday evenings, 7:00-9:00 PM Sept, 11 and 25 and Oct. 9 and 23. We are limiting the size of the workshop to eight participants.

To sign-up, please contact Jan Anderson at 338-1429 or by email at jdanders5@gmail.com

There's Music in the Air

What a giant musical step forward for our church! Because our church community realizes the importance of live music at our Sunday services, even during the summer, at the Annual Meeting we approved additional money for accompanists. A very special thank you to Karen Nelson, Steve Costanza, and Frets for

the beautiful music they provided us! Our "regular" choir season begins Sunday, Sept. 9, with rehearsals starting, Thurs., Sept. 6, at 7:00 PM in the sanctuary. Normally, the choir sings the 1st and 3rd Sundays, but not only are we not singing the 1st Sunday in September, we will not be singing the 3rd one either because we will be graced with the music of Hawk Henries at that service. Not to worry though' the choir has some beautiful new music it will be presenting throughout the year, and if you've ever thought you might like to join on, please, don't hesitate. Even though we keep growing and growing, with each new voice, the choir just gets better and better. If you don't sing, but play an instru-

ment, please, consider sharing your talents as a soloist, with an ensemble, or accompanying the choir. If you have any questions about our music program, contact me at 338-5002 or e-mail to lilaquoideneuf@gmail.com.

Yours in harmony,
Lila Nation

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee took a summer vacation since it did not hold any regular meetings in July and August. But the committee was still involved in some important Social Justice events.

A Habitat for Humanity Chicken Barbecue dinner was sponsored by the Belfast Ministerium, of which Rev. Perkins is a part, and Cathy Mink, of the committee, sold a number of tickets.

The committee also co-sponsored a speaking engagement by Medea Benjamin, the co-founder of Code Pink, an organization working for Peace and Human Rights. She is the author of eight books, among them "Drone Warfare: Killing by Remote Control." The event was organized by Jennifer Hill. In August, the committee sponsored a program on Creative Nonviolence. The speaker was Kathy Kelly, coordinator of Voices for Creative Nonviolence. She has been living and working in Afghanistan and has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Award three times.

The Social Action committee is always looking for new members. The committee's next meeting will be on September 6, at 6:00 PM.

For more information, contact Stephen Allen (338-0613) or allenswriting46@gmail.com. You can also look at the committee's website on the church website. Just click on the Social Action link.

Congregational Resolution on Marriage Equality

The Adult Life Span committee has organized a meeting to explore the process for adopting a Congregational Resolution in favor of the Marriage Equality Act to be voted on in the general election this November. The meeting is scheduled for Sunday, September 23 at 11:30 after church.

The meeting is a combination informational meeting about congregational resolution processes in general and an official congregational meeting to decide whether to proceed with the process for this issue. We will need a quorum of church members to proceed. We have reserved the sanctuary for after church on Sept. 23 to Oct. 14 for a multi-week process if the congregation decides to move forward.

The Life Span committee will facilitate the first meeting and present the how-to information on resolutions as well as a review of the church's previous resolution on the Iraq War. We will also offer an Option B, which would involve a paid newspaper ad(s) with signatures and donations to pay for it by individual members rather than a church-wide statement. (We'll explain the difference at the meeting.)

Here is the link to the UUA materials on congregational resolutions.

<http://uua.org/action/congregational-resolution/index.shtml>

Watch the UUBB for more information. For questions, contact Linda Buckmaster at lsbuck1@gmail.com.

Yard Sale report AND thanks

Once again, our church was twice transformed from Sunday to Sunday as tables came out, chairs and hymnals were stacked, the tent went up, boxes were unpacked, items were

organized and priced and the community was welcomed in to buy— THEN things went in reverse: boxes and leftovers were packed and sent off, tables came down, signs were saved, the floor was vacuumed, the chairs and hymnals were put in place and the tent was stored. A huge effort indeed, carried out with many willing hands (too numerous to mention) under the experienced and dedicated guidance of Judith Grace.

Although the proceeds were above average (around \$4,000!), the success of such an effort is equally measured by the love and support of all who made it happen. Heartfelt thanks to those who stepped up—especially our loving husbands, Jeffrey and Bill!

With gratitude, *Jane Dopheide*

Girl Scouts Host

Fall Family Fun Day: Pasta Dinner and Silent Auction on Sept. 22.

Tina Hill (from our Youth Group) and her Senior Girl Scout Troop are hosting a Pasta Dinner/Silent Auction at the Belfast Boathouse on Sept. 22 to raise funds for their trip to Europe next summer. A bouncy house and balloon artist Kyle Edgerly will be on hand to create balloon animals for the kids. Yard games will be organized for the older kids and the young at heart.

The fun begins at 2:00 PM. Dinner will be served from 4:00-6:00 PM. The silent auction runs from 2:00-6:00 PM. Auction winners will be announced at 6:00 PM. All inclusive tickets (including dinner, bouncy house, balloon animals and all games and activities) are being sold in advance. Cost is \$10 (teen/adult) \$7 (ages 3-10) but free for children under 2.

Silent auction items will include themed baskets, gift certificates from

local businesses and artists and will also include an offering of services to bid on. FMI or to purchase tickets contact Tina Hill or her mom Meredith Hill at 322-4048.

Would you like to reduce your heating bills, make your home more energy efficient, and support our community?

This fall the Green Sanctuary Committee and the Belfast Committee on Climate and Energy are excited to be teaming up with the organization "Window Dressers," to provide inexpensive window inserts that significantly reduce heating bills and increase home efficiency. Please read on to find out how you could benefit, volunteer, or both!

Window Dressers (in a nutshell):

The Window Dressers organization was founded by retired software engineer and Rockland UU member Frank Mundo and retired geologist Dick Cadwgan. In the early stages, the volunteer based organization made polyolefin window inserts for the Rockland UU Church and reduced the church's heating bill by 25%. They have also made inserts for around 35 church members' homes. Since that time Mundo and Cadwgan have built a total of some 1,400 window inserts and have allowed more than 100 private homes to save between 10% and 20% off their heating bills. "If we simply continue at the rate we're going," Mundo says, "our project will save over 6M metric tons of CO2 from going into the atmosphere over the next ten years."

Aside from helping our planet, the organization is also dedicated to helping our communities. Window Dressers donates approximately one out of three window inserts that they build, often resulting in entire homes

being done at very little cost.

How it works:

If you are interested in ordering window inserts for your home or rental unit the first step is to sign up. Home owners, renters, and landlords are all welcome. We will have sign up sheets available throughout September in the hospitality room at the church. When you sign up you will be asked to include your name, address, the number of windows in your home, and simple directions to your house (so we can find it when its time to take measurements). You will also be asked to indicate whether or not you qualify as a low income customer.

Measurements will be taken in early October. A trained measure-er and volunteer assistant will come to your home/rental unit to take measurements. They will help determine which windows should be done (typically all of the windows in the home are done). At this time you will be given a quote for the price of your inserts. The price for inserts is approximately \$1.50/sq. ft of window, typically inserts for a full house cost between \$150-\$300. Those who can pay for their inserts provide seed money that goes to provide inserts to those who could otherwise not afford them. Families who indicate financial limitations will be eligible for window inserts for a flat rate of \$10 total. Payment is required at the time

of measurement, in order to cover the price of materials.

The measurements are then taken to the Window Dressers shop in Rockland. This is where the frames for inserts are built. After all of the frames (for all of our houses) have been built, they will be trucked to Belfast for the Community Build, sometime in early December. This is where the frames are wrapped, taped, foamed, and finished. From here they go home and are installed.

Volunteer Opportunities:

The community build is a community effort to wrap, tape, and apply compression foam to the edges of inserts. Volunteers in teams of eight for 4 hour sessions will be needed to finish the inserts. There are various jobs involved in finishing the inserts, and anyone who is interested in volunteering can be accommodated (even the klutzes our there!). The process typically takes 3-4 days so a number of volunteers are needed. Volunteering is not required, but it is encouraged. For those with building experience, there is a volunteer opportunity for a small handful of people to help in the shop in Rockland during the building of the frames.

Installing your inserts:

Window dressers will assist you in installing inserts if necessary. They are simple to put in and very light weight. The plastic is fairly sturdy

and will last years without replacing unless punctured. They can be gently cleaned with rags and window cleaner, and removed in the summer if desired.

How do window inserts increase the efficiency of my home?

The window inserts are wrapped in plastic on both sides, creating an insulating air space. When popped into place, a second airspace is created, between the window and the insert, creating an even larger insulating value. Secondly, because the frames are measured precisely and wrapped with compression foam they fit snugly and will not allow drafts to come through. The draftier your home, the greater the difference you will notice with your inserts. Many people have noticed as much as a 25% decrease in their heating bills since installing inserts.

What if you already have efficient windows?

Then you probably don't need inserts--but we would still love your interest and help in making this project a success. We'll need plenty of volunteers in December for the community build.

We're really excited about this project and what it can mean for our community and our environment. Please sign up this September if you are interested!

Sincerely,
Your Greenies