

VOL. 20, No. 7
JULY/AUGUST • 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.



The Peace Festival Committee. L to R - Rev. Joel Krueger, Dan Avener, Rev. Deane Perkins, Tom Duplessis, Susan Coe, Katia Ancona, Mandi Thomas, Patty Heath and Dana Williams. (photo: Dan Avener)

First Annual Belfast Peace Festival

Who would have thought that so many people and groups would want to volunteer to participate, organize, support and help in our Belfast Peace Festival this September 5-6? But that is exactly what is happening.

When our organizing team (see photo) first met some months ago, we didn't have any kind of budget. We still don't. We eventually decided that everything we did (except for meals provided by the three churches where activities will take place) would be for free, and therefore all groups and speakers

would be participating without receiving any funds. It was a philosophical/theological decision actually. And we had no idea how this would go over.

When we started putting the word out about the Peace Festival, people became very excited and enthused. One of Mandi's friends, Eric, who works at WERU, immediately volunteered his time, his equipment, and his tents so that we could start the Festival off with a celebratory dance on Friday night. Musicians and speakers for Saturday afternoon and evening

soon followed suit. And no one cared about financial compensation. It's clear that they are all doing this because of the love of their art and their work, and to support the efforts that we all know are needed to foster peace in a world fraught with violence.

We'll have meditation, a peace breakfast, a labyrinth, and a peace walk on Saturday morning. We're also hoping to have a signing by the City Mayor of a resolution that Belfast become a Compassionate City (see Deane's article in this Newsletter). Throughout the day there will be children's activities so as to engage families in peace

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 6 “Poems That Touch The Soul”

coordinated by Kathy Muzzy

It's Poetry Sunday. There might be some original poetry or personal favorites that depends on you. Please bring the poems that “touch your soul” to share with the congregation there will also be poems selected by the lay leader. Come and listen to the variety brought before us.

JULY 13 “Freedom: It's Not Always a Positive Thing”

by Rick Davis

We all like being able to do what we want. But sometimes unrestrained freedom goes awry. And circumstances limit many of us from exercising our freedom. We will explore these issues and what they mean for Unitarian Universalism.

JULY 20 “UU Hit Parade of Hymns: We Pick ‘Em, We Sing ‘Em!”

by Frets Halligan

We UUs sure like to sing. Today we will come together in song with your favorites. If you haven't already, please send requests to Frets soon to express your desire for a particular song to be sung — looseuke@gmail.com

JULY 27 — “Who Is My Co-Pilot?”

by Lane Fisher

Moving from one profession that allows her to work with her heart wide open to another that will demand it, Lane will reflect on training dogs as an unlikely path to ministry. She is beginning her second-year as an M.Div. candidate at Starr King School for the Ministry.

AUGUST 3 — “Safe Passage in Guatemala”

by the YRUU

The group of 16 teens and 6 adults going to Safe Passage in Guatemala will conduct the service this morning, expressing through words, pictures, and song what their experience was like, what it meant to them, and how meaningful it was to be with the Mayan children of the Guatemala City dump.

AUGUST 10

Rev. Deane Perkins will speak

AUGUST 17 — “General Assembly Revisited”

by 2014 GA Attendees

Members of our congregation who went to GA in June will present highlights and their experiences. Come sing your favorite hymns and hear from our youth and adults who participated in this exciting event together as one of the largest contingencies from a single congregation.

AUGUST 24

Rev. Deane Perkins will speak

AUGUST 31 — “Preparing for Peace: The Wisdom of the Non-violent Radical, visions for personal growth and social action.”

by Duncan Newcomer

Imagine a religious prophet preaching non-violence in the heart of an empire where a tiny percentage of people control the majority of the lives and most of the wealth of the known world. Imagine learning the wisdom of this preacher through images of sculpture as well as words. Join Rev. Dr. Duncan Newcomer with the visiting Rev. Dr. Charles McCollough, author of “The Art of The Parables,” talking about and showing his new book, “The Non-Violent Radical: seeing and living the Wisdom of Jesus.”

work. So please keep the dates open for the Peace Festival. We'll soon have a brochure describing all the events so you can help spread the word.

Our experience as the organizing

team is that volunteerism remains a vital element of our community.

Volunteerism is essential in helping to bring peace to our world. Just ask our kids going to Safe Passage in Guatemala.

Life of the Church

Chris LeGore, President, Church Council

“You have church in the SUMMER?!” is an exclamation that many of us have heard from UU

UUCB WebSite Refresh Project

Yay! Three Cheers!

You have wished for it, dreamed of it, begged for it.

Finally it's here.

We are totally redesigning UUCB's Web Site.

**Your group/committee/team's input will be important
in creating an engaging and useful site.**

In the next month we will be "hunting and gathering" fresh and updated content and photographs. Someone will contact your team's leader and ask for material by July 20. The Communications team will work with your team to edit, polish and finalize your section.

Brought to you by your own UUCB Church Council

friends beyond Belfast. "Yes!" we answer, with gratitude for a dedicated Worship Services Committee that works hard to plan a feast of thoughtful and inspiring services

each summer.

And, although Reverend Deane will be gone for the month of July (part of that time he will be with our teens at Safe Passages in

Guatemala), he will be back full-time starting August 1st: giving the homily some weeks, meeting with individuals and committees, and planning for the Peace Festival in early September.

Hopefully every one of our members and friends will take time to enjoy the beautiful days of summer, spending time outdoors with family and friends. If you have an unscheduled Sunday morning, know that the church doors will be open, with a promise of inspiration, reflection and good friends. Last summer I attended a number of summer services and was surprised to discover how good it always felt to worship with friends and stay connected with our church community.

If you have time for church activities beyond Sundays, we will need dozens of helpers for the annual yard sale in August. The Peace Festival team will be looking for volunteers, and most of our standing committees will be meeting at least once or twice to begin planning for the fall. Are you thinking

WHO'S WHO AND 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

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

Tera Kennedy 342-5470

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

Margie Shannon 218-4033

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

about possibly joining a committee? Now might be the time to dip your toe in the water!

Please “stay tuned” to the UU email bulletin boards and stay connected to this incredibly vital and vibrant church.

Do we have church in the summer? You bet we do!

The World of UU

by Rick Davis

As many of you know, I was recently elected to a three-year term on the Board of the Northern New England District (NNED). However I recognize that some of you may have no idea what that is or why you should care.

Over the next three years, I hope to bring information of use to our church from NNED and bring information from UUCB that is of use to the NNED board. As one major way of communicating to the UUCB congregation, I’ll be writing occasional articles for the newsletter. Please feel free to ask me about anything I have written or to simply approach me with any questions you might have about the District or the UUA.

I began my term as UUCB Co-Chair in July 2011, just a month before Rev. Deane Perkins began his work as our first full-time settled minister. It was an exciting time and an amazing amount of change has occurred during those three years. Well, I’m once again taking office at the beginning of big changes.

The roughly 1,000 UU congregations in the U.S. are grouped into 19 Districts. Our own NNED was the result of a merger just a few years back between a District serving Maine and a District that

Minister’s Report

When I was in Louisville, Kentucky, last summer for General Assembly, I learned that it was in that city that Thomas Merton, the Trappist monk and scholar, had a significant epiphany. He was standing in the midst of the city’s major shopping area when he came to the realization that all the people around him were not strangers, but, rather, were connected. He wrote in his diary that day in 1958: *“They were mine and I was theirs. We are already one. But we imagine that we are not. What we have to recover is our original unity.”* (From Mayor Fischer’s Inaugural Address, 2011, Louisville, KY)

When we truly see our unity and the “interconnected web of existence,” peace-making through nonviolent means becomes a major value and principle. Louisville, KY seems to have taken this quite seriously, because it is the largest city in the United States to be named a Compassionate City. It is currently working on a 10-year program to become a more compassionate city. If you google “Compassionate Cities” you will learn more about the Charter of Compassion and this world-wide movement.

The Belfast Peace Festival Team and the Belfast Ministerium are hoping to present to the Belfast City Council a resolution asking that we, as a city, sign the Charter of Compassion and become a Compassionate City. It is an exciting prospect that fosters our UU principles and church mission. It is exciting as well in that Belfast, Northern Ireland, is also on the list to become a Compassionate City.

I hope we all support this effort as Belfast considers becoming a City of Compassion.

Fondly, *Deane*

encompassed Vermont and New Hampshire. These Districts are semi-autonomous units of the larger Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), which in turn provides some funding for staff in each District.

Over the last few years, it has become generally recognized that this structure is unwieldy, fragmented, and inefficient. So the Districts are being reorganized into five Regions. The New England Region will encompass four Districts, including NNED. It will cover all of New England except for a small area of southwest Connecticut, which is to be part of the Region that includes New York. The New

England Region will begin official operations on July 1, 2014 with the other three Districts; NNED will join the Region on July 1, 2015. A major part of my role as an NNED Board member will be to help the district design new roles and relationships with the 71 congregations that operate within its boundaries.

The umbrella organization for the UU movement in the United States is the UUA. It should be pointed out that the UUA is OUR UUA – is an association of congregations like ours. Those congregations come together each year in a General Assembly (GA) to make decisions for the UU movement in the U.S. This year’s GA is in Providence,

ANNUAL CHURCH YARD SALE

Fri./Sat-August 22/23

**Storage available
before sale.**

FMI:

Jane Dopheide (338-1730)

Judith Grace (338-4408)

on which we will begin working as soon as we reconvene, so please do give some serious thought about joining us this coming year.

At the Sunday service, June 15, I announced to the congregation that this coming year would be my last as church Music Director.

Sometime during the year, a search committee will be formed. I just know that there will be some excellent applicants, and WE will know when it's

the one who makes our hearts sing!

Have a blessed and music-filled summer!

Lila Nation, Mus. Dir.
338-5002

Gratitude

Pam and Don have given permission for this letter to be published in the Newsletter so that their gratitude can reach more people.

Please continue to keep them in your hearts as they move forward in the healing process.

Jane Dopheide.
5/28/14

Dear UU Friends,
Our heartfelt thanks to you for all that you did for us during Don's cancer treatment ordeal.

Regardless that we have not been active members for a while, you heard of our situation and reached out to us, in a very big way. On that brisk November Saturday, you descended on our farm, hearty, energetic, and vigorously applied

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

yourselves to a myriad of difficult and strenuous indoor and outdoor tasks to prepare us for winter. We finally paused for lunch – a huge spread of homemade soups, casseroles, breads and desserts, sent along by still other church members. Afterwards, incredibly, you launched yourselves back to work, in spite of the increasingly raw weather conditions. We never could have completed all the tasks that you did.

But you were not done yet. Many of you actively participated in and attended the benefit dinner for us in Palermo. We received calls from Deane, and were so surprised and grateful to receive a gift from the discretionary fund. Individuals also reached out to us and provided meals and rides. Finally, one of the treasured UU shawls was personally delivered to Don. It meant so much to him and he wore it daily for weeks. We want you to know how your thoughtfulness and gifts of your time, skills, resources and caring moved and comforted us, and above all helped us during that scary and very difficult time.

Thank you,
Don Barrett, Pam Page, Aedan and Katherine

Rhode Island, and UUCB will be well represented there. We can accomplish a lot more by joining together with the other 1,000 congregations in the U.S. than we can alone.

My goal as an NNED Board member will be to bring you the information you need to help the NNED – and the UUA – be as responsive and as strong as they can possibly be. Stay tuned!

The Music Never Ends!

Even though the regular church year is over at the end of June, there will still be beautiful music at church throughout the summer with Frets Halligan or Karen Nelson playing hymns, and, possibly, even some special music as well.

The UU Choir does not rehearse during July and August, but will resume its regular schedule of Thursday evenings, 7:00-9:00 PM, beginning September 4. There are some gorgeous, new choral works

Hannaford Gift Cards FAQ

What is a Hannaford Gift Card?

The Hannaford Gift Card is a pre-paid card that is similar to a gift certificate and can be used to purchase merchandise at any Hannaford Supermarket.

How do I use the Hannaford Gift Card?

The Hannaford Gift Card is simple to use. Upon swiping at the register, it deducts the order amount from the card. You can use it to purchase merchandise at any Hannaford Supermarket in NH, VT, MA, NY and ME.

How do I find out the balance on my Hannaford Gift Card?

At the register and on your receipt, or check online at www.hannaford.com. On the home page, look for the Services section in the

lower left-hand corner. Click on Gift Cards, there you can check on the balance on your card.

Should I throw away my Hannaford card?

No. RECYCLE them at the Hannaford checkout counter, just ask them to recycle the card for you.

Does the Hannaford Gift Card ever expire?

No. However, when a card is not used within two years, the card will become inactive. If you have a card with a balance that has not been used for more than two years, we can request a replacement for you.

Are there any restrictions on what I can purchase with my Hannaford Gift Card?

No. In fact you can also purchase prescriptions with it. However, it

cannot be used to purchase Money Orders, Money Transfer Services, pay Utility Bills or pay for Returned Checks.

Can I receive cash back on funds I have placed in my Hannaford Gift Card?

No. Hannaford Gift Cards may be redeemed for merchandise only.

I lost my Hannaford Gift Card.***Can you cancel or replace it?***

Perhaps. If it hasn't already been cashed in, Hannaford can cancel it and issue a new one.

Lockbox

The combination to the outside lockbox at church will be changed around July 1. Please contact Maret in the office if you need access to the church.