

Vol. 19, No. 11
DECEMBER • 2013

WE ARE a vibrant, inter-generational faith community, inspired by thought and spirit and grounded in love. Our mission is to honor differences and to foster peace, justice, and sustainability in ourselves and in our world.

Peace-Building at Home

by Mandi Thomas-Deane

In January, our congregation voted to pursue certification as a Peace Advocacy Church sponsored by the Peace Ministry Network of the Unitarian Universalist Association. Nearly one year later, we are well on our way to achieving this goal! From Sunday services to committee meetings, our congregation is talking about peace and peace-building.

In order for us to become a Peace Advocacy Church, we must participate in and create peace activities for each of the following four categories:

- International Peace
- Personal, Domestic and Congregational Peace
- Peace Lobbying and Activism
- Military Personnel Support

Our focus this past year has been primarily on the Personal, Domestic and Congregational aspect of this process. At the heart of this initiative, our Program Council has taken the theme of peace back to each, individual committee.

Committee representatives introduced a question about peace to be discussed at their last meetings, and to be incorporated in meetings going forward. Last month's question was, "What does peace mean to you?" This triggered some very unexpected and thought-provoking conversations by many committees,

who agreed that incorporating peace into the language we use during meetings is more natural than expected. Our Youth Group has also incorporated peace into their conversations, focusing on non-violent communication, and Rev. Deane

has facilitated Non-Violent Communication workshops for the congregation as well.

One of the most meaningful peace activities this fall has been the transition of our traditional Carousel Dinners into Peace Meals. Peace Meals have been popping up around the county, hosted by church members who guide the dinner table conversation with the theme of peace. This is an incredibly powerful way for us to get to know one another in a warm and intimate setting, so we can speak our minds and hearts.

In March, the Lifespan committee will host a Family Peace Breakfast, complete with guided activities for the children upstairs, while the adults have their own conversations



Game night at church on Friday, Nov. 15 was a blast. last Friday evening. Hendrik Andrews (l) and Jeremiah Muzzy (r) were two among 15 who attended.

around the table downstairs. Peace Meals will continue each month on a sign-up basis. The Program Council is still looking for members who are interested in hosting a dinner in their home

Perhaps one of the most exciting and ambitious peace-building ideas is the creation of an annual Peace Fair. The First Annual Peace Fair will be held September 5th-6th, 2014!

This will be a multi-generational celebration we plan to bring to the streets of Belfast. On the evening of September 5th we will kick off the event with a Dance at Steamboat Landing, complete with a DJ and bonfire. Saturday morning, September 6th, we will start the day with meditation by the bay, and

December 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. 1

Rev. Deane Perkins

Dec. 8

More Blessed — or Is It?

with Lane Fisher

We are taught from an early age that "It is more blessed to give than to receive." In this service, Lane, a long-time member of our congregation and now a seminarian at Starr King School for the Ministry, will reflect on the challenges and blessedness of receiving from others.

Dec. 15

Our Annual Holiday Children's Pageant

with Rev. Deane Perkins and RE Director Danielle Bannister

Dec. 22

Wonder

with Rev. Pam Gross

Rev. Pam Gross, former minister for UU Belfast, is now working full-time as a chaplain for MaineGeneral Medical Center in Augusta.

Dec. 24, 7:00 PM—Christmas Eve Service with Rev. Deane Perkins

Dec. 29

Looking Ahead

with Andrea Butler, Susan Coe and congregation participation

a demonstration and practice of peace walking. At 10:00 AM, we will take to the streets in a lively and colorful Peace Parade, starting at Waterfall Arts and ending at the City Park. We have not finalized our speakers for the event, but will showcase them at a peace rally during the day. We are planning workshops and films throughout the day at various locations, and will be inviting several groups associated with peace to table at one centralized location with music and refreshments.

In the evening, The First Church and Baptist Church will be joining us in a Progressive Dinner on Saturday night. Participants will enjoy a three-course meal, one course at each church, with a peace walk between churches.

We need your help! If you are interested in volunteering your time

in some capacity for this event, either in planning or during the event itself, please let us know! Members of the Peace Fair Steering Committee are *Deane Perkins, Susan Coe, Mandi Thomas, Dan Avenir and Katia Ancona.*

Life of the Church

Gone are the days when church members gave each other high fives because a Sunday service attracted more than 50 people. With more than 100 people in attendance each week, it is sometimes difficult to know where to look, or whom to engage with after the service. Often it is easiest to gravitate to old friends or tend to church business, checking off items on our church to-do lists.

Newcomers don't have that luxury. Imagine what it must feel like

to stand in the sanctuary or the "hospitality" room and not be approached by anyone. Furthermore, newcomers frequently leave the building without even entering the hospitality room. Without an invitation to take a cup of coffee, many do not know it exists, or would not dare to enter the melee. This happens more than one would think.

If we believe that Unitarian Universalism is truly a religion for our time that we want to nurture, reaching out and welcoming newcomers should be our top priority. UUA President Peter Morales wrote a lovely piece about how Religious Hospitality should be a practice of all congregations:

"A true religious hospitality reaches out to those we do not yet know. This can be as simple as greeting those seated near you on Sunday morning and working up the courage to talk to a stranger during coffee hour. It means warmly welcoming those who come looking for a religious home."

More importantly, Morales reminds us that "as stewards of hospitality, we can stand ready to look at each other face-to-face, to see the divine in each person." And "the best reason to reach out isn't to help another person; it is to make ourselves whole."

I've found that it only takes a few simple questions to get the conversation started: "Welcome! Is this your first time here?" "Did you enjoy the service?" "How did you find out about us?" "Do you live in Belfast?" I've had many delightful encounters with new people this fall. They are always glad to be acknowledged, and are usually not shy about sharing which parts of

Greeting in December

Dec. 1 Marion Brown & Ezra Kreamer
 Dec. 8 Su Wood & Jacqui Lee
 Dec. 15 Gina Cressey & Diane Braybrook
 Dec. 22 Cheryl Richardson & Jacqui Lee
 Dec. 29 Su Wood & Francine Brown

commemorate and embrace one another through life's changes. In 2013, twelve shawls (and two scarves) have either been given or are currently underway.

As part of the Caring Circle, The Shawl Ministry has an annual budget of \$50.00. We benefit both from the local generosity of Heavenly Socks passing along occasional discounts and donated yarn and church knitters contributing from their private stashes. This has been and continues to be a special way to provide community care and presence. Your support of these efforts would be welcomed and much appreciated.

our service and community were most meaningful to them. What could be better? If enough people take this column seriously, I may find myself crowded out from talking to the new folks. And that will be just fine with me!

Chris LeGore, President-Elect

Ministry Under Wraps

In the life of any community there are actions that spark attention, lighting up the radar as well as those that are interwoven silently, subtly adding strength and presence. One of the little known spiritual practices of UUCB is our Shawl Ministry. Over the years, knitters have created shawls for our members in an effort to celebrate,

Sounds of the Season

You won't want to miss a single moment of all the music lined up for this holiday season. To afford us some much needed silence during this hectic time of year, for the first three Sundays in December, Becky Brimley will once again be delighting us with the dulcet sounds of her harp for the fifteen minutes prior to each service.

During the service Dec.1, the choir will be debuting a beautiful rendition of a song filled with hope that we all know and love, "Over the Rainbow." During the second service of December, Morten Moesswilde and Mandi Thomas will sing the gorgeous Brahms motet, "Create in Me a Pure Heart."



WHO'S WHO

- 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
Susan Coe 691-5153
 - Children's Religious Exploration
Danielle Bannister 505-5383
 - 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
Patty Smith 338-5802
 - Safe Congregation
Marilynn Petit 907-9082
 - Stewardship Committee Chair
Scott Denman 342-4246
 - LGBT Welcoming Congregation
Patty Smith 338-5802
 - Sound Coordinator
Cary Bradford 338-8448
 - Hospitality **Cheryl & Arthur Richardson 342-4649**
 - 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 UUCB, email office@uubelfast.org

Annual Winter Solstice Celebration

SAT., DEC. 21, 2013 AT 4:00 PM

The annual Winter Solstice Celebration, presented by the church and open to the public, will take place on Saturday, December 21 at 4:00 PM at the Blue Goose Center on Route 1 in Northport.

It will feature music by the UU choirs and other singers, sword dancers and Morris dancers, storytelling, poetry, and other seasonal entertainment for all ages. Sumner Roberts' original, rollicking Mummer's Play will be a highlight, as usual. Proceeds from the event will support the Interfaith Fuel Fund.

Refreshments will be served. Volunteer bakers are needed to contribute goodies to the festivities.

In the event of a snow storm, the Winter Solstice Celebration will be held on Sunday, December 22 at 4:00 p.m.

Tickets will be available at the door. Ticket prices are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and youth ages 6 to 18, and \$25 for a family; children under age 6 are free. The Winter Solstice Celebration is a popular event and seating is limited, so people are encouraged to arrive early.

For more information, contact Jennifer Kirchoff at jkirchoff@rsu3.org 975-1913, or Wendy Krueger at wkrueger70@gmail.com, 322-6296 .

The Children's Pageant this year will be Dec.15, and promises to be as wonderful as ever, and don't forget the winter Solstice Celebration, Dec. 21, 4:00 PM, at the Blue Goose, a most memorable occasion if ever there was one.

During the church service Dec. 22, the choir will sing Vivaldi's "Gloria," just in time to make your hearts fill with praise just for being alive, and lastly, there will be a special Christmas Eve service in the sanctuary at 7:00 PM on Dec. 24.

Choir rehearsals are from 7:00 until 8:45 PM every Thursday evening in the church sanctuary, so even if you are not a regular member of the choir, you might just

want to check us out.

Whether you are looking for beauty, hope, celebration or solace, please join us this holiday season; there is magic and music in the air!

Lila Nation

Music Director, 338-5002

The Space Needs Team needs YOU on January 12th!

by Sarah Nicholson

Two weeks ago, our architects, Nancy Barba and Cynthia Wheelock met with a group of "space representatives" to discuss and improve the programming document we had developed from information gathered from focus groups and from the congregation (remember

the large sheets of paper that were all over the walls of the sanctuary a few weeks ago?).

The programming document describes the specifics of what we want in our church spaces – how many people we want the sanctuary to seat, what office and meeting spaces we want and what types of meetings do they need to accommodate, where these spaces are in relation to one another such as fellowship room near kitchen, etc).

This document provides essential guidance to the architects as they puzzle over how to fit our needs into a building. With this information in hand, they are now busily working on the concepts for our "Master Plan" – what the Miller Street site could become to meet all of our needs. Along with that, they will be looking at how we can build towards this master plan in achievable phases, including the improvements to our existing building recommended by the structural engineer.

On January 12th, after the service, Nancy and Cynthia will be presenting these concepts to the congregation, so mark your calendars!! During the month or so after that presentation, the Space Needs Team will be providing opportunities for discussion, questions, music, suggestions, etc. in small group forums, The details will be announced later, but be assured that everyone will have a chance to study the concepts, consider the options and get comfortable with the issues. After that, probably sometime in February, we will have a congregational vote to decide our path forward.

As you recall from our Ice Cream Social last spring (and our summer newsletter article), we committed

to the congregation to evaluate the full potential for our existing site on Miller Street, and the master plan concepts that we will have in January will allow us to do this. The questions the congregation will be asking and answering in January and February are whether our building and site can meet our needs in the near and long term, and what is the best pathway to develop them. This will include an explicit decision about whether or not we want to stay at Miller Street.

To help with that decision, we will be provided with a ballpark budget for a generic building built on an undeveloped lot that meets the same program as the master plan for Miller Street. There will be no drawings for this option, but the budgets will allow us to compare the alternatives. We will take the time the congregation needs to make these important decisions about our future.

More details will be forthcoming in the next month, but please put January 12, 2014 on your calendar as this will be a fascinating and exciting meeting for our congregation and you won't want to miss it! This is an exciting time in the life of our congregation!!

Don't miss the opportunity to add your voice and energy to this decision.

Directory Directions

December is UU Church directory season in the office. Make sure that we have your current contact info, and get a new photo taken after church by Cary Bradford by Dec. 15. We include all UU members and active friends who contribute time, talent and/or treasure,

Minister's news

Our church continues to be quite busy with its programming, book and clothing sales, and space needs activities. Let me provide an update on a couple of other aspects of our church.

We will be doing Small Group Ministry this year, but in a more time-limited way. Small Group Ministry consists of groups of 8-10 people who wish to get to know each other more intimately while talking about spiritual matters. We will start our SGM groups (or covenant groups) in January, go for three months, and will meet twice each month. While anyone is invited to participate—whether a member/ friend of the church or not—I particularly encourage those who are fairly new to our church and to our Unitarian Universalist faith to consider being a part of this. For further information and to sign up, please contact Susan Coe.

I also wish to mention the Committee on Ministry (COM). While one of its objectives is to act as a

liaison between minister and congregation, its larger purpose is to help sustain and uphold the ministry of the church. As such, this is a fairly quiet committee; it does not engage in any particular action that is usually noticed publicly.

The COM came up with the Peace Questions that are to be asked over the course of three months by each church committee; it looks at issues like Joys and Sorrows and how to make our congregation more intergenerational; it asks about the ministry of service projects like Safe Passage in Guatemala in which the youth are involved; and it, too, discusses spiritual matters. It is, in its own way, a covenant group. Feel free any time to talk to Morten Moesswilde, Ian Howard, Jan Anderson, or me about the COM.

I wish you all well this holiday season—be well, safe, and at peace.

Fondly, *Deane*

and want to be in the directory. Happy Holidays! Church office 338-4482 office@uubelfast.org

State Social Action

MUUSAN is the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Action Network. This organization is developing to represent the UU community at the level of state legislation. A meeting will be held early in January to introduce MUUSAN to the Belfast community. Contact Maret Knight in the office at 338-4482 or office@uubelfast.org for more info.

Congregational Life has the following on the agenda through December:

- Fri., Nov. 29, 6:00 PM: Thanksgiving Leftover Extravaganza-FMI Jen Wendell: 763-3144
- Wed., Dec. 11; 6:30 PM: Cookie Baking and Decorating-FMI Jen Wendell: 763-3144
- Wed., Dec. 18; 6:30 PM: Movie Night-FMI Alex Chaplin: 323-9102
- Mon., Dec. 23; 6:30 PM: Christmas Caroling-FMI Lila Nation: 338-5002

Thank you very much,
Cheryl Richardson

The Fundraising Committee is seeking someone to coordinate our next fundraising event. Traditionally we have offered food and drinks during the New Years by the Bay event on New Years Eve in our hospitality room and would like to continue this tradition. This event requires contacting the congregation to supply food (normally soup, stews, chili, breads and desserts) and to volunteer to help in the kitchen, serve, collect money, set up and clean up. We stop serving at 8:00 PM which allows the team to enjoy the rest of the night's festivities. This is a great way to help raise some money for the church as well as make an impact within our community. If you would like to take on this role, please contact Andrea Butler at andreab614@gmail.com or 207-322-3441.

Andrea Butler

Review of *Double Entry* by Jane Gleeson-White
Reviewed by Bill Cressey. TAGS: Finance, Environment

As the title suggests, this book is about accounting. I picked it up while browsing in a bookstore in Grand Central Station, and bought it because finance and accounting have been a part of my life recently, and I was curious about the history. I was intrigued to see that the book began with a quote from a

speech by Robert Kennedy, lamenting the fact that financial measurement systems like the Gross National Product (GNP) actually counts things as part of the national "product" that we would regard negatively—for example, lucrative activities that cause pollution or destroy our national forests. And, he says, the GNP completely ignores things like "the health of our children, the quality of their education, and the joy of their play; the beauty of our poetry, the intelligence of our public debate." "It measures everything," he says, "except that which makes life worthwhile."

The fundamental insight of the double entry system codified by Luca Pacioli in 1494 is that we gain a better and more accurate understanding of the financial realities of an entity—whether it be a business, an educational institution, or a church—if we view every transaction as having two sides. One account increases; another decreases by the same amount. Every piece of equipment, every hour of staff time, every gallon of oil, has a cost. Every contribution we take in is a credit to some account and a debit to another.

Gleeson-White tells the story of how this system of accounting caught on in Venice and how it became universal. She also details the contributions that successful

Venice firms were able to make to art, music, philosophy, mathematics, and religion. Her view is that double entry accounting helped these firms succeed, and so, indirectly, contributed to the beauty and spiritual depth of the Renaissance.

And, most important to us, perhaps, is her suggestion, pursuing the ideas in the Kennedy speech, that the double entry system of credits and debits needs to apply as well to the environment. Air, water, forests, our soil, and other essential natural elements have in the past been considered inexhaustible, and therefore without cost. And, having no recognized cost, these elements never found their way onto the books of corporations and nations.

Double entry relates every credit to a corresponding debit. Gleeson-White urges us to recognize the debits associated with pollution and other negative side effects of our industrial progress. "Through the way it values—or does not—the finite resources of our planet," she says, "double entry now has the potential to make or break life on earth." She adds, "If numbers and money are the only language spoken in the global capitalist economy, then this is the language we must use."

I have left a copy of this book in the UU Belfast library.