

VOL. 20, No. 2
FEBRUARY • 2014

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.

...May Love Guide Them on Their Way...

You have all heard how the RE program is growing; you hear their voices from upstairs during the service below. You've been asked to donate time and resources to youth programming, and to lend financial support to their pilgrimages and service projects. You've held your coffee cup tightly as children scoot amongst us during hospitality, and you've gazed in wonder when they appear as trees or sheep or wise men on pageant Sundays. You've saved your bottles and donated to their snacks via Clynke. Thank you! Yet I wonder how much you know about their classroom work or meetings and retreats. Let's take a look.

Each of the 75 children and teens that participate in youth programs at UUCB follow one of six curriculum or order of events.

Our infants and toddlers are provided for each Sunday by three guides and volunteers. Angela Domenicelli is there every week, providing consistency and awareness of the needs of our little ones. The service is piped into this room for parents who wish to stay with their children.

The Primary Room (Grades K-1) welcomes children into the "home of our church" through activity which helps them understand the gifts of friendship, hospitality and fairness, and to share these with

others. Crafts and storytelling bring these concepts to reality.

Our Intermediate Room (Grades 2-3) introduces Unitarian Universalism beliefs and values through tools, language and experiences to help the children begin to articulate their faith identity.

The Elder Room (Grades 4-5) is new this year. As the children grow, they expand on their faith journey to reflect on integrity, courage and love, creating an awareness of self, others, and the dynamic relationships between these. This group has begun an interactive curriculum based on the Hogwarts School of

Harry Potter fame (see related article).

Our COA (Coming of Age) group (Middle School) is a three year program that meets weekly in Deane's office during RE where they begin to ask big questions about life and faith, and experience the wonder of coming of age as a UU. They also have at least five overnight retreats during the year, shared with their mentors, to deepen their connections to Unitarian Universalism and themselves, culminating in a graduation ceremony with the congregation.

Our YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalists) youth (High School) assist as guides on Sunday



Holiday Pageant, 2014 with our Youth. This is a picture of the Christmas Pageant taken on Jan 5 due to ice storm. Max Howard is placing The Star on Jessie Knight "the Christmas tree."

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. 2 Rev. Richard Synder

Our beloved Dick Synder will be leading our worship service this Sunday.

FEB. 9 **Justice, Love and Compassion**
given by Susan Coe and a Multi-gen Ensemble

Join us for a joyful celebration of our intention to promote justice and bring love to all we do. In a multi-generational effort, we will explore how we can set goals to harness love's power to stop oppression. Our worship service will include songs and readings about compassion and justice. This service is our tribute and effort to celebrate the UUA's Thirty Days of Love celebration of intentional action, service, education and reflection to focus on this essential social justice work.

FEB. 16 **Speaking the Unspoken**
given by Ian Howard

When Edward Snowden released the NSA reports he, like others before him, spoke what had been unspoken and transformed the world forever. Great power lies within speaking the unspoken but that power is not always for the good.

FEB. 23 Rev. Deane Perkins will speak

MARCH 2 Rev. Deane Perkins will speak

mornings, and meet later in the day on Sunday to socialize, complete service projects, and practice non-violent communication. This is a place for youth to talk freely in a safe and loving environment while working on ways to support their UU faith. Many of these youth are planning a service trip to Guatemala next July. This year for the first time, graduating seniors will participate in a bridging ceremony in May with the congregation as they move into adulthood.

So that is what happens when we sing our children out to "go their way in peace" during the Sunday service. If you would like to know more, please contact me or Danielle Bannister, and if you are really

inspired, consider joining us as a guide once a month in a classroom. And stay tuned; next month you will learn how all this is accomplished in great part with volunteers and donated resources in huddled classrooms. Blessed be.

Susan Coe

RE Lifespan Chair and Church Council Education Cluster Rep

Life of the Church

Chris LeGore, President-Elect
When I woke up at 5:30 one Saturday morning in January to drive to Portland to attend a church governance workshop, I thought "Am I crazy? Why am I doing this?"

But a few hours later, sitting at a

table with Jane Dopheide, Sarah Nicholson, Danielle Bannister, Susan Coe and Wendy Watkins, I thought "what an inspiring program! I am SO GLAD to be here with my UUCB friends!"

Joe Sullivan, Executive Director of the NNED, is a grounded spiritual leader with terrific facilitation skills. He continually challenged us to remember that Church Council members are responsible for the BIG PICTURE: "focus on the major outcomes that you want to see and leave the operational side of the church to your highly competent committees and staff."

After a lot of discussion and reflection, a few ideas and questions stood out for me:

Church Council members are trustees of the mission.

Focus on outcomes. What are the changes that we want to see? How will we measure them?

From whom do we derive our moral authority? How will we listen to them?

To whom are we accountable? (Our congregation, our community, future generations of UU's, the UUA, the spirit of life, love and the holy?)

And what a pleasure it was to meet people from other congregations (Waterville, Sanford, Portland, Yarmouth), to listen to their creative ideas, and to know that we share many of the same concerns. I learned that Yarmouth and First Parish (Portland) have Shared Plate programs that are exactly the same as ours (and have been doing it for five years). One church raises funds with dinners made from 100% locally grown poultry and produce (participation from the local community has been "over-the-top!"). Presidents of four



Elder Room classmates create owls to delivery their Hogwart's acceptance letters to their parents.

Portland area churches get together each month to share common concerns and learn from each other's experiences.

It is good to remember that we are part of a movement that is much larger than Waldo County and our small church, and that the NNED and UUA are there to support us. And it is good to remember that serving this church and this movement nourishes my soul and expands my world. Blessed be!

Hogwarts Comes to UU Belfast

Something MAGICAL has arrived in our Elder RE classroom of fourth and fifth graders. They are attending "HOGWARTS AND UU" each Sunday where a new lesson emerges from the pages of Harry Potter woven into our own UU beliefs. For several years, UU churches everywhere have created curriculum based on the popular book and film series. The narrative draws on diverse spiritual sources

with rich layers of meaning and symbolism. Kids will create letters of acceptance for their parents; will be sorted into their houses and make wands all while reinforcing our seven Principles! We are currently looking for 'Professors' to help with this class, so if you have been wondering if you could handle being a guide, now is the time to try it out. This curriculum is going to be loaded with fun and enlightenment and we can't wait to bring it to you. Please send your children, and as always, we welcome their friends into our UU family.

Danielle Bannister,
DRE, UUCB

The Space Needs Team

invites UU Church members and participants to attend one of the upcoming cottage meetings for the purpose of discussing church expansion options. The meetings will comprise 8-10 attendees along with members of the Space Needs Team.

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

We will consider the initial architect proposals along with our thoughts and responses to expansion options.

The cottage meetings are critical to the congregation making an informed decision on March 16 (instead of February 23) at a congregational vote on whether to proceed with the next phase of developing an expansion project.

Sign-up for the meetings will be available online at volunteer spot.com (details to be announced on UUBB), at the church on sign-up sheets, or by contacting Michael Bowe (mbowe10@roadrunner.com, or phone 338-1505).

The dates and locations of upcoming cottage meetings are:

- 1. Sat. Jan. 25**, 1:00-2:30 PM, the Bradfords, 53 Fahy St.
- 2. Tues. Jan. 28**, 7:00-8:30 PM, UU Church
- 3. Wed. Jan. 29**, 7:00-8:30 PM, the Moesswildes, 287 Congress St., Belfast
- 4. Fri. Jan. 31**, 7:00-8:30 PM, Jeffrey Mabee-Judith Grace, 44 Village Rd. (last house), Eco-Village, Belfast
- 5. Sun. Feb. 2**, 11:30-1:00 PM, UU Church
- 6. Thurs. Feb. 6**, 6:30-8:00 PM, the Bowes, 48 Union St., Belfast
- 7. Sun. Feb. 9**, 7:00-8:30 PM, Muzzy-Bauss, 3 Toad's End, Belfast
- 8. Sat., Feb. 15**, 1:00-2:30 PM, the Dopheides, 16 Piglet's Path, Belfast
- 9. Thurs. Feb. 20**, 6:00-7:30 PM, the Allens, 43 Union St., Apt. 1, Belfast

Please look for the timeline of the

efforts to develop expansion options, past and planned, posted in the church.

Hope to see all of you at a cottage meeting!

Sarah Nicholson, Roger Lee, Jan Anderson, Michael Bowe

Your Space Needs Team

The Stewardship Committee

has chosen "Listening To Our Heart Song" as the theme for this year's annual budget drive. Let us explain what this means.

The UUCB church community can be proud of putting some very important foundational pieces in place to provide direction for our church's spiritual and physical future. As 2014 begins, we celebrate the fact that we now have a mission statement that "sings." It is the expression of our collective values and intentions. As an interesting coincidence, Peter Heinrichs and Susan Lewis, the consultants recently hired to guide us through the financing of an expansion to our space, suggested that we look for the "Heart Song" of our church – what it is that makes us sing! The expression of our new mission is our Heart Song.

Once again, we each will soon "sing" our collective Heart Song by joining in our annual budget drive for the support of our beloved community. You will have a chance to read "e-notes," to hear testimonial statements from your fellow members, to read articles in the newsletter, and to receive materials from the Stewardship Committee. Since we remember that one way to a heart is through the stomach, you will be invited to our annual, free, fun, kick-off dinner on March 1 where you will enjoy yet another

AMAZON BOOK SALES

Bring in books at any time to church and they will be sold on Amazon.

All proceeds go to the UUCB!

*Meredith Burgess & Andrea Butler
Fundraising Committee*

amazing meal prepared by Sue Cobb and her helpers – not to mention dazzling entertainment to boost your winter-weary spirits! The campaign will begin in earnest on Sunday, March 2 and will continue for the rest of that month.

Stewardship is truly the year-round giving of our time, treasure, and talent. This is an amazing and exciting time to be part of the UU Church of Belfast and we look forward to sharing the journey with all of you! Here's to Listening To Our Heart Song!

Scott Denman (chair), Dan Avenner, Debbie Bailly, Corliss Davis
Your 2014 Stewardship Committee

Did you miss a service?

Catch up online at uubelfast.org. Click on member area, and scroll down to the services section to find a selection of recent services. Please contact Maret in the office if you need help to access the member area.

Communications Task Force

Wendy Watkins

How does information flow through our church community and beyond? How effective are we at

getting word out publicizing an event? What role should the web site play? The list goes on and on. These are all questions that are being asked and, hopefully answered by the The Communications team, now in Phase I of the development of a fully functioning Communications Committee whose mission will be to smooth out the bumps and create a more effective communications environment here at UUCB.

The Phase I team, consisting of Wendy Watkins, Susan Coe and Rick and Liz Fitzsimmons, has been extremely active since its inception last fall. An initial meeting was held on November 7, with about 15 interested church members and leaders present, to explore what a Communications Committee would need to look like to meet UUCB Church's needs. By the end of the meeting, we had identified several distinct steps that a committee would need to take to become operational. Using guidelines offered by UUA, we identified a "Phase I" period in which the following work would take place: a) creating a draft committee mission, covenant, "Roles and Responsibilities," and b) conducting a "current state" assessment or inventory of communications at UUCB, processing the results and creating a report of our findings.

The inventory, as it has evolved, includes "key people" interviews, a survey of membership, processing the findings and the creating a report of the findings, that includes priorities and recommendations. The report will be presented to the Council, and others.

That will complete the Phase I team's work. At that point, depending on the report's recommenda-

tions, a final, more permanent, team configuration will be established. They will create a communications plan designed to address the most urgent church needs and facilitate smoother and more effective communication at UUCB. If you are called on for an interview, or invited to complete the survey, please respond. Your input will enable us to paint an accurate picture of where we are and where we need to go. Also, if you have specific communications skills (writing, technology, marketing, etc.) that you think would be useful to the committee, or if you have interest in becoming a committee member, please contact Wendy Watkins.

NEW to UU Belfast Four Session Class Scheduled

The class many have been waiting for!! The NEW TO UU BELFAST Class is scheduled for Sundays, 1:30-3:30 PM February 23rd, March 2, 9, and 16th. Ian Harvey will organize the classes with help from Marty Daniels, Rev. Deane Perkins and Teresa Piper.

The initial class will begin by exploring one's religious background, the second will be about UU history, the third how UU Belfast is organized and its beginnings and the last week will be open to queries and thoughts. Light refreshments will be served.

If you are interested in becoming a UU Belfast member or are thinking about your own spirituality or religious thoughts, this is a good class for you. It will be held at the church and will be in a small group setting. Please respond to Marje Stickler, Membership at 338-5059 or mbstick40@gmail.com for questions or to reserve your place.

30 Days of Love

January 18 – February 16

Standing on the Side of Love is a community of people compelled to speak out against oppression, united in the common belief that love is the ultimate guiding force of our world. The Thirty Days of Love is a period of intentional action, service, education, and reflection to focus on this essential work. Will you commit to giving attention to this spiritual journey for social justice?

In the words of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., "Power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice, and justice at its best is power correcting everything that stands against love."

On February 9, we will celebrate the "Share the Love" theme in worship and spiritual reflection in a multi-generational service.

Here are a few resources to focus attention toward this celebration of love and compassion. Pick a day and explore new opportunities!

Thirty Days of Love home page with daily reflections and activities
<http://standingonthesideoflove.org/2014-30daysoflove/>

Family Activity Calendar:
<http://www.standingonthesideoflove.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/01/30-Days-Family-Calendar-2014-FINAL.pdf>

Congregational Life Calendar, UU Church of Belfast

Winter 2014

Schedule of Social Events

SOUPER SUNDAY POTLUCK

Sun. Jan. 26, After Service

Join us after church for soups, breads, and sweets FMI - Cheryl Richardson

GROUND HOG EVE'S DANCE

Sat. Feb.1

6:30-9:00 PM

What better way to celebrate this central holiday in the life of our church. We are a people that love to dance (and Ground Hog Day is as good a reason as any other). Pot luck finger food and desserts. FMI – contact Chip Curry

SLEDDING

Sun. Feb. 9

After church

Bring your sled to chicken hill (aka the Commons) just down the street from the church.

VALENTINE COOKIE MAKING & DECORATING

Wed. Feb. 12

6:30 PM

FMI Jen Wendell

MOVIE NIGHT

Wed. Feb. 19

6:30 PM

Movie–in the church-with friends.
FMI Alex Chaplin for details

CROSS COUNTRY SKIING & SNOW SHOEING

Sat. March 8

10:00 AM

Lots of experience or no experience join us in the parking lot at Tanglewood 4H camp to ski and snow shoe on the trails in this beautiful winter environment. Bring your own equipment. Contact Chip Curry or Alex Chaplin if you have any questions

MOVIE NIGHT

Wed. March 19

6:30 PM

Movie–in the church-with friends.

FMI Alex Chaplin for details

THE CONGREGATIONAL LIFE
Committee organizes social, recreational, and community building events for church members and friends. We are a small committee, that relies on many volunteers to cook clean, lead, and support events. Thank you volunteers! If you are interested in volunteering, or have an idea for a community building event you would like to see at the church, please contact a member of the Congregational Life Committee.

The 2013-2014 Committee includes:

Jen Wendell 763- 3144

Cheryl Richardson 342-4649

Alex Chaplin 323-9102

Chip Curry 323-9976