

VOL. 20, No. 3
MARCH • 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.

Listening To Our Heart Song

The Annual Budget Drive for the support of our beloved congregation begins with our kick-off dinner on Saturday, March 1. On Sunday, March 2, after a service led by Deane Perkins, over 20 visiting stewards will attend a two-hour training session. Soon after that,



members and friends of the church will receive phone calls to set up personal visits. These visits have many purposes and are often re-

membered as wonderful, one-on-one opportunities to get to know one another better. We hope you will carefully read the materials you received in the mail about the Annual Budget Drive and will think deeply about what this church means to you and your family. And, we hope that you will wel-

come your steward into your home to share feelings, questions, hopes, fears, and dreams about UU Belfast.

Over the last month or so, various members of our congregation have shared their thoughts about stewardship during the Sunday service. In other words, they have told us where they hear the **Heart Song** of our church and how that inspires them to support it with their time, talent and treasure. Here are some of their comments. We hope they inspire you as well.

Jane Dopheide:
Like many UUs, we give financially to other important causes but our major financial support goes to this church. There are several reasons. One is because of our principles that speak so clearly to inclusion, social justice and the interconnected nature of our world. Second, we highly value the fact that we function democratically. The congregation gets to decide the nature of what we do and how we do it. All these efforts touch lives and build connections in ways that cannot be fully measured but are in fact transformative.

Dan Kirchoff:
I believe in what we do here. And that's why I support this church. I support it with my time, my energy,

with what little intellect or experience I may have to give, and, yes, financially as well. It takes money to do all we do, just like MPBN and Train Riders Northeast doing what they do. The difference is this church embodies more than things I feel good about. It's something much closer to who I am as an individual, and who I am as a Unitarian Universalist. It embodies the spiritual, the sacred, and it puts those things to work. I support this church. And I hope you will too.



Marje Stickler:
Now I make the choices, when and where to give. It is empowering. It is my turn, my decision. This place provides many opportunities to be helpful, to help others, to give of oneself. There is a great variety of outreach. I feel that adding my contribution to the many other givers here makes a sizeable impact. There is opportunity to build friendships, to recreate, to share in meals or coffee hour. For all these reasons and more, I make my own choice to give to UU Belfast.

Wendy Watkins:
This is what Stewardship is to me -- the careful leveraging of my re-

Congregational Meeting and Vote
Sun., March 16•11:30

Do we move forward with expansion on Miller Street?

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 2

Rev. Deane Perkins will speak.

MARCH 9

“Quiet”

given by Kathy Muzzy and Jessie Gower

Exploring the attributes of being “Quiet” in a time when extroverted qualities are highly valued. We will draw on Susan Cain’s book *Quiet* and other perspectives.

MARCH 16

Rev. Deane Perkins will speak.

MARCH 23

Dawn Fortune, a member of this congregation will speak.

MARCH 30

“Candle to be Lit . . .”

given by Rev. Sara Huisjen, Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

What role does creativity play in your life? How is being creative an expression of the life force within you? This sermon and service will explore the ways in which being creative puts us in touch with feeling alive. Rev. Sara Huisjen serves the Ellsworth UU Church. Before that, she worked five years as a Hospice Chaplain. Sara lives in Brooksville with her partner, Dan. Over the last few years, she has loved getting to the Belfast youth while preparing for Service Projects together.

sources to support and sustain something that has great value to me. But human energy and engagement will only go so far. If I want this wonderful blooming garden, the one that feeds and nourishes me, and all of us, to thrive, I need to support it financially as well. The cost of our family’s pledge is modest compared to the great value we receive. Because ultimately, our enthusiastic support of the church circles back to me and fills me with energy, fullness, and the security of a loving nest, my spiritual “base camp,” my heart’s home.

These voices affirm the joy we share as members and friends of the UU Church of Belfast. As we

begin our Annual Budget Drive, we are looking forward to getting to know one another better and listening to all of our Heart Songs. Blessed be.

Your Stewardship Committee:
Scott Denman (chair), *Dan Avenier*,
Debbie Bailly, and *Corliss Davis*

Life of the Church

by Jane Dopheide

Time to Listen to Why YOU give

Last time I wrote this column, I shared why Bill and I give as generously as we can to support our church. This month we are about to don different hats and become “visiting stewards.” We will have the honor of sitting with some of

you as members and friends and listen to what brought YOU through our doors and what keeps YOU coming back. We hope to hear about what feeds or nourishes YOU. What excites YOU about YOUR involvement or about our church’s future. And, YES, we want to hear: What isn’t working? What might be bothering you? What could our church do differently for you, your family and the greater community?

I remind myself regularly that my perspective is just that- MY perspective based on MY experiences, MY expectations, and MY hopes and dreams. This is, however, not MY church-it is OUR church and I look forward to hearing from YOUR hearts and minds during these very special visits.

Venture the Highway . . . on a journey with our youth along with 1,865 others!

Our RE Highway is clearly a two way street, with more lanes being added all the time! Youth presence and participation is more evident than ever on Sunday mornings, at church-sponsored events, in choir, and as guides and committee members, and as international ambassadors of our congregation. They are giving and receiving, providing and sharing.

Their enthusiasm and wonder provide spirit and love to our congregation and our community. I feel nothing more moving on Sunday mornings than the evidence of friendships among our children sharing secrets, holding hands, offering their spirit during a story, or singing to us in their choir of angelic voices. These youngsters have already created friendships



Group on table from left Jon (COA guide), Kiera, Jeffrey (COA mentor), Olivia, Jacob, Luke Danielle (COA coordinator). Not pictured are Evan and Sydney.

which hold steadfast as they grow into their world at school, on play dates, in theater, and later as teens engaged in social media and community service as best friends and companions.

Our covenant asks that we “respect and nurture our children and youth in their growth and explorations of values and beliefs, actively seeking ways to give to and receive from them.” We are one in story, song and spirit moving forward with love and compassion, practicing our Principles and honoring our traditions and practices.

Last month I told you what engages our youth upstairs on Sun-

days after we sing them out of our service downstairs. As many of you know who assist in this effort, there is a vast amount of work behind the scenes that makes this all possible. I recently added up the volunteer hours so graciously given each year to our children and youth:

- 480 hours of guide leadership and child care on Sunday mornings
- 85 hours – snack management and preparation
- 50 hours – choir leadership, special projects and child care during UUCB events
- 375 hours – by mentors of COAs and YRUU advisors at retreats and gatherings

- 295 hours – Guatemala adult fundraising assistance through dinners and silent auction
- 340 hours – RE Lifespan Committee and Chair meetings

March Greeters

Mar. 2	Marion Brown & Ivy Lobato
Mar. 9	Ezra Kreamer & Su Wood
Mar. 16	Cheryl Richardson
Mar. 23	Su Wood & Cheryl Richardson
Mar. 30	? & ?

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
-
 - 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



From left: Jacob, Kiera, Olivia, Luke

and program development work

- 240 hours – by our DRE, Danielle Bannister, donated beyond her paid schedule

TOTAL = 1,865 hours!!

These volunteers realize when our children and youth are inspired to learn about our faith and its principles, they will go out into their world destined to improve it for others, as we have seen our teens do locally and nationally.

As our church moves forward in the growth and development of our faith community in Belfast, programming and services for our youth of all ages continues to be of paramount priority. Regardless of what physical space or location is chosen for our expansion, our mission ensures we will provide inter-

generational, vibrant programming to teach and practice our principles in the world. The RE program for infants through high school age must reflect the quality, compassion and challenge that will attract new followers and keep present participants engaged and motivated.

So the next time our Congregational Life committee sponsors a dance, please come even if you really don't like to dance! It is truly worth the venture out to see our children and youth loving each other and sharing their growing years together in laughter, song, joy and sadness, dancing to their own beat which inspires us to support their vision and journey on the RE Highway. Thank YOU for the love and support you have for our children. If you would like to help out in any way, please contact Danielle or myself. We would love to hear from you!

Susan Coe

RE Lifespan Chair and Church Council Education Cluster Rep

Shared Plate to Help Make Peace

David Deméré grew up thinking about privilege and the responsibility it carries. He could hardly help

it: his father, Charles, was an Episcopal priest and a founder of Responsible Wealth (see http://faireconomy.org/responsible_wealth) and the Debley Family Foundation. That charitable foundation was funded by the family's inheritance from David's grandfather, who, in a rags-to-riches story, had amassed a fortune in the oil business.

When David received a bequest from his grandfather, he thought a lot about how he might make it grow. He decided that, rather than invest it for his own comfort and wealth, he wanted to invest it in the kind of community where he wished to live. So David, a member of our church, gave his fortune away.

Beginning in 2005, one of David's initiatives was to offer scholarships to Belfast Area High School seniors who had demonstrated interest in peace activism. He figured it was one small way that he could offset the educational funds that recruiters in the high school use to pitch military service. When David died of multiple myeloma in 2010, the Waldo County Peace Activist Award became part of his legacy. More than \$14,000 has been given to some dozen seniors.

After being nominated by UUCB members Cathy Mink and Charles Biebel, the Waldo County Peace Activist Award is slated to receive proceeds from our March shared plate. This is an opportunity to show young people that our community enthusiastically supports its commitments to waging peace.

Musical March Madness!

Aside from the winter holiday season, March is traditionally the busiest month for our church music

UUCB
Directories
for members
and friends

Have you picked up the 2014 church directory yet? If not, contact Maret in the office, and we'll all be on the same page.

program, and this March is even busier than usual.

It all begins with the Stewardship Kick-off Dinner, Sat., March 1, where there will be a fantastic FREE dinner, great music, and plenty of horrible puns!

Now a three-year tradition, the annual Multi-Choir Festival will take place in Bangor at their UU Church, at 5:30 pm, March 23; this year we are being joined by the Rockland UU Church, so there will be six church choirs participating. You won't want to miss this joyous musical event as the sixty-five plus choir sings two new anthems, and some very familiar hymns in four-part harmony.

The "Standing On the Side of Love" fundraiser extravaganza usually takes place on the Saturday closest to Valentine's Day, but this year it will be held on Saturday evening, March 29. Not only will your ears be thrilled by some of the great musical talent in our own church, but you will be delighted to hear some extraordinary guest musicians as well, and there will be "heavy" hors d'oeuvre to fill your bellies! A most enjoyable evening for all ages, and all proceeds go to support not only our music program but the greater church as well.

You may have noticed that a few of our church choir members are not singing with us this spring; they have found it necessary to take some time off to spend with their families without the commitment of Thursday evening rehearsals and Sunday morning musical offerings; we will miss them, of course, not only as fellow musicians, but as dear members of our church choir family.

However, you have probably also noticed that there are some new,

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*

young voices that have joined our choir, and we joyfully welcome them with open hearts.

Choir rehearsals are Thursday evenings, 7:00-8:45 PM, in the church sanctuary. We typically sing on the first and third Sundays of each month, but as Easter falls on April 20, the fourth Sunday this year, we will sing that fourth Sunday instead of the third.

With all this music in the air, spring cannot be far behind. Listen to your heart song!

Yours in harmony,
Lila Nation, Mus. Dir., 338-5002

Building Expansion and capital campaign information for Visiting Stewards, 2014

How does the possible future capital campaign affect my annual pledge this year?

ANSWER: It doesn't affect it at all.

Think of your pledge to our annual budget drive as similar to your ongoing household expenses, whereas a pledge to a capital campaign is more like a special project or occasion.

In your household budgeting you have routine expenses for essentials like food and electricity, as well as life enhancing personal needs, which might include things like

music lessons, traveling or perhaps a gym membership.

In contrast, a pledge to a capital campaign is something we might stretch for, as we would for a kitchen renovation, new garage or a very special vacation. It is something we could choose to dip into savings for, or even borrow money to bring about. It is celebrated as an out-of-the-ordinary opportunity that we are willing to go above and beyond to make happen. So as we continue our discernment about a possible building project and capital campaign, all of our Church's ongoing programs and operating needs continue to depend on your support.

Where is the congregation in its plans for a possible building expansion?

ANSWER: There are a number of decisions that the congregation needs to make before launching a capital campaign, including whether to do a building project and what that project should be. There will be congregational meetings and votes at each critical stage of the process.

We currently have some concept plans developed by our architects Barba + Wheelock (B+W) for our Miller Street building that meet three of the major priorities for our space needs: a larger sanctuary, a new entrance with a large lobby that will reduce the crush and cross traffic of Sunday morning fellowship both before and after the service, and new RE/meeting rooms, as well as additional bathrooms.

On March 16th, there will be the first in the series of congregational votes to decide whether we should continue to develop this project to expand our building. If the congregation decides to go forward, the

Space Needs Team will work with B+W to further refine these concepts into several options that represent different levels of capital commitment.

The congregation will then decide if they want to proceed to the next step of the project, working with our fundraising consultants (Peter and Susan of Full Harvest Fundraising) to conduct a feasibility study that will provide us with a real assessment of the congregation's excitement about the project and ability to pledge the funds to make it a reality.

If we stay on the current schedule,

this decision will likely occur in late spring or summer. With the right size project defined, we will vote again to proceed with the next phase, which will be to conduct the capital campaign; this decision will likely occur in early fall.

With a successful capital campaign completed (likely by the end of 2014), B+W will finalize the designs (early 2015), and the congregation will vote once more to move forward with construction (spring 2015)! It is a long journey, and while we must keep our destination clearly in front of us, we must also pay close attention to

where we are as we walk every step of the way to get there.

Individually, and as a congregation, we all need to move through the process of planning and deciding before we will be ready to make a commitment. It is important for each of us to be engaged in this process with an open mind, an open heart, and a willingness to offer input. The best outcome will be created by all of us working, thinking and dreaming together.

For more information please contact the Space Needs Team: *Sarah Nicholson, Roger Lee, Michael Bowe, Jan Anderson, Deane Perkins*