

Space Needs Task Force

by Sarah Nicholson

The Congregation Celebrates as we continue our journey “Building a Church!”

ON FRIDAY EVENING, June 14, about 40 members and friends gathered in the sanctuary for an ice cream social and a presentation by the Space Needs Team (SNT) about where we’ve been and where we are headed in the journey towards meeting the space needs of our growing congregation. Ice cream (and fruit salad) was enjoyed by all to add to the festivities!

Reverend Deane provided a blessing, reminding us that the work we do on behalf of our community is sacred and supports the ministry of our congregation. Gemma Scott had prepared a wonderful digital presentation that illustrated the parts of the story related by Jan Anderson, Michael Bowe and Sarah Nicholson, while Roger Lee missed us from his boat on the Pacific Ocean.

We reminded the gathered folks that the SNT started our work in January 2012, and that spring held cottage meetings to start the conversation about growth of the congregation, and the ways that our filling up our building might be limiting our abilities to serve our congregation and wider community. Discussion centered around the understanding that our congregation is attracting people because we have a good thing going that people

want to join, and we can respond by either opening the door (and growing), or shutting it. Our culture has always been one of inviting people in, so opening the door is how we know we want to respond.

In the fall of 2012, we conducted a survey to find out how people felt about our Miller Street building, and what is most important to people about where we make our home. What we learned is that the congregation is willing to consider different options (staying at Miller Street and expanding it, finding a new building and renovating it, or buying land and building) but that staying in town where we can be part of, and visible to, the wider community is a strongly held value.

With all of this information, the SNT proceeded to discuss, research and ponder our path forward. We soon realized that the willingness of the congregation to consider all possibilities left us with too many options, and so we decided to ask for help from the UUA.

The Office of Congregational Stewardship has consultants that support our congregations in financial matters, including annual stewardship efforts, but especially congregations that take on major capital projects. Some of you may be aware of the work that Wayne Clark, who heads up this office for the UUA, does in this area. You can learn more on the UUA website

if you are interested, or look at his book *Beyond Fundraising*, copies of which are available in the fellowship room library.

Tricia Hart, who is a minister at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Lancaster (Pennsylvania), came to Belfast for our Assessment Weekend in early March. During this visit, she met with several focus groups (religious education, governance, membership etc), attended the service on Sunday, after which she held an open discussion that was well attended.

She also met with the SNT several times over the weekend, from a casual Friday night supper, to a building tour, to an intensive workshop on Sunday afternoon. The result of her visit was two-fold:

She prepared a report on her findings (a copy of which will be available on the church website soon), and she helped the SNT develop a road map for our work going forward. Her report makes it clear that she was impressed by our congregation, and believes that we are doing the right things to grow into and manage our current challenges and those we will face in future.

These she identified as growth and the building; leadership development; staffing and fair compensation; finances and giving; and claiming an updated vision of UUCB’s mission. It is worth reading her report, which well articulates these issues and provides recommendations for work in these areas.

July/August 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!

JULY 7

We're All in This Life Together

Rick Davis

What does it mean to be part of an interdependent web of existence?

Rick Davis will explore our Seventh Principle and its relationship with our First Principle from his own lifelong search for truth and meaning.

JULY 14

Beyond Other

Kathy Muzzy, Joanne Boyton and friends

One perspective that sometimes interferes with creating peace is labeling someone from a different culture as "the other." Joanne will be sharing knowledge she has gained while at a program at The Mennonite University. Kathy will be speaking about her experience with Deaf individuals. Likely there will be one additional speaker.

JULY 21 The Fires of Creation – Reflections on Creativity and the Power of Art

Jim Scott

Musician Jim Scott muses on the creative process and mixes his lyrical songs to celebrate the healing power of creative play. For one who makes it his business, Jim considers the delicate balance between holding up tradition and going outside the rules. Jim is a life-long UU.

Several of his songs are in our UU Hymnbooks, and he's visited more than 600 UU churches over three decades. He speaks with passion for the earth and UU principles in lyrical songs and thoughtful poetry. Jim helped create the Green Sanctuary program, and as a member of the Paul Winter Consort he was co-composer of *Missa Gaia/Earth Mass*.

JULY 28

Spiritual Hospitality

Ian Howard

We are a denomination of acceptance and communication. How can we reach out to our spiritual neighbors?

AUG 4

The Interdependent Web of Existence: Healthy Communities in the 21st Century

Gemma Scott

How do we experience faith and community as digital citizens? Open your heart to the exploration of the mind/body connection experienced by digital natives and digital immigrants, and learn how we can safely use digital technology to support the goals of our faith.

AUG 11

A service reflecting on the 2013 General Assembly in Louisville, KY. Deane attended in person, and Susan, online

Deane Perkins and Susan Coe

AUG 18

Security: Reality, Fantasy, or Intention?

Dawn Fortune

America is awash in guns. Some people are scared of guns, others are afraid not to have them. I grew up in gun culture and can speak from that experience . . . about how security cannot rely on whether we have guns or don't have them, but on how we decide to feel.

AUG 25

Deane Perkins

What she gave the SNT specifically, however, was the advice that we should start by focusing exclusively on the Miller Street building by working with an architect to investigate how we can expand and renovate it to better meet our needs.

She recommended we set a goal of holding a congregational vote at the end of 2013 to choose between three conceptual options prepared by the architects. This will be the first of a number of congregational votes to be held throughout the approximately two-year project development process that will invite vital input from the congregation throughout.

After that first vote, the congregation will know whether there is a viable path for developing Miller Street into the home that can meet our needs. If not, we can put that approach aside and focus on other options, such as finding and renovating another building, or buying land and building new. Since we own Miller Street, until we know it won't work to house our future, there is no point looking elsewhere. Tricia also reminded us that we will probably(!) not be able to afford the facility that will meet all of our needs for all time, and so we need to accept that we are a growing, vital congregation that building projects will always be in our future. Many churches like us have major capital projects every 10 years or so; we can be grateful that we are in this happy minority of congregations!

With this guidance from Tricia, we set about to investigate 37 Miller Street. Recognizing that a building that has stood since 1837 might harbor deficits not yet encountered that could prohibit development of the dreams we might have for it,

Greeting this summer

July 7	Ezra Kreamer & Marion Brown
July 14	Francine Brown & Marion Brown
July 21	Gina Cressey & Joan Bennett
July 28	Joan Bennett & Jacqui Lee
Aug. 4	Marion Brown & Su Wood
Aug. 11	Ezra Kreamer & Dereka Smith
Aug. 18	Cheryl Richardson & Jacqui Lee
Aug. 25	Gina Cressey & Su Wood
Sept. 1	Cheryl Richardson & Jane Mofitt

With professional assurance that our building is up to the challenge of another transformation to face its next 100 years, the SNT proceeded to interview architectural firms to work with the congregation to develop the programming document that will detail what we want and need from our building to support our

we decided to hire a structural engineer to do a complete evaluation of the building.

Al Hodson, Resurgence Engineering, conducted this evaluation and has prepared a report for us. The important finding is that, though the building has some areas that will need attention in the near term and within 10 years, it is fundamentally in good shape and, further, that re-establishing the original sanctuary upstairs (above our existing sanctuary) is a viable project. This provides us an important and valuable option for expanding the building to meet our needs into the future. Al's report will be made available to the congregation, along with Tricia's, very soon.

His report describes and illustrates maintenance and repair work we need to do, including: mold in the basement that needs to be mitigated, windows that need maintenance, floor joists that will need strengthening within 10 years, drainage and ventilation provided in the basement, and front stairs that should be reset, repaving the accessible entrance walkway, and new exterior railings. It is a lengthy list, but achievable, and much of it can be incorporated into the planning for the expansion.

mission and ministry.

We requested qualifications, and received packages from 19 firms, from which we selected and interviewed four. We were extremely pleased with the quality and experience of the firms interested in our project, and are thrilled to have selected Barba + Wheelock Architecture Preservation Design, a woman-owned firm based in Portland.

Their team has an impressive portfolio of building renovation projects like ours and they have worked extensively with congregations, including Allen Avenue UU in Portland. Their website states, *"Spiritual communities nurture many aspects of the human experience; we have realized projects for all aspects of worship, support, and mission. Our role as architects and planners of sacred spaces is to apply both our technical and programmatic expertise, as well as a faith-based curiosity for creative solutions, both of which are born out of consensus."*

The SNT will be working with Barba + Wheelock this summer to plan for what we know will be an incredibly exciting, engaging and energizing process for the entire congregation throughout the fall. We also have faith that when 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
	Chris LeGore 589-4421
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	Marje Stickler 338-5059
Social Action	Cathy Mink 338-4920
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
Safe Congregation	Marilynn Petit 907-9082
Welcoming Congregation	Patty Smith 338-5802
Sound Coordinator	Cary Bradford 338-8448
Hospitality	Chris LeGore 589-4421
Nominating Committee chair	Jacqui Lee 338-3075
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 UUCS, email office@uubelfast.org

Congregational Vote happens (most likely in early January, 2014), everyone will be prepared and informed, ready to choose the path the UU Church of Belfast will follow to the beautiful, welcoming and functional building that we have in our future!

Life of the Church

Rick Davis

What are you good at? Are you artistic, with an eye for color and form? Can you play a musical instrument or sing? Do you have communication skills or computer skills? Are you a good cook or baker? (Yum!). Do you have organizational or leadership skills? Could you teach a class, or lead a church service, or comfort a friend who is hurting?

The UU Church of Belfast needs all these skills and many more. No matter what you are good at, you can find a way to contribute to the life of our church. We say that we ask members (and friends) to contribute time, talent, and treasure. The operative word in that sentence is “and”. Our church needs contributions of all three from each of us if it is going to be the church we all want it to be.

Some churches have large endowments and wealth to support what they do. We don't. Some churches have bishops or synods who make the decisions and do much of the work of the churches. We don't. Some churches have rule books specifying how the work of the church is to be done and how ministers will be appointed to which church. We don't.

Unitarian Universalism emerged largely from the Puritan and Baptist traditions of individual congrega-

tions deciding matters of faith and organization for themselves. In those traditions, each congregation chooses its ministers, owns its own building, raises the money it needs, and governs itself.

UUs went further and rejected imposed creeds or belief statements as requirements for membership. We are, instead, a community of seekers and thinkers who come together freely for strength and mutual support.

When you join a Unitarian Universalist church, you are assured that its members will support you in your search for truth and meaning. You are assured that your worth and dignity will be promoted and affirmed. You are assured that you will be supported in your times of struggle, and you will be congratulated in your times of success.

When you join a Unitarian Universalist Church, you are also promising that you will support others in their search for truth and meaning. You are promising that you will promote and affirm the worth and dignity of others. And you are promising that you will stand with other church members in times of challenge and in times of achievement.

You are also promising that as a member of the UU community, you will dedicate your time, talent, and yes your treasure to our joint endeavor. As you enjoy the wonderful Maine summer, as you visit family members, as you travel near or far, remember your church. It will be there when you need it and want it. And as you remember your church, think about what you are good at, and how you can use those skills and gifts to make our church even stronger and better. We'll all thank you for it.

Open Birthday Invitation

All UUs are invited to a celebration of Rudy Nashan's 90th birthday!!

**Thurs., July 25,
1:00-4:00 PM
at the UU Church**

Absolutely no gifts. Just listen to music and enjoy fingerlicking desserts and lemonade.

Scholarship for Peace!

The Belfast Area Friends Meeting (Quakers) has announced its 2013 Waldo County Peace Award Program. The Program awards scholarship monies to high school students in Waldo County who demonstrate an interest in peace activism and the resolution of disputes by peaceful means. Graduating seniors attending a Waldo County high school can obtain application materials and further information about the Award Program from their Waldo County high school counselors. Alternatively, Waldo County students seeking information about the Peace Award Program can email latten49001@mypacks.net or lindy@henrygeorge.org.

Lost and Found

Last call for lost and found items at church. There's a basket in the hospitality room that is full of clothing left behind. There's a few coats on hooks, and the kitchen counter has lots of items left from church dinners. These things will be cleared out by the end of summer, so that we will start fresh in September.

Access to Church

The church is wide open on Sunday mornings, but other times it is locked up. The combination to the outside lockbox, which has been relocated to the RIGHT side of the side door at church, will be changed around July 1. Please contact Maret in the office if you need the new combination.

Art for Church

It would be wonderful to have a selection of small, black and white drawings to be used on the cover of the order of worship. Are you an artist who will share a church inspired piece of artwork? Perhaps a chalice design or a theme used often in services? Please contact Maret in the office at 338-4482 or office@uubelfast.org if you are inspired to make our services beautiful and diverse with art.

August 9th and 10th will be the annual church yard sale. We are still seeking storage space especially for larger items that folks may need to pass along before the sale. Please contact Jane Dopheide (338-1730) janedopheide@yahoo.com if you can help.

Summer Music

While the Choir takes July and August off, there will still be plenty of music at summer services. Karen Nelson, Frets Halligan, Clayton Clemetson, and Chris LeGore have all stepped up to provide accompaniment for hymns to keep you singing. Regular choir rehearsals will resume the last Thursday in August, and we welcome anyone fourteen or older who thinks they might just love to participate in our great (and growing)

adult choir. We've already got some outstanding new works ordered for the coming year, and will, of course, reprise some of your favorites so don't hesitate to give us a try. In the meantime, have a GREAT summer, and may music always be in your heart wherever life takes you!

Lila Nation
Mus. Dir.



RE guides, Green Sanctuary members, and children worked together to install the new compost bin...see Green Sanctuary, below.

Energy Saving

Inserts for your home or apartment

The UU Church is spearheading a wonderful expansion of the Window Dressers program in our area this year with the help of three other local churches -- United Methodist, St. Francis Catholic Church, and St. Margaret's Episcopal Church. We will be building at least 450 window inserts during the week of November 11!

So we are looking for more folks from our church circle who need inserts for their home or apartment. At least 30% of the inserts will be for folks who might find it challenging to pay the full cost of \$15 a window. Those folks can take advantage of the option to pay only \$10 total for their entire house's needs. All "customers" are also

expected to donate time as project volunteers, unless it would be a hardship to do so.

IF YOU WANT INSERTS, either as a full-pay or reduced-cost option, contact Corliss Davis (cdavis5468@roadrunner.com) BY JULY 10.

Because we are dividing the 450 inserts we can make in November between four churches, there is a limit to how many we can make for UUs this year. It's possible you will be put on a waiting list. We are very hopeful, though, that we will be able to schedule another build in early 2014.

Green Sanctuary

Happy Summer! This season our G.S. committee is busy with a

range of activities from bicycle jamborees, to composting, and window building. We hope you can join us! Here's a brief run down of events and business by date:

JUNE: The GS committee has been meeting with area churches to develop a Community-Wide Window Dressers program dovetailing on last year's UU Church build. Our group of representatives from area churches will continue meeting throughout the summer and fall, coordinating with Window Dressers LTD out of Rockland, to build and install approximately 500 window inserts this fall! These inserts will keep our neighbors warmer, reduce heating bills, and save on CO2 emissions. Yeah for efficiency and community cooperation! Contact either Jasmine Fowler or Corliss Davis if you'd like to be involved.

On June 9th our committee worked with RE children and guides to learn about composting, and to install our new Earth Machine composter in the side yard (check it out!). We've hung a list of composting guidelines outside to make our composting system simpler and way more effective-- it shouldn't smell anymore! Please do your part and put food scraps (no meat or dairy) in the green bin in the kitchen, and be sure to empty it outside when it looks full. Thanks!

JULY: For the past three summers our committee and church have hosted New England Climate Summer's Climate Riders, a group of young adults committed to cycling throughout New England helping educate communities on conservation efforts and climate change. This year the organization 350 Waldo will be coordinating community activities while our

committee helps as needed.

The riders will arrive Monday, July 29th, where we will greet them with a Potluck dinner at the church at 6:00 PM. Please join us! The youth will participate in a number of community activities, including a Bike Jamboree and parade through town. Watch for more information in the coming weeks!

AUGUST: The GS committee is slowly working through the process of re-accreditation of our Green Sanctuary status. The first part of this involves an assessment of the church building to make sure the products and procedures are keeping in line with our dedication to the 7th principle. We'll be poking around the kitchens and bathrooms and organizing the recycling system to make it easier for all of us to do our part.

Sincerely, *Jasmine and the rest of the Greenies!*