

## Peace Advocacy Group, Church Council, and Rev. Perkins Seek Church Support To Become a Peace Advocacy Congregation

One of the most important projects being spearheaded by the Peace Advocacy Group, which is an arm of the Social Action Committee, is to have the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast declared to be a Peace Advocacy Congregation.

Adopting this as a project was encouraged by Deane Perkins, and it will require three years of projects focused on Peace. After that, the national UUA will look at our work pursuant to identifying the UU Church of Belfast as a certified Peace Advocacy Congregation. A certificate will be issued by the UUA for display in our church.

Deane, the church council, and the Peace Advocacy Group will be seeking approval of this project from the congregation at a special meeting to be held in either January or February.

In a world that is so filled with violence: domestic violence, gun violence in the streets of our cities, the violence of needless wars where many of our young are sacrificed in the prime of their lives, plus the violence committed worldwide in the war on terrorism, can communities of faith make any difference—or is it hopeless? We hope it is not hopeless, and we will endeavor to do our part in the promotion of Peace.

Can we build a new culture through the teaching of Peace to young and old, male and female, rich and poor, believers and non-believers? The Peace Advocacy Group, with the support of the church council, Deane Perkins, and the congregation, believing that the pursuit of peace is not hopeless, will first compose a Statement of Conscience for Creating Peace. We also believe that such an endeavor is reflected in our Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism.

The following are some guidelines for creating a Peace Statement of Conscience excerpted from those guidelines passed at the September, 2010, UUA General Assembly:

- Peace-building is the creation and support of institutions and structures that address the roots of conflict;
- Peacemaking is the negotiation of equitable and sustainable peace agreements, mediation between hostile parties, and post-conflict rebuilding and reconciliation;
- Peacekeeping creates the space for diplomatic efforts, humanitarian aid, and nonviolent conflict prevention;
- We advocate a culture of peace through a transformation of public attitudes, religious consciousness, and individual lifestyles—hopefully resulting in a transformation of public policies;
- We agree that our first response to conflict should be the use of nonviolent methods. We bear witness to the right of individuals and nations to defend themselves, and we acknowledge that force is sometimes necessary as a last resort—while others



*Christmas cookie decorating 2011* DECEMBER CONGREGATIONAL LIFE ACTIVITIES: December 5--Christmas cookie making and decorating  
December 19--Christmas Caroling in the UU church neighborhood  
COME ONE , COME ALL FOR THE FUN- 6:30-8:30 PM

## November Sunday Services

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!

### **Dec. 2 Identity, Inspiration and Intention—the Importance of Mission**

*with Rev. Deane Perkins and the UUCB Mission Statement Task Force*

Over the coming months, our congregation will create a new mission statement. This will define what we want to be known for within the wider world; what our congregation wants to mean to the community. This service will provide food for thought as we consider our identity, what inspires us, and how do we intend to convey that message.

### **Dec. 9 The Alphabet as the Power Behind Belief and Love**

*with Douglas Coffin*

There really was a moment there, in the Bible, when God taught Moses how to read and write. At the very same moment, they both figured out how best to believe and to love. It was the beginning of monotheism, and Restorative Justice, too.

### **Dec. 16 A Multigenerational Service**

Rev. Deane Perkins along with R.E. and the Lifespan Committee will be presenting.

### **Dec. 23 What's the Point of Christmas?**

*with Rev. T. Richard Snyder*

Is it possible to re-imagine Christmas without losing the heart of the matter or should we let go of it as a vestige of our naiveté?

**Dec. 24 Rev. Deane Perkins will be leading our Christmas Eve service starting at 7:00 PM.**

### **Dec. 30 Minding the Gap**

*with Eva Thompson*

Calling upon the recent interview with Parker Palmer (in *The Sun* magazine) and his description of “The Tragic Gap,” we look further at what is or is not “tragic” about it, whether or not it’s a problem for us as UUs to be stuck in there. (Rev. Eva Thompson is an interfaith Community Minister and a friend of UUCB who has been attending sporadically for about three years.)

believe in the consistent practice of nonviolence;

- We repudiate the aggressive and preventive wars, the disproportionate use of force, covert wars, and targeting of civilians. We repudiate the vast world trade in arms, and we call for an abolition of nuclear and other weapons of mass destruction;

- For Unitarian Universalists, the

exercise of individual conscience is holy work. We affirm a range of individual choices, including military service and conscientious objection — whether to all wars or to particular wars—as fully compatible with Unitarian Universalism. For those who make a formal commitment to military service, we will honor their choice and offer pastoral support. For

those who make a formal commitment as conscientious objectors, we will offer documented certification, honor their choice, and offer pastoral support;

- Though our faith calls us to create peace, we confess that we have not done all we could to prevent the spread of armed conflict throughout the world. At times, we have lacked the courage to speak truth to power. We affirm a responsibility to speak that truth which reflects our Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism, especially when unjust power is exercised by our own nation;

- This Statement of Conscience challenges individual Unitarian Universalists, including our congregation, to engage with more depth, persistence, and creativity in the complex task of creating Peace.

### **Life of the Church**

*Taking It Personally—A First Gift of the Season*

I have taken the process of creating a congregational covenant VERY personally! Let me tell you why. First of all, I am deeply grateful for the opportunity to work closely with Lane Fisher and Debbie Bailly, two extraordinary women who have taught me much about right relations through their own example. Additionally, it has been both exciting and comforting to hear others in the congregation share the beliefs and values that have brought them home to our community—creating for me a greater sense of connection and belonging.

As I mentioned in my first column as Co-Chair, I have been struggling a bit with the loss of our family church as we get bigger and need to put more structure and programs in place. The covenanting process has helped me see a way that our rela-

**Hospitality in December**

- Dec. 2 Eva Thompson, Chris Goosman,  
Chip Curry
- Dec. 9 Anna Wood-Cox, Su Wood
- Dec. 16 Joanne Boynton, Happy Bradford,  
Eileen Wolper
- Dec. 23 Cassie Snyder, TBA

**Greeting in December**

- Dec. 2 Gina Cressey & Judith Simpson
- Dec. 9 Anna Wood-Cox & Dagmar  
Moravec & Macy
- Dec. 16 Ezra Kreamer & Marion Brown
- Dec. 23 Jacqui Lee & Jane Moffitt
- Dec. 30 Marion Brown & Mayme Trumble

ingful a tool for each of you as the process of creating it has been for me –a gift for us all in this season of giving and receiving.

PS. The mission and vision processes promise to be equally important gifts. I encourage your participation in both as we move forward.

*Jane Dopheide*

**From the Space Needs Task Force**

After church on November 18th, the Space Needs Task Force hosted a power-point presentation the survey results of the recent space needs survey. The survey, sent to 205 members and friends, yielded 97 responses. In the presentation it was emphasized the survey is not in any way a vote on any specific idea or proposal. It is, instead, more of a pulse-taking of the church community. About 40 people attended the presentation.

The survey elicited responses around the three primary options under consideration for improving our church space: renovate our current building, buy and renovate another property, and buy land and build on it. Perhaps the biggest finding of the survey is that 80% of respondents would be willing to consider all of these possibilities. In another important finding, 60% indicated they want the church to be located within the Route One loop.

All are invited to peruse other results from the survey, displayed on poster boards in the back of the sanctuary.

After the presentation, comments and questions were received. Some expressed concern that the church right now could and should be more

tionships can flourish in a bigger church through our commitment to healthy behavior.

There is solace in knowing that we have created a common set of agreements for how we want to be together based on love, respect, compassion and forgiveness.

Realizing for the first time that our faith is a covenantal faith has given me a new perspective on Unitarian Universalism. Reading the covenants of other congregations has reinforced my sense of connection to other UU churches and renewed my curiosity about how others do church.

Finally, as our covenant came together, piece by piece, I found myself looking at and changing my behavior outside of church in a different and healthier way. I am tending to listen better, be more compassionate and less judgmental toward others with different views. Equally important, I am more patient with and forgiving of myself.

Our covenant, as a product, is an important accomplishment. Its value, however, will be seen as each one of us embraces its content and follows its lead, not perfectly but with intention. As we hold it up for use, I sincerely hope that it will be as mean-

**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

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welcoming and inviting to newcomers and old-comers alike, in the way space is utilized in the downstairs. A number of volunteers stepped forward offering to meet and have as an immediate goal to assess what might be done to help our space be more physically accommodating to our growing numbers.

Ideas suggested included encouraging people to sit in the center of rows so aisle seats are available for newcomers to more easily find a seat, bringing hospitality into the sanctuary, and managing hallway traffic flow so people don't have to fight their way out of the sanctuary. While this group is not yet named, it promises to play an important part in the immediate efforts to address space needs, while perhaps allow the Space Needs Task Force to focus more on longer term solutions.

One of the next steps for the Space Needs Task Force is to bring in a U.U.A. consultant this winter, to get input on the planning process as we work on the options under consideration. A consultant would perhaps spend a weekend in Belfast, with various meetings taking place. Details will follow when we know more. In the meantime, thank you all for your continuing ideas and support!

**The annual Winter Solstice Celebration** will take place on Saturday, December 15 at 4:00 PM at the Blue Goose on Route 1 in Northport. (The snow date is Sunday, December 16.)

Sword dancing, Morris dancing, singing, storytelling, and other seasonal entertainment will mark the Winter Solstice. Tickets will be available at the door. Adults-\$10; youth ages 6-18, \$5; Family-\$25. Proceeds will benefit a local charity.

## Minister's Report

### Dear Friends,

Sue and I traveled to New Jersey this Thanksgiving to be with Sue's parents who are in their mid-eighties. Their particular part of town was hit fairly severely by hurricane Sandy—they were without electricity for 10 days. They hunkered down at home for the duration, though the temperature in the house went down to the low 40s.

It was clear from fallen or uprooted trees that the storm had come through; otherwise, things seemed to be fairly normal. One morning I noticed a rose bush in back of the Cobbs' home. What was remarkable was that there was one pink flower remaining on the rose bush. A lone rose had managed to remain alive through the ferocity and destruction of the storm. It reminds me of our own symbol, the flaming chalice, where one light shines forth regardless of its surroundings.

The holiday season, while meant to be festive and joyful in the midst of winter, is not always a happy time for many people. It can be a dark time, a lonely time. Nevertheless, I think there is always a beautiful rose, a light of hope inside us, but sometimes it is hard to find. May we reach out to those who are hurting. May we help them—and ourselves—see the sacred beauty that is inside.

Sue and I send you our best wishes for a peaceful, hopeful, and meaningful holiday season.

Fondly,  
Deane

Volunteers are needed to help with poster distribution, ticket sales, decorations, set up, take down, and refreshments. Please let Marty Daniels (mertsquirt@ne.twcbc.com; 338-0129) know if you would like to volunteer. Look for a sign-up sheet at church for bringing cider or baked goods to the event.

### Demise of a book group

We are sad to announce that our small but enthusiastic book group has disbanded. There were many factors which influenced our decision. We will greatly miss our reading adventures together. Thanks to all who participated and supported us. Read on!

Wendy Watkins  
Cris Hughes

### 'Tis the Season

For the first three Sundays in December as you enter the sanctuary, you will be greeted by the angelic sounds of Becky Brimley playing Christmas carols on her harp. On Dec. 2, the UU Choir will be singing the beautiful Christmas Peace Canon, a marriage of the round, Dona Nobis Pacem and Silent Night. Don't forget the annual Solstice Celebration, Saturday, Dec. 15, at the Blue Goose, where you'll not only hear the UU Choir, but drums and cello, plus a few musical surprises, and you'll be treated to dancing, an outrageous mummer's play, and delightful goodies as well. The following day, Sunday, Dec. 16, will be the Pageant from the Pews; if you get tapped to play a donkey, don't bray, say Yeah!

The Christmas Eve service will have Jeffrey Mabee playing some traditional carols on guitar, and two beautiful duets, *If I Had Eyes to See*, and *Would You Like to Hold the Baby?* Come celebrate with us new birth, the return of the sun, and the magic of the season.

Blessings,  
Lila Nation  
Music Director

**Church members and friends**  
Holiday time is also time to update the church directory for the new year. It's about connection—having current contact information keeps everyone in touch. It's about inclusion—the directory is the go-to list for contacting people about church activities. So please send any address, phone and email updates to Maret at 338-4482 or office@uubelfast.org right away!

### Green Sanctuary

Over the past six months the Green Sanctuary committee has been working with Window Dressers, an organization based in Rockland that builds low-cost window inserts for local homes, helping to reduce heating bills, and subsequently conserving energy and reducing green house gas emissions. In many cases Window Dressers is able to offer inserts to families for as little as \$10/household, resulting in immediate savings for the family. How can they do this? Easy--with your help!

Many of you already know this as 25 families within our congregation have had their windows measured and have ordered inserts to be built. And now its time to get building!

In a few short weeks our sanctuary will become the UU Workshop, as

we set the stage for wrapping and taping nearly 300 windows for our congregation.

This is a job anyone can do--even you! Volunteers will be wrapping window inserts in plastic wrap, shrinking them with a blow dryer, and taping the edges. There is no wood working, no power tools (unless you count the hair dryers), and plenty of good company.

Please check your calendars and schedule a time to help with this incredible opportunity to give to our community.

### Here are the details:

M-F December 10th-14th

Each day will have a morning session from 8:30-12:30, and an afternoon session from 1:00-5:00

We need to get six volunteers for each session. We may be able to provide childcare upstairs during some time slots--when you sign up please let us know if you need childcare.

Youth 15 years and older are encouraged to volunteer as well!

To sign up for a time slot please contact Corliss Davis (cdavis5468@roadrunner.com 930-3562)

We will also be delivering the inserts to individual families at the end of each session. If you have a closed truck, or van/station wagon and are willing to make some deliveries that would also be of help.

There is also an opportunity for a handful of people to volunteer in the workshop in Rockland building the inserts before they arrive at our church. If you are interested in that part of the process please let Corliss



**Returnables Recycling is Back !  
... and easier**

The RE Program is asking you to turn in your empty bottles and cans to help pay for their Sunday snacks! It's simpler, easier, and (well maybe not fun!)

1. Pick up a bag in the UU kitchen already coded to help RE with a Clynk sticker.
2. Bring it home and fill with your returnable bottles and cans.
3. Take it to Hannaford when you shop—scan it quickly and dump in the receptacle in the recycle area.
4. Credit automatically goes to UURE and we are paid quarterly.

**Thanks for your support!!**

know soon.

Frank and Dick, the founders of Window Dressers have organized several community builds so far, and are very skilled at training and organizing volunteers. This will be a smooth process, but we can succeed only with enough help. Please consider lending a hand to help your neighbors keep their houses warm as we head into this winter season.

Thanks for your help on this important project!

Sincerely,

Jasmine Fowler and Your Green Sanctuary Committee (Corliss Davis, Karen Ireland, and Cris Hughes)

### 2. Milestones

Milestones Returning!

Beginning Sunday, December 2, a new trial format of the "Milestones" tradition will return. On the first Sunday of the month, everyone present with a birthday, anniversary or

special event that month will be asked to stand and the congregation will sing! Later in hospitality, you can privately share your event with the congregation. If you want to be noticed, be there on the first Sunday of the month!

### Congregational Life activity for all ages

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 6:30-8:30 PM

Christmas cookie decorating and making  
BRING: cookie decorations to share, a few cookies you have baked, if you have time, for decorating. Last year we had a wonderful time! Cary will be bringing his Christmas CDs to add to the festive time.

Sue Cobb plans to bring the supplies for the cute little cookie mice she made last year. Happy will be making those bright green holly cookies she made last year.

### The UU community Thanksgiving

Potluck Supper tradition continued for a 4th year; every year gets easier and more fun as we let go of small worries and celebrate the gratitude holiday. This year we hosted 75 people for supper at our church. One man said he hadn't felt such kinship since a Thanksgiving in Vietnam as a soldier, in a tiny hut surrounded by his buddies. That's what it

was like in our church on Thanksgiving.

We were blessed with four planners: Corliss, Stephen, Dorothy and I met at the Co-op for a month of Monday mornings hashing out ideas. Stephen wrote press releases, Dorothy recruited volunteers, Corliss took notes and detail, I designed the poster.

On the big day, Linda and Jim joined in early to help out and didn't stop till the day was done. Katia arrived to teach us a new napkin fold, way-more sophisticated than years past. Jeffrey saved the day by operating the ticklish sound system. Art took over the kitchen management and Cheryl worked with people to label their potluck dishes. Diane had dropped off pumpkins from her garden and Marshall, boughs from the forest. Cheryl and Jean worked steadily throughout the day, providing whatever was needed, as did Marjorie and Gary and many others.

Most everybody had a hand in cleaning up, including Patty, Mayme and Pam.

This is by no means a complete list of all that was done in the name of the UU

Church on Thanksgiving. I am moved by this celebration of community. Thank you to all who participated.

*Jennifer Hill*

### Hannaford cards

Buy a \$50, \$100 or \$200 Hannaford card through the church, as a nearly effortless way to add to our general fund.

The card-holder receives its full value toward grocery or pharmacy purchases, but Hannaford gives the church \$5 for every \$100 worth of cards we buy.

Those five-dollar bills add up, earning the church thousands of dollars since 2010.

Please join in and help us with this fundraiser. The cards are sold for 1/2 an hour every Sunday after church services in the hospitality room.

FMI: Kathy Kreamer, 338-9513, [kreamers@myfairpoint.net](mailto:kreamers@myfairpoint.net)



*Thanksgiving, 2012, at our church*