

## Our Stewardshp Campaign

EACH YEAR the Stewardship Team is privileged to invite several church members to give short, heartfelt testimonials in the weeks before and during our annual Stewardship Campaign. They help us learn about each other, and inspire us to reflect deeply on what the church means to us.

Lynn Biebel eloquently shared what drew her and Charlie to become more involved in the church - "We yearned for a religious home...a place where our minds would be called regularly to the sacred, to the spiritual, to the holiness of life," and "we were looking for another way of finding and embracing spirit in community, a way that would be inclusive, without the burden of a creed."

We were deeply moved when Sarah Nicholson shared that "this congregation is an essential part of the foundation of my life." Later, Sarah con-



*"Mandi and the Moneymakers" wows a crowd of 125 with a rousing rendition of "Pledge in the Name of Love!" at last year's Celebration Dinner.*

fessed that she experiences a "flash of Scarcity Anxiety" each time she signs a pledge card. However, "once the form is filled out, I never regret

it. I feel good...knowing we are doing our part to support the work of this church, the programs, the community, the love, the joy, the mission." She and Lila give "because we believe in this congregation, we believe in all of you, and we believe in what we can/ and do/ and will create together. Celebrate abundance!"

This year's campaign - Growing Deeper/Growing Stronger - challenges us to think of ourselves as stewards of quality, ensuring that our programs, staff and services are strong in supporting our rapidly growing membership.

More than half of the projected budget increase will go to staff: to continue providing fair compensation and professional development for our RE and Music Directors, and also to ensure quality stewardship of our



*Satisfied diners relax for a moment before the entertainment begins at last year's Celebration Dinner.*

### March 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!

**March 3**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

This is our annual **Stewardship Sunday** service. Tricia Hart, a consultant working with us on Space Needs from the UUA will also be joining us. A Congregational Conversation will follow the service.

**March 10**

**Authenticity: Bringing Our Whole Selves**

*given by Dawn Fortune*

Every day we decide what parts of us to share with others and what parts to keep hidden. Some parts of us are easier to hide than others. Some facets of our beings are squelched and hidden for years as our world molds us into its own image. Breaking free of others' expectations of us takes courage and safe space to be vulnerable. How much room do we afford one another to step into our own authenticity? How do we make more room? *Gender Literacy program follows service:* 

**March 17**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

**March 24**

**Justice Sunday (speaker to be announced)**

**March 31**

**The Wisdom Way of Jesus**

*given by the Rev. Charles J. Stephens*

Jesus taught his followers his vision of what God is like and what life is like and can be like by using parables and aphorisms, the classic forms of wisdom teaching. This is what lives on for many Unitarian Universalists. Charles J. Stephens has a strong interest in interfaith dialogue. Ordained as a Lutheran minister in 1973, Stephens later studied other faiths and became a Unitarian Universalist minister in 1980, serving congregations in Maine, New Hampshire and New Jersey.

**April 7**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

finances and church building.

At the end of February you should have received a packet in the mail asking for your support and providing information to help inform your pledge. We hope you will study the packet and open your home and heart to a canvasser when called this month. For more information, please read the article in this newsletter by Co-Chair Rick Davis, who shares his personal UU story and thoughtfully outlines what it costs to keep our church vibrant.

Lastly, this year's Celebration

Dinner on March 2nd promises to be every bit as much fun as last year's. We'll have Mexican food and fun for everyone. RSVP to Corliss Davis, and then bring your sombrero, your appetite and your sense of fun. We hope to see you there!

From your Stewardship Team: Chris LeGore, Corliss Davis, Scott Denman, Lynn and Charlie Biebel

### **"Spirit of Life" adult program**

The Adult Life Span Committee will be offering a four-week workshop led

### **Gender Literacy for Faith Leaders**

*Back in the day, one word, "gay" was used to describe all people who were attracted to people of the same gender. Understandings of gender and sexuality have changed dramatically since that time, and so has the language around that understanding. UUCB member and Candidate for Unitarian Universalist Ministerial Fellowship Dawn Fortune will lead a powerpoint presentation on biological sex, gender identity, gender expression and sexual orientation and how it affects our ability to be a Welcoming Congregation.*

*The program will begin at noon, and last approximately 90 minutes. Bring a brown bag lunch and prepare to learn about the magnificent diversity of human experience expressed in our identities and attractions. Resource packets will be available as well. Dawn's program is co-sponsored by the Worship Services, LGBT Welcoming Congregation, and the Adult Lifespan Committees.*

*Dawn Fortune is a Unitarian Universalist seminarian at Andover Newton Theological School in Newton, Mass., with an anticipated graduation date of 2014. Dawn spent the first year of graduate school at the Bangor Theological Seminary in Bangor, but transferred to ANTS to pursue an environment with greater cultural diversity and opportunities for urban ministry.*

*A longtime activist with sexuality and gender minorities and progressive political causes, Dawn is keenly interested in issues of social, sexual and economic justice. Dawn has been a community organizer, fundraiser, Teamster, bus driver, bridgeworker and home repair contractor. Born and raised Irish Catholic, Dawn became a UU in the early 1990s and has been active in a number of churches in Maine. Dawn served last year as a student minister at the Universalist Unitarian Church of Haverhill, Mass. and is presently serving on the ministerial team of the First Unitarian Universalist Church of Milford, Mass.*

**Greeting in March**

March 3	Cheryl Richardson & Judith Simpson
March 10	Dagmar Moravec, Macy Barnhard, & Francine Brown
March 17	Ezra Kreamer & Su Wood
March 24	Ivy Lobato & Marion Brown
March 31	Cheryl Richardson & Mayme Trumble

by Linda Buckmaster based on UUA curriculum called “Spirit of Life: What Moves Us.”

The class will meet April 2–23 and will be an experiential workshop with readings, reflection, writing, and discussion. The goal is to deepen our faith or beliefs; clarify our personal theology (or lack thereof); and move forward in our lives as UUs. We will explore the language that best describes our own spirituality; our experiences of awe and reverence; ways to experience wonder and reverence in our everyday life; our own journey map; and ways to grow and expand.

The topics each week are:  
 Week 1-- What Moves Us  
 Week 2-- Nature and Spirit  
 Week 3-- Living Day to Day  
 Week 4-- Wings of Hope and Vision

SO WHEN WILL THE CLASSES BE? Recognizing that there is no perfect time, the time slot that gets the most votes from the first eight folks to sign up will be it. During the weeks of April 2 to 23, the options are Tuesday afternoons 2:00-4:00 PM OR Tuesday evenings 7:00-9:00 PM.

IF INTERESTED -- let Linda Buckmaster (338-1701, lsbuck1@gmail.com) know by March 8 with your time preference.

**New “New to UU” classes!**

Are you considering joining the church? Would you like to find out more about Unitarian Universalism before taking that step? Or perhaps

you would just like to explore a little and learn more about our church? Beginning April 7th and continuing for four weeks, the Membership Committee is offering an introduction to Unitarian Universalism for anyone

who wishes to learn more about our faith. The class will be offered from 1:30 to 3:30 on Sunday afternoons at church. Bill and Gina Cressey will lead the class on April 7th and 14th, and Marty Daniels will lead the class on April 21st and 28th. Child care will be provided.

Each week will have a different focus. On April 7th, participants will take a look at their own spiritual journey. On April 14th, we will take a brief look at the long history of Unitarianism and at the Universalist movement with the help of Rev. Dr. Deane Perkins. On April 21st, we will look at the history of the UU Church of Belfast and at our governance structure. On April 28th, participants will have a chance to ask questions and reflect on what they have learned.

If you are interested in participating in this class, please contact Corliss Davis of the Membership Committee to register. Corliss can be reached at 930-3562 or cdavis5468@roadrunner.com.

We hope you can join us!  
*Marty Daniels*, Church Council Member at Large for Congregational Life.

**Life of the Church**

by Rick Davis

As a child, I was unchurched. I was asking life’s big questions, but I wasn’t getting any answers. My mother once told me that if she were going

**WHO’S WHO & WHO TO CALL**

Minister	<b>Rev. Deane Perkins</b> 338-4482
	minister@uubelfast.org
Administrative Assistant	<b>Maret Knight</b> 338-4482
	Email: office@uubelfast.org
	office hrs: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-12:30
Church Council	<b>Jane Dopheide</b> 338-1730
	<b>Rick Davis</b> 930-3562
LifeSpan Education	<b>Sue Coe</b> 691-5153
Children’s Religious Exploration	<b>Danielle Bannister</b> 342-2096
Music	<b>Lila Nation</b> 338-5002
Finances	<b>Roger Lee (treas)</b> 338-6837
Sunday Services	<b>Jessie Gower</b> 525-4427
Membership Chair	<b>Corliss Davis</b> 930-3562
Social Action	<b>Stephen Allen</b> 338-0613
Congregational Life	<b>Chip Curry</b> 930-3590
Green Sanctuary	<b>Jasmine Fowler</b> 342-3260
	<b>Corliss Davis</b> 930-3562
Buddhist Sangha	<b>Judith Simpson</b> 338-0579
Caring Circle	<b>Ezra Kreamer</b> 338-0129
Welcoming Congregation	<b>Patty Smith</b> 338-5802
Sound Coordinator	<b>Cary Bradford</b> 338-8448
Hospitality	<b>Chris LeGore</b> 589-4421
Nominating Committee chair	<b>Ezra Kraemer</b> 338-0129
Endowment Committee	<b>D Andrews</b>
Greeters	<b>Marty Daniels</b> 338-0129
Newsletter	<b>Douglas M. Coffin</b> 567-3707

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to go to church, it would be a Unitarian church, because Unitarians believe, "you don't have to go to church to be a good person." When I went off to college, I spotted a notice on our dorm bulletin board offering a free ride to the Unitarian church. So I called the number and got a ride.

I didn't find any capital-A Answers that Sunday, or any Sunday since for that matter. Instead, I found that I was not the only one who had questions about life's purpose. I found that I was not the only one who wondered how to live in relationship with others and with myself. I found out that I was not a sinner needing redemption, but a worthy person just trying to do my best.

And I found out that each UU church is run by its members. Nobody pays its bills but us. We as members decide how to spend what money we have. The more we give, the more we have, and the more we can do. It's that simple.

Why does the UU Church of Belfast need so much money? To begin with, we need almost \$40,000 a year just to have a building, insure it, heat it, clean it, and have someone answering the telephone. That's \$280 a year per member (\$560 for couples). Having a minister who provides pastoral care and administrative leadership as well as excellent Sunday sermons (and a bunch of other stuff), and a music director providing inspired leadership of our outstanding choir costs another \$97,000 or about \$685 per member. Do you have children in the RE program? That's another \$26,600. We have 71 or so enrolled in RE, including our wonderful COA and YRUU programs. That works out to \$375 per enrollee. Finally, add in the modest cost of our other programs, UUA and NNED dues, and the cost of accounting for

## Minister's Report

### *Dear Friends –*

When Sue and I were in Tucson a few weeks ago, we visited the San Xavier Indian Reservation southwest of the city. There were small stalls in the main square where people were making Indian fry bread and burritos. Also in the town square is the old Spanish mission, which was built in the late 1700s and is still being used to this day. It amazes me that, every time I have visited, the church doors are wide open, no one is there watching or collecting money, and everyone is welcome to stay as long as they wish to meditate, pray, or just look around. Sometimes it makes me wonder how welcoming and open our churches are.

I wonder, too, how these native peoples fared under the colonialism of Spain and the "manifest destiny" of the United States. We talked with one resident who said that they were a peaceful people, and always had been. They did not fight the white Europeans, as had many of their neighboring tribes. And so their religion consists of both tribal and Christian elements; they never fully assimilated. As I have thought more recently about our politics, civility, gun control, immigration, and so on, I have also thought of San Xavier. And it makes me wonder about how truly welcoming and open and principled our country is. Thank goodness for our seven principles!

Fondly,  
Deane

all this, and you have another \$23,000, or a bit more than \$160 per member.

The total for all this comes to more than \$1,300 per member. Luckily, we have a terrific, hard-working Fundraising Committee, some building rent, and other sources of revenue that reduce the total, but more than 80% of it still has to come from pledges – from us. Obviously, some of us can't give that much. Others can do more than that. But each one of us can do something.

That's why I pledge my financial support to the church. My church is not just another group to which I pay membership dues. It is not just another organization doing good work that I want to support. This is MY CHURCH. This is what sustains me, week after week, year after year.

To paraphrase an advertising slogan, "Cost of running the UU Church of Belfast, thousands of dollars. Value of the Church to us and to the community, priceless."

### **Social Action Committee**

Even though our project "What You Need to Know Before You Enlist" was scheduled to take place on Feb. 28, a little after this report was written, it is worth saying something about it here because it took Dan Avenner and Stephen Allen a lot of time and effort to put it together, and it took them a lot of trouble even to get it on. The project was meant to be the opposite side of the coin to the work of military recruiters, who are allowed to use the high school lobby for recruiting a couple of times a

year. SAC felt this was not right, and there should be some sort of counter balance to the work of the recruiters. As a substitute teacher at the high school, Stephen was often able to listen in on what the recruiters were telling the students, male and female, in an effort to get them to “join up.” He knew that much of what the recruiters said, such as “You’ll learn a trade in the Army” and “You can choose your assignment, where you want to go”—were not likely to happen.

Stephen served in the U.S. Army during the so-called “Cold War” in the late 1950’s, and Dan was a combat veteran with the U.S. Army during the Vietnam War—so both of them had some knowledge of recruiter promises. They also were able to obtain up-to-date information from the Department of Defense, the Veterans Administration, the American Friends Service Committee, and Veterans for Peace.

This program obviously was meant for high school seniors, and Dan and Stephen wanted to do it in the same location the recruiters had, the high school lobby, and for the same amount of time. But getting into the high school was another problem. At first the program was turned down because it had the name of a church, ours, attached to it, and you know about the required separation of church and state. So even though the program was generated and prepared by the church’s Social Action Committee, they had to remove the UU as the sponsor. But Dan was able to get Veterans for Peace, of which he is a member, to officially sponsor the program.

High School Principal Stephen Fitzpatrick talked the proposed presentation over with the superintendent of schools and both agreed that they

were obligated by law to give the same time and place the recruiters had to a responsible group with opposing views. Thus the date and time was set—Feb. 28 from 8:00 AM -12:30 PM.

Both Dan and Stephen recognized that the subject of this program was one which would be frowned upon by some people, maybe even some people in the church, but they also recognized that the SAC was never meant to be a committee which existed for the sole purpose of making friends. They knew that the real purpose of the SAC was to do the right thing—no matter what it cost.

• • •

The SAC has agreed to be a co-sponsor of the annual Maine Organic Farmers and Gardeners 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.

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Also, the Social Action Committee is allocated one Service a year. The date is not set yet, but the subject of the Service will be “The Conscientious Objector—Yesterday and Today.” As you know, the voting members of the congregation were in favor of having the church seek the designation from the UUA of being a Peace Advocacy Congregation.

This is a three-year project which requires a number of peace-related activities. Since the Peace Advocacy Group is under the umbrella of the SAC, we feel this Service can be used by the Peace Advocacy Group as one of the required projects. Even the Military Recruitment Project can be added as a Peace Project.

## Sounds of Spring

This year’s “Standing On the Side of Love” fundraiser was a smashing success, raising over \$1,200 for our church! A very special thank you to all those who helped make this such an outstanding event—our wonderful chef, Sue Cobb, and the entire kitchen crew, the great singers and their accompanists, the poetry readers, the servers, Mandi Thomas, event coordinator, Andrea Butler, publicity coordinator, pied piper, Dan Kirchoff, Cary Bradford, sound coordinator, and all those who helped set up and clean up. If you didn’t participate, we hope that you’ll consider contributing your own special talents next year, and if you didn’t get a chance to be there, next year promises to be even better!

The Music Program is now trying to offer new and different Special Music, at least, one additional Sunday per month. So far, we’ve organized a gospel group, and a classical duet, but we’d like to see a guitar ensemble formed in the near future, as well. There are just so many talented people in our congregation, and if you’ve got a special talent you’d be willing to share, don’t think that you have to go solo; there’s probably someone, just like you, who would be open to singing or playing in a small group ensemble.

The choir is gearing up for a very busy spring. First, there’s the multi-choir festival at 5:30 PM, in Bangor, March 24, at the Bangor Unitarian Fellowship. This year, our choir will be singing three works on its own, and we’ll also be doing “Take Me to the Water,” (Lila conducting) with the combined choirs, along with guitarist, Frets Halligan, and drummer, Mackenzie Barnhart. You won’t want to miss hearing sixty plus voices on this rousing gospel medley. The

choir has now also chosen May 19 as the all-choir service; we'll be reprising eight of our all-time favorites just in case you haven't realized that we love to sing!!! You can join the Adult Choir at any time; just show up! We rehearse on Thursday evenings from 7:00-8:45 PM, and sing twice a month at the Sunday services with a brief rehearsal just prior to the service.

The Children's Choir and the Youth Choir made their debut at the "Life of the Church Fair." It was pure joy to all those present to see our young people standing up together, lifting their voices in song. The two choirs both rehearse from 11:30 AM until 12:15 PM on those Sundays when the Adult Choir sings, usually the 1st and 3rd Sunday of each month, though that schedule will vary during both March and April. Please, check the weekly announcements for those changes.

Yours in harmony,  
Lila Nation, Music Director  
338.5002

*We need your favorite recipes for a*

## *Cookbook*

*to benefit the*

**GREATER BELFAST AREA MINISTERIUM**

## **FOOD CUPBOARD**

*This is a joint effort with:*

Church of the Holy Light    St. Francis Catholic Church    First Church  
First Baptist Church    St. Margaret's Episcopal    UU Church  
Belfast United Methodist Church    Belfast Soup Kitchen  
... and local celebrity cooks and restaurant chefs



### ALL RECIPES WELCOME

- FAMILY TREASURES -

- HOLIDAYS -

KIDS FAVORITES - PICNICS

SPECIAL DIETARY NEEDS

CANNING/FCREEZING

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*so please include your favorites from online and cookbooks*

*email or mail your recipes to:*

Susan Coe - [blsky13@yahoo.com](mailto:blsky13@yahoo.com) or

Sue Cobb - [alaughingdog@gmail.com](mailto:alaughingdog@gmail.com)

or use postal mail to:

Susan Coe 261 High St. #2 Belfast, ME 04915

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