

## Mission Process Team Begins Work

In October many members and friends of the UU Church of Belfast assembled to establish the basis of a congregational covenant. Over the next six months we will turn our attention to developing a written mission statement. It will concisely define what the congregation wants to be known for and mean to the community and world beyond our church. It will describe the focus of the congregation within a community context, relating its identity to the needs of those it wants to serve. This work is important because it will guide every major decision the Church makes over the next five years.

The Church Council has formed a Mission Process Team to develop the framework and steps for a congregation-wide process that will shape the UUBelfast mission statement. Members of the team are Susan Coe, Liz

Fitzsimmons, Christi Goosman, Chris LeGore, Kathy Muzzy, and Judith Simpson. You will hear more about this process in the next few months.

### Life of the Church

We Unitarian Universalists take pride in being a non-creedal church. When people ask me, "What do Unitarian Universalists believe?" I usually respond –as you probably do too– with something like, "We aren't required to believe anything specific; each of us chooses to believe what makes sense to us individually." Then I add, "but we do have a set of shared values." Those values are listed and described in our seven principles.

Then if the questioner is still listening, I identify what I believe is the distinguishing feature of Unitarian Universalism. Whereas most Christians believe

that people are inherently sinful and wicked, I (and most if not all UUs) believe that people are inherently good. Sure, people behave badly at times. I didn't say we were perfect, just good. In my view, one of the major

functions of religion is to remind us of that goodness and to help us find ways to improve our behavior so that we act out of our principles and values more consistently and deeply.

Within the next few weeks, we will have a draft congregational Covenant describing how we intend to interact with one another. Like our principles, that document will affirm and promote our values. Then we will meet as a congregation to tweak and to adopt a "final" version of the Covenant. (The word "final" is in quotes because such Covenants are living documents that require review and revision from time to time.)

Over the next several months, we will begin the process of writing a new Mission Statement for ourselves. Our Mission Statement will describe who we are and what we hope to become. But unlike the principles, which others debated and word smithed years ago, our Mission Statement will emerge from our own individual, often passionately held, visions and dreams. Inevitably, some clash of visions will arise. Our task will be to craft an inclusive but concise Mission Statement. The Covenant will help us engage in the process of that work while upholding our highest ideals.

During that same time frame, and beyond, we will be considering and reflecting upon our church – the physical space in which we engage in our ministry as a congregation. We will be called upon to make big decisions, perhaps to take some risks. That process, too, will challenge us



September 28th game night at church.

### November 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!

**NOVEMBER 4** — **Rev. Deane Perkins** will be speaking and the Belfast UU Church choir will be performing. There will also be a Congregational Conversation after the service.

#### NOVEMBER 11

#### What is Church For?

*with Jan Anderson*

Jan Anderson, a founding member of the UU Church of Belfast, will attempt to answer a question that has plagued her for 18 years — what is church for? Afterwards is a congregational meeting to look at the draft of the church covenant.

**NOVEMBER 4** — **Rev. Deane Perkins** will be speaking and the Belfast UU Church choir will be performing.

#### NOVEMBER 25

#### Just Imagine

*with UU Society of Bangor minister Rev. Becky Gunn*

Some of us think that only children of really creative types use their imagination. Not so. Imagination is essential for faith, for social justice work and for dreaming of all sorts of possibilities. Today, let us consider how we use our imaginations in our daily lives.

Rev. Becky Gunn has been the minister at the UU Society of Bangor since August of 2008. Prior to that, Rev. Gunn served as interim minister in Boulder, Colorado. Ministry is Rev. Gunn's second career, having worked in the high tech and wine industry in California for 30 years prior to her being called to ministry in 2001.

**DECEMBER 2** — **Rev. Deane Perkins** will be speaking. Afterwards will be a Congregational Meeting to vote on the final draft of the Congregational Covenant.

to be our best selves as we experience conflicts between deeply held ideas and preferences and desires. We will be called upon to remember our seven principles and the values behind them, values we have already acknowledged as shared among us.

All of these group decisions and changes will test the strength of our ability to adhere to our principles and values in times of stress. But then, as I said above, that's what I believe religion is all about. We have built a congregation based in love. Now let

us step forward together into our future.

*Rick Davis, co-chair*

#### Bring out your books!

Now that your closets are cleaned out, it's time to empty your bookshelves of the accumulation of ages - those books you just never got around to reading or really aren't going to read yet again. Think of what you can do with all that newly freed space. Bring your books to the

church for our massive November Book Sale, Friday the 9th 4:00-7:00 and Saturday the 10th 9:00-1:00, with the bag sale from noon-1:00. Mass market paperbacks (the smaller size) will be three for \$1 and most of the rest of the books will be \$1.

We especially need helpers Sun. Nov 4 after the worship service to move chairs, get the books from storage, and separate books into categories. Can you contribute 2 hours to this project? Many hands make light work. If not on that Sunday, can you give a few hours during the week to sort? Or maybe you'd prefer to help during the sale hours. Any gift of time will be greatly appreciated! There will be a sign-up sheet in the Hospitality Room to indicate when you're available. Or speak to Francine Brown or Debbie Bailly.

For the first time, there will be a craft sale along with the book sale. Local crafters will have pottery, dried flower wreaths, handmade pens, fabric art, jewelry, and other handcrafted items for sale. Each crafter will donate an item for a raffle as well; raffle tickets will be available at the sale and all proceeds will go to our church.

So come and do some fine craft shopping while you restock your now depleted bookcases. With your continued help, this can be another very successful fundraiser for our church, offering the community a great variety of books at bargain prices and fine crafts.

#### Covenanting workshop review

Many thanks to all those who braved the drenching rain, gave up most of a precious Saturday and participated in the Covenanting Workshop on Oct. 20. The day included a lively discussion of the beliefs and core values

**Greeting in November**

Nov. 4 Gina Cressey & Ezra Kreamer  
 Nov. 11 Cheryl Richardson & Francine Brown  
 Nov. 18 Jane Moffitt & Ivy Lobato  
 Nov. 25 Mayme Trumble & Jacqui Lee

Sunday, Nov. 11 directly after church for 1-1/2 hours.  
 3. A BRIEF formal Congregational Meeting requiring a quorum will be held directly after the church service on Sunday Dec. 2 to vote on the final covenant draft.

that both new and old members and friends share and find sustained within our church community. Time was also spent laying bare some of the areas of concern that need addressing as we grow and change to help us continue to be vibrant and healthy.

Special thanks go to Chris LeGore, Sue Cobb and Corliss Davis for organizing and managing the delicious luncheon and to all the cooks and helpers who helped with set up and clean up. Once again, it all seemed like magic!

**Next Steps:**

1. A draft congregational covenant containing specific behavioral promises will be sent out within the next two weeks via email for review.
2. A meeting to discuss any revisions of the draft will be held on

**Social Action Committee**

The big Social Action Committee news for this month is that we have been able to virtually close the book on our drive which was started more than a year ago to increase ambulatory accessibility to downtown businesses. When we started, less than 50% of the businesses were accessible to the ambulatory disabled. Two weeks ago, we had gotten that number up to 80%. A little more than a week ago, the city council unanimously passed an ordinance amendment REQUIRING that all Belfast businesses with a front step of six inches or less must make their store accessible with a portable ramp (which are very inexpensive.) This is the action that we have been seeking for more than a year, so we feel the ball is in the city's court now. While we will watch and monitor the progress, we feel that we can back off at this point and take on other projects.

One of those other projects that we have taken on recently is aimed at high school students and is called "What You Need to Know Before You Enlist in the Military." The project has been coordinated by Stephen Allen and Dan Avenir, both veterans of the U.S. Army. One of the things they have always observed is that many of the promises regarding career training or placement made by military recruiters to high school students simply do not come true—or are greatly exaggerated. Yet 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  
 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

**Thanksgiving Day  
 Community Potluck  
 supper**

The 4th Annual  
 Thanksgiving Day  
 Community Potluck supper  
 will be held  
 at the UU Church of Belfast  
 at 1:00 PM on Thursday,  
 November 22.

Turkey will be provided and  
 all are welcome!  
 For further information or to  
 volunteer,  
 please feel free to contact  
 Dorothy Jordan at  
 river0608@aol.com

offers have a telling effect in a job-poor state like Maine. Allen and Avenner feel that the students need to be made aware of this from authoritative sources, such as Veterans for Peace, the American Friends Service Committee and Veterans Department. They have put together such a program, including a short movie by veterans.

The first public presentation of the subject took place Sept. 26 in the Abbott Room of the library. We hate to admit it, but this presentation was a failure, since only two members of the public plus Cathy Mink and Deane Perkins came to the presentation—and no students. One of the reasons for this is that while we tried to publicize the presentation with press releases and posters, both the Republican Journal and the Bangor Daily News refused the use the press release, apparently on the grounds that the subject was “too controversial” and would offend some of their readers.

But we’re not done yet. We were first turned down in presenting the program at the high school because the church was our sponsor. So we are going to try and get Veterans for Peace to be a co-sponsor and then try the high school again, pointing out that they are obligated by law to allow alternative views on military recruitment. If you would like to help with this project, the intention of which is to save some young lives, give Stephen Allen a call at 338-0613 or email allenswriting46@gmail.com.

Speaking of which, the thing we need the most is some additional members. We only have three now, and we could use some help. If you would like to join us, just give Stephen a call or email.

## Minister’s Report

Dear Friends,

When some of my friends and I received our driver’s licenses at age 16 (yes, several years ago!), we would take road trips, often to Ocean Park, Maine where we were campers and later counselors at the Baptist camp there. One of those friends now lives in Ocean Park, and this past week the two of us went on another road trip—this time to Vermont to transport my ’62 T-bird back here to Belfast. My friend offered the use of his truck, his time (he took a day off from work), and his mechanical abilities. After so many years, it seemed like there was something remarkably familiar about our being on the road together—and all for a classic car (oh, he has a ’70 Roadrunner)! And I realized, too, that I keep learning more about what friendship means, and how grateful I am for such friends.

Some of you have heard me say that, when I drove out to Phoenix for General Assembly, I also visited our four children, went to San Francisco where I saw another Baptist friend from childhood, and drove through South Dakota where I met with one of my college roommates. I don’t know if I will ever see some of these friends again. What I do know is that they have touched my life profoundly, and that they will always be my friends.

Whatever form it takes—an actual road trip, a call, a letter-- I hope you have the chance to embrace those you love as often as possible, including those at church.

Fondly, *Deane*

### Winter Solstice Celebration December 15th

Mark your calendars for the Winter Solstice Celebration, coming up on Saturday, December 15, 4:00 PM (snow date Sunday, December 16) at The Blue Goose on Route 1 in Northport. This has been our yearly benefit for a local charity — last year we gave the proceeds to Waldo County food banks.

This year we’re working on putting together a stellar lineup of music, dance and stories. We’re looking forward to everyone pitching in and helping out as we’ve had such good participation in past years. We need people to sign up to work on decorating the hall, organizing and preparing refreshments, participating in the performances and clean up afterwards. Call Jen Kirchoff at 975-1913 or

email her at [jkirchoff@rsu3.org](mailto:jkirchoff@rsu3.org) to sign on. Your help will be most appreciated.

### Hi Readers . . .

In November we’ll be reading the wildly popular, *The Sense Of An Ending*, by Julian Barnes, winner of the 2011 Man Booker Prize. As one reviewer put it “An elegantly composed, quietly devastating tale about memory, aging, time and remorse.” Join us for lively discussion and help us select upcoming titles.

The book group meets every month on the fourth Wednesday, at 6:30 PM in the UU Church meeting room. Join us to discuss the book, and bring suggestions for future reading.

This book is available online, new and used, as an ebook, through the

Belfast Free Library/Minerva, or as an audiobooks from Audible.com. Please support our local Belfast book stores. Read on!

*Wendy Watkins*

**Hannaford gift card recycling**  
Starting November 1st, used Hannaford gift cards will no longer be collected at church but can now be recycled at the Belfast Hannaford store.

Be sure to tell your Hannaford “associate” to recycle your Hanna-

ford gift card. The used card may be thrown away if recycling is not requested.

Hannaford cards will continue to be sold weekly for half-an-hour after church services.

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