

Committee on Ministry Asks Big Questions

by the Members of the Committee, submitted by Jan Anderson

MANY CHURCHES have a committee called the Ministerial Relations Committee (MRC); in fact, we used to have one here at our church. Its purpose is to help support the minister in his/her work in the church, and to be a liaison between the congregation and the minister in the event that conflict arises. More recently, churches have been creating a Committee on Ministry (COM), which does the work of the traditional MRC, but also has a larger vision by looking at the ministry of the church as a whole.

Last spring the Church Council created a temporary committee to come up with a sense of mission and purpose--along with policies and procedures--for the creation of a Committee on Ministry. We (Debbie Bailly, Morten Moesswilde, Ian Howard, Jacqui Lee, Jan Anderson and Deane Perkins) have been meeting since last June. While there are times that we talk about concrete issues, much of our time has been spent asking such questions as:

- “What do we mean by ministry?”
- “What is shared ministry?”
- “How do I (we) foster the ministry and spiritual well-being of the congregation?”
- “What are the ministries of our congregation, and what feeds our church’s ministry?”
- “How do we want to be, as a congregation? What is the culture we hope to foster?”
- “How can the COM support Deane in meeting the multiple needs of our congregation?”
- “How would Deane like to define his ministry and his understanding of his calling?”

Yes, we have lots of questions; questions—and some responses--that will be the foundation of a new Committee on Ministry.

And our mission? Here is one possibility:

“We understand Ministry to be everything the congregation does to fulfill its mission of serving the spiritual needs of the congregation, the community, and the world.

The mission of the Committee on Ministry is to support the work of our called minister and to foster, through constructive dialogue, all facets of the ministry of our church, in concert with our minister, by monitoring, evaluating, educating, and advising our church leadership, our committees and all members of our congregation in respect to the effectiveness of our ministry.”

Our committee is excited about having a COM, and we are planning a congregational conversation on February 24. We invite you to join us in considering the mission and ministry of the Committee on Ministry.

Life of the Church *Rick Davis*

January is the month we associate with big changes, especially New Year’s Day, which marks a new beginning. In January, we may resolve to change our lives by doing more of something positive or doing less of something negative. Even the name of the month reflects this old-new dichotomy. Janus, the two-faced Roman god of beginnings and doorways, had one face looking back at the past and another looking forward to the future.

It is true that some changes occur suddenly and unexpectedly, sometimes with tragic consequences as we have seen all too often in the news. The diagnosis of a threatening medical condition, the loss of a job, or of a loved one – these are life-changing events that seem to hit us from nowhere. Fortunately, these kinds of events are not the norm.

More often, even the seemingly unanticipated changes are just markers in a series of smaller transitions, which may have been unnoticed. As Janus might observe, we may look back and see those transitions later, but we can’t change them. We may also look ahead, but the changes to come may be murky and undefined.

**A FAMILY-FUN
 EVENING at CHURCH**

JAN. 25TH

SAVE THE DATE!
 More information to come.
 Congregational Life committee

January 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. 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.)

Jan. 6

Rev. Deane Perkins

Jan. 13

Americans Who Tell the Truth

with Robert Shetterly and Mary Ann Driscoll

Robert Shetterly is a nationally recognized portrait artist who is currently working on a continuing series of portraits about Americans Who Tell the Truth. He will share his experience with several portraits. Mary Ann Driscoll is a singer, composer and pianist who is composing music to the words and portraits Rob has selected.

Jan. 20

Rev. Deane Perkins

Jan. 27

A musical service led by Mimi Bornstein,
Director of the Midcoast Community Chorus

Mimi will weave worship and spiritual music together for us.

Feb. 3

Coming Home

with Linda Buckmaster, Lane Fisher, and friends

Psychologist Abraham Maslow maintained that one of our compelling motivations in this life is the need to belong. How does that feeling evolve for members of a UU church community? How do we deepen it? This service will be followed by a Life of the Church Fair, a fun-loaded opportunity to get better acquainted with different components of our church's ministry.

This is true in our church life too. Rev. Deane's arrival as our settled minister seems like a watershed event, dividing our history between the time before and the time after. But calling our first settled minister was not a sudden inspiration. Our Long Range Plan, adopted in 2008, included the hiring of a full-time minister “as resources allow.” Our experience with interim minister

Mary Wellemeyer and the “Miracle on Miller Street” when we doubled our pledge income were other major milestones along the way.

More changes are coming. We recently approved our first ever congregational covenant, and we are about to launch into writing a new mission statement reflecting the changes in who we are and who we want to be. We are experiencing dramatic growth

in our numbers across the full age range. Our physical limitations are so clear that we have two groups looking just at that issue, one for the immediate term and one for the longer term.

So, the beat goes on. More changes are coming. They are likely to be evolutionary rather than revolutionary. We may be able to affect some of them individually or collectively, but there will be other changes that will happen regardless of what we do. Individually, we will embrace some changes gladly, and we will reluctantly accept others. A few changes we may not like very well at all. As former Senator Chuck Hagel said, “Democracy is messy.”

It is the heart and soul of who we are as a congregation that sustains us. The love and caring we have for one another is phenomenal. That love has carried us through many remarkable changes in the past, and it will carry us through those yet to come. So be it.

Upcoming Programs from Adult Life Span

Deane Perkins will once again be offering the introductory course on “Non-Violent Communication” on Tuesday evenings from 6:30-8:30 beginning Jan. 8 and continuing until April 2. To register and for more information on buying the book, get in touch with Deane.

Also in January, we hope to be able to show the film “Tough Guise” on American masculinity and violence. This excellent film, which was produced in 2002, is (unfortunately) as timely today as it was when it was made.

The UU Big Idea will be morphing into a new version this spring with a four-week course starting

Hospitality in January

Jan. 6 Joanne Moesswilde & Jessie Gower
 Jan. 13 Kelly Davis, Kathy Muzzy & Molly Lebel
 Jan. 20 Phyllis Coelho & Patty Heath
 Jan. 27 Andrea Butler, TBA

Greeting in January

Jan. 6 Cheryl Richardson & Judith Simpson
 Jan. 13 Dagmar Moravec & Patty Barnhart
 Jan. 20 Ezra Creamer & Jane Moffitt
 Jan. 27 Mayme Trumble & Francine Brown

will help guide our group's work in developing a plan and a process for the new church space. We will keep you informed as we know more about the timing of the visit.

Also, we are gathering information needed to solicit a Request For Proposal from architects. The RFP will concern

April 9 on a UU topic. We will be distributing a short survey after the New Year to find out which option we are considering will be of most interest. The options will include a course on UU ethics, UU theology, spirituality, and the UU faith heritage in action. This course will also be offered on Tuesday evenings. Stay tuned for more details.

□ Late spring, Jan Anderson will again lead "The Sermon Within" for those who want to get their ideas on-to paper and maybe present them from the pulpit at some point.

For more information on any of the upcoming programs or suggestions, contact Linda Buckmaster at lsbuck1@gmail.com or 338-1701.

The Space Needs Task Force is extremely grateful to the ad hoc group working on improving our space utilization on Sundays on the first floor. They are trying out a new placement of the coffee table in the sanctuary to open up space for our coffee hour, and they are working on other ideas as well. Stay tuned for these improvements, and thanks to the group!

Meanwhile, the Space Needs Task Force is in the process of arranging for a UUA consultant to visit, probably later this winter. The consultant

proposals for renovation of our current building.

We look forward to these next steps along our path, and will strive to keep all of you informed as we learn more!

Social Action Committee

You may recall if you were at the service on Sunday, Dec. 9, that we put a small booklet in your program. If you were not at the service, we are going to tell you how to get one. The title of the booklet is "Universal Declaration of Human Rights", and it was adopted on Dec. 10, 1948, by the General Assembly of the United Nations. If any new nation today wanted a guide for their constitution, they could not have a better one than this.

Thirty articles were adopted in the Declaration which articulated the beliefs of the UN when it came to human rights. If you need a copy of the booklet, just contact Cathy Mink at 338-4920 or Stephen Allen at 338-0613. The booklets also will be in the Take One rack in the church.

The SAC, along with the Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County, is sponsoring a showing of the movie "Encounter Point" at 6:00 PM Thursday, Jan. 31, in the Abbott Room of the Belfast Library. This is an award-winning film depicting different fam-

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

ilies which have been affected by the violence between Israel and Palestine.

The families were followed for 16 months by the crew making this film. Among those interviewed were an Israeli settler, a Palestinian ex-prisoner, an Israeli mother who was mourning the loss of her dead son, a wounded Palestinian mourning the loss of his dead brother. They all risked their lives and their public standing to press for an end to the conflict. They are part of a movement to push Palestine and Israel into a consensus that would bring non-violence and peace. Original music from Palestine and Israel is featured in the movie. This is a film well worth seeing. There is no charge.

The Social Action Committee has agreed to be a co-sponsor of the annual Maine Organic Farmers and Growers Association (MOFGA) "Empty Bowl Supper" at 6:00 PM Sat., April 27, in the church. Proceeds from the bowl sales will go to the El Salvador Committee for their good works. We co-sponsored this last year, and it is a very worthy event.

Finally, the program which has been prepared by Stephen Allen and Dan Avenir, both veterans of the U.S. Army, on the subject of "What You Need to Know Before You Enlist" is still in the works. They're in the process of getting a date from the Belfast High School Principal Stephen Fitzpatrick for sometime after the first of the year when the program can be presented by Stephen and Dan and seen by interested students.

Stephen has been a substitute teacher at the high school for many years and has seen military recruiters allowed to set up tables in the high school lobby in order to recruit seniors, both boys and girls, into enlisting in the military after they graduate.

Minister's Report

Dear Friends –

We are in the midst of a season of celebration and joy. We think in terms of "peace on earth," and perhaps of a New Year that will bring good things to all people. Events occur, however, that seem all too often to shatter our own sense of peace and hope and innocence, such as the shooting in Newtown, CT.

I hope such events spur this nation to look closely at how violent our culture is. I hope, too, that such events do not make us so cynical, feeling so helpless that we become victims to despair. We have too much to do; falling prey to hopelessness is not the answer.

As part of Lifespan RE and Social Action, we will be repeating the introductory course on Nonviolent Communication (also called compassionate communication) first established by Marshall Rosenberg and presently used by groups throughout the world. This may seem insignificant or not politically active enough, but let me assure you that the process we will learn can be transformative. And transformation is exactly what is needed in this country and in our world.

We start on Tuesday, January 8, from 6:30-8:30 PM. We will spend a week on each chapter of Marshall's book so the course will run for 13 weeks, and we will have practice sessions during our time together. Please let me know (deanepkins@gmail.com) if you are interested in participating, and I will ask Left Bank Books to order copies of the book for everyone. I will need to place the order on Jan. 2, so please contact me before then.

Fondly,
Deane

Many students think that in the state of Maine, this is their only option—but it is not.

This presentation is the other side of the coin. The program is being sponsored by Veterans for Peace, since the church would not be allowed to sponsor such a program in the school because of the required separation of church and state. Stephen has met with Principal Fitzpatrick, who agrees that the school is obligated by law to offer time and space to "opposing views" by responsible parties. Mr. Fitzpatrick said he had discussed the matter with the superintendent of schools, who also agrees.

Membership Committee
Radical hospitality and membership: How are they connected?
On Sunday December 2, we joyfully welcomed nine new members into our congregation and you can see their smiling faces here. Including these nine, we added a total of twenty-four new members in 2012. What a blessing for all of us! The Membership Committee sees it as a central part of our mission to communicate with those who sign our visitor's book sheets and encourage them to consider attending a New to UU class if they are interested. We also provide administrative support for those classes and arrange for gifts



New members welcomed on December 2, 2012. Left to right: Marje Stickler, Lindsey Piper, Allison Piper, Teresa Piper, Chuck Piper, Jessica Falconer, Patty Heath, Lynn Biebel, Charlie Biebel.

and yummy cakes for our new member Sunday services.

However, YOU play a very important role in welcoming visitors and potential new members as well. Our sanctuary is wonderfully full most Sunday mornings. We on the Membership Committee can't see or hear all of the visitors who choose to stand and identify themselves. We certainly can't speak to each person wearing a paper name tag received from a greeter at the front door. However, if everyone in the congregation tried to greet and welcome newcomers before and after the service, we'd improve our welcoming dramatically! We urge you to seek out these visitors and engage them in a friendly chat. Deane Perkins would also like us all to feel free to bring newcomers to him to be introduced.

Beyond this kind of basic hospitality too is the concept of "radical hospitality." What does this mean? Rev. Marilyn Sewell, retired minister of the First Unitarian Church of Portland, Oregon, has said: PHOTO

A congregation committed to radical hospitality would go beyond seeking out others like themselves, for mutual support—such a congregation would recognize the humanity of any-

one who walks into that church. And such a congregation would concern themselves with people who feel beyond the reach of organized religion.

Everyone coming to our church should feel welcome and that will only happen if we open our arms - literally and figuratively - to every person who walks through our doors. Let's make it a goal for 2013 to put radical hospitality into practice at the UU Church of Belfast!

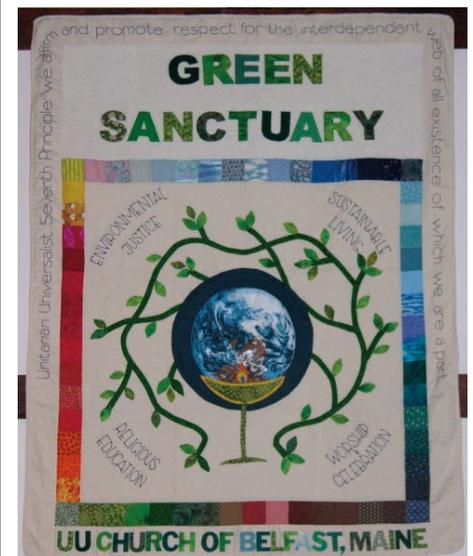
Thanks, your Membership Committee

The Green Sanctuary committee has voted to begin the work towards Green Sanctuary recertification as encouraged by the UUA.

Do you notice the Green Sanctuary banner in the sanctuary? Do you know what it represents and why it is there? The color strips around the banner represent Earth, Fire, Air and Water. Four action areas in which projects were completed by this church surround the Earth and the 7th Principle outlines the banner. Here is some history to help you better understand why that banner is prominent in our sanctuary.

An affiliate of the UUA (UU Ministry for Earth) designed a program in early 2000 that would help churches focus on our UU 7th Principle. After an orientation workshop and an Earth Day Sunday service in 2002 the congregation voted to work towards Green Sanctuary accreditation from the UUA. A group of 17 people gathered to plan actions required and set to work in the areas of: Worship and Celebration, Religious Education, Sustainable Living and Environmental Justice.

Many things were accomplished



The Green Sanctuary banner.

Many things were accomplished over the next 3 years--Earth Day and other environmental focused services, a monthly Elm Dance, RE activities relating to the Earth, NWEI adult education courses, an energy audit which led us to buy an energy efficient refrigerator and install programmable thermostats, a recycling system put in place, cloth napkins and non-disposable cups/glasses and flat wear acquired, newsletter sent out on email, organic and fair trade coffee, monthly column in the newsletter and a bulletin board with green tips, a Belfast Time Dollar program and more.

In April of 2005 the Director of the UUA Green Sanctuary program came to Belfast to give a Sunday service and present us with a Green Sanctuary accreditation certificate. Between then and now our church has been involved in several important Green Sanctuary actions including the exciting "Window Dressers" project and New England Climate Summer.

We want to recertify so that all of

us might recognize that we have been "continuing the work to restore the Earth and renew Spirit" through the Green Sanctuary re-accreditation process. Newer members will learn about and appreciate with us the depth of our efforts so far. Our vision will be expanded by the process and more of our congregation will have the opportunity to work towards that vision. We will model for other churches and the outside community, and work collaboratively with them.

This process involves an assessment of our current program out of which we create an action plan for re-accreditation candidacy to the UUA review team, who will give us support and feedback which we may use to revise our action plan. We will complete the action plan, apply for re-accreditation, and then CELE-

CLYNK

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!!

BRATE! During the original Green Sanctuary accreditation process we discovered how very resourceful we are and we had fun doing it. This will be as an exciting endeavor as that, with additional benefits to our church, our community, and the earth.

Happy Bradford

Facilitator of Green Sanctuary Committee (2002-2006)

Member of UUA Green Sanctuary review team (2005-present)

Milestones Returning!

One the second Sunday of each 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!



Bill Armstrong and WindowDressers vice-president Frank Mundo apply polyolefin film to a pine frame, Susan Coe in the background.