

What makes us tick?

*Come and find out at the "LIFE OF CHURCH FAIR"
Sunday Feb. 3, immediately after the service*

Aren't we getting too big? Why do we need to do so much fundraising? What do all those kids do upstairs, anyway? What are cluster reps and why do we have Co-Chairs? Who is in charge of the building and grounds? How are decisions made for inviting guest speakers? What's it mean to be a Green Sanctuary? What is the Sanhga?

These and a number of other questions are very naturally rumbling around the congregation these days as we make the transition from a smaller "family" church where folks knew each other and "what was what" to a larger church with more people, more "programs" and new governance in place.

Whether the average member ever needs or wants to refer to us as a "PROGRAM" church or not, that we are getting bigger and bigger means CHURCH CHANGE. With change comes questions.

Perhaps the most personal or individual questions being asked by old and new members alike these days are "How or where do I belong in this growing church?" or "What are ways that I can contribute or be involved that feeds me personally?"

In September, the program council (yes one of the NEW groups you can find out more about) came up with the idea of having a festive EDUCATIONAL event that would give com-

mittees, programs and groups within the church an opportunity to share information about who they are, what they do and the many ways that folks can be involved.

WHEN YOU COME TO THE FAIR, you will be given a brochure briefly describing the mission of each standing committee, and a contact person for same. At each table, will be YUMMY food and folks who can answer questions or know where you can find the answers about their work and mission. This is NOT a recruitment event. It is all about increasing awareness of the many facets of our vibrant community including the many ways that one can choose to contribute.

The service prior to the Fair will focus on sharing the thoughts of active volunteers. They have been asked about what it means to them personally to take on roles in the life of the church. What is it about contributing that feeds them and pushes them to grow?

So do come and enjoy learning more about who we are, where we are going and ways that you can join the excitement.

Life of the Church

Jane Dopheide-Co-Chair

As we explore why we give time, talent and treasure to our church, I've

been thinking about my parents who gave so much to the small, rural Congregational church in our hometown. Participating in that small hometown church clearly became a part of the fabric of their lives over the 50+ years of their marriage and the raising of five children. They never shared, nor did I ever ask, why they gave so much or what they received in return. My guess is that they needed to be in community.

Bill and I came to this church in its infancy looking for community as well – a community that was interested in becoming an inclusive place where love, respect and justice toward all people and our environment were highly valued. Our seven principles fit the bill!

There was not much time to just sit and "be" in the church as it was forming and finding its way. One had to just jump in and help if it was to survive. Even so, I was able to find the ways that brought me joy – teaching and being with children and working on fundraising events. I was also challenged to grow through creating worship services and making stewardship visits.

I have now embarked on the most challenging role yet: being Co-Chair of the Church Council. Right now, to be honest, it is often overwhelming BUT when I ask for help, it is given freely and without judgment. I feel gratitude. When I sit at meetings and feel the respect and love that people have for one another, I feel humble. When I sit in church and see 35 children come up front for a story and

February 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!

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.

Feb. 10

Hawk Henries is well known

as a Native American flute maker. He combines his flute playing and his stories to honor the interconnectedness of the natural world.

Feb. 17

Deane Perkins

Feb. 24

Deane Perkins

March 3

Deane Perkins

hear our choir and 100+ voices singing enthusiastically around me, I feel joy. When people come together for the third time in too short a time to celebrate lives lost and our full-time, very present minister supports us so ably in our grief, I feel that we are all being held in the spirit of love. As I give, my spirit is fed with love, joy and gratitude.

I am looking forward to hearing what others have to share about how they give and what they receive. I hope we talk about this often and not just with each other but also with our children. What are the gifts and challenges of being part of the fabric of our beloved community?

Management Team

Who are we?

The Management Team at church consists of Maret Knight, Joanne Moesswilde, and Rev. Deane. We meet once a month to discuss various

aspects of usage of our facility .

What do we do?

The Management Team oversees the day-to-day operations of the UU Church of Belfast. In so doing we strive to incorporate the seven UU Principles into each of our decisions related to how our facility is utilized by the community. We view this as a ministry, providing facility management and availability to UU members and our local community. Tasks include approving applications for building use and monitoring maintenance and upkeep of the building. When appropriate, we discuss issues with the Church Council. We are on call to meet the needs of the community related to facility use.

End of life planning

The recent death of Karen Ireland illustrated the importance of advanced planning, and discussion after church found many saying they need-

ed to get their own plans made. In response, there will be a two-part class, 6:30-8:00 PM on Monday Feb. 11 & 25 in the sanctuary.

The first Monday we'll compare all the options ("typical funeral" vs. Green Burial, cremation, Alkaline Hydrolysis, donation to medical research etc.) with the costs both financial and environmental.

The second Monday will be for paperwork: there will be copies of Maine's Living Will forms to discuss and fill out (and witness for each other). We can brainstorm and document some ideas for your own memorial service and obituary. Come to either class or both. Free of charge (but donation for photocopied documents appreciated).

The classes will be led by Eva Thompson, who has served on the board of Funeral Consumers Alliance of Maine and is a member of Last Things (www.LastThings.net). Both are educational advocacy groups. Snow date March 4. Another version of this class will be offered soon at the Rockland UU, if you can't make this one. FMI call Eva at 542-7991 or Eva@MaineCelebrant.com.

Social Action Committee

The Social Action Committee has taken on a new project, one that seems to be more timely than anything in America today: Gun Control. As the result of the terrible massacre of 20 children and six adults in Newtown, Conn., the demand for better and more effective gun control has escalated among the American people to a point we have never seen before. The primary opponent in this struggle seems to be the National Rifle Association.

Considering their limited numbers in comparison to the number of

Greeting in February

Feb. 3 Cheryl Richardson & Judith Simpson
 Feb. 10 Dagmar Moravec, Mackenzie Barnhart, & Marion Brown
 Feb. 17 Ezra Kreamer & Ivy Lobato
 Feb. 24 Mayme Trumble & Su Wood

We are only a small committee in a relatively small church, so we know that any effect we have will be limited, but what is the alternative? To do nothing? That is not in our game plan, so

American people wanting better gun control, this seems to be a case of the tail trying to wag the dog. Trouble is, they have so far done a good job of it, and thanks to effective campaign contributions, they seem to have a number of Senators and Representatives in their back pocket.

we are going to try and do something. We are going to write letters of encouragement and support to President Obama, Vice President Biden, Senators Collins and King, Representatives Michaud and Pingree, Senators Giffords and Feinstein, New York Mayor Bloomberg,

and Mayors Against Illegal Guns. When we have finished all the letters, we will bring them to church on a Sunday and ask if you would like to sign them in the hospitality room after the service.

•The SAC, along with the Peace and Justice Group of Waldo County, will sponsor 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 families which have been affected by the violence between Israel and Palestine. They are part of a movement to encourage Palestine and Israel to move toward a consensus that would bring non-violence and peace. This is a film well worth seeing, and we

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 Kreamer 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

**GROWING DEEPER
 GROWING STRONGER**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 2nd
 6:00-8:00 PM AT THE CHURCH**



Delicious food.

This is NOT a potluck. Don't bring *anything* except

the entire family

Terrific entertainment - will include our own fabulous UU Choir, the RE children, the stewardship committee (doing an entertaining skit) and more!

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RSVP to Corliss Davis at cdavis5468roadrunner.com or 930-3562 (or sign up using the sign-up sheet in the front entry.)

highly recommend it. There is no charge.

- 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 scheduled to be presented at Belfast High School in February to interested students, male and female, who may be considering joining the military after they graduate. 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 several times a year to try and encourage students to join the military. Both he and Dan feel that not everything the recruiters tell the students is reliable information, so they have another view of military enlistment. All of their information is from reliable sources, such as the Defense Department, the Veterans Administration, the American Friends Service Committee, and Veterans for Peace.

- 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 Saturday, 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.

Standing on the Side of Love

UU Belfast's 2nd annual "Standing on the Side of Love" event will be held on Friday, Feb. 15 at 6:00 PM at the church.

This year we will be offering a mouth-watering five-course meal created by our own Sue Cobb and as well as lively love song entertain-

Minister's Report

Dear Friends –

I look back over the past year, and, as a congregation, we have had much loss, and much excitement. One of the more recent exciting news items is that the congregation passed a motion for Social Action (through its Peace Advocacy Group) to pursue certification over the next three years to become a Peace Advocacy Church. It was noted at the congregational meeting that justice needs to be a fundamental aspect of the Peace Advocacy Group, since peace without justice is not peace. We have much work to do, not only in terms of activities, but in relation to a deeper understanding of who we are and what we wish to become. It is exciting; it will also be hard work. I look forward to this.

Sue and I will be on vacation for a couple of weeks. We're off to Tucson for our annual purchasing of stones, fossils, and rocks. And yes, it's a good excuse to get some sun and warmth and see some of our children. We'll see you soon.

*Fondly,
Deane*

ment performed by some of our fabulous choir members and friends.

Our scrumptious menu will consist of homemade focaccia with winter topping, green celery soup with apple garnish, winter confetti salad, chicken paprikash with homemade spaetzle and chocolate cupcakes with raspberry frosting for dessert. A vegetarian entree will be available upon request prior to the event.

Your entertainment for the evening will feature 14 performances (in two acts) of love songs sung by choir members, friends and other local talent.

Cost of both meal and entertainment is \$25 per person and childcare will be offered at no additional cost.

Tickets will be available for sale at church starting Sunday, February 3. Purchasing tickets prior to the event is greatly appreciated as seating is limited.

We look forward to seeing you there! For more information, please contact Mandi Hubbard, Andrea

Butler, Lila Nation or Sue Cobb.

2013 UU Church Directory

is available for members and friends who asked to be included. You can pick one up during Maret's office hours on Monday and Thursday mornings, or see Corliss Davis of membership development after church on Sundays in February to receive your copy.

Update: Recipe Book!!!

Remember the recipe book you heard about (and many of you submitted recipes)?? It is coming to fruition . . . in a better way than ever! Its proceeds will go to the Food Cupboard! Sue Cobb and Susan Coe have attracted the interest of other churches who support the Food Cupboard. These seven churches will all contribute and we will have a delicious result! Look for more information coming in February!