

# NUU NEWSLETTER

BELFAST

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THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF THE UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH OF BELFAST  
37 MILLER ST. • PO BOX 452 • BELFAST, MAINE 04915 • (207) 338-4482 • UUBELFAST.ORG

**VOL. 20, No. 11**  
**DECEMBER • 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.*

## Shared Plate Celebrates its First Anniversary

By Chris LeGore

October 1st marked the end of one full year of our Shared Plate experiment. And what a year it has been! During those 12 months UUCB members and friends opened their hearts and wallets to donate \$6,316 to 11 worthy organizations. During that same period, the church's share totaled \$5,650.63, which is only \$400 less than what we had collected for the church in the previous year's offerings. I doubt that anyone would call this anything less than a resounding success!

Organizations that benefited include: The Restorative Justice Project (RJP) \$698, People for People \$696, UUSC Hurricane Hai'an \$682, Interfaith Fuel Fund \$706, Game Loft \$468, Peace Scholarship \$510, Food Cupboard \$583, New Hope for Women \$570, Coastal Mountains Land Trust \$459, Hospitality House (homeless

*Morten Moesswilde and his mother, conversing in German with Florian, an exchange student living with Marty Daniels.*



shelter) \$550, and Safe Passage \$394.

Among the thank-you notes we have received, the note from RJP was particularly poignant: "What good mission work to give birth to a great cause, then nurture it through talent and treasure. A community of compassion focused on a cause ensures sustainability. This work of restorative justice has legs thanks to you."

Recipients for October through June are: Belfast Soup Kitchen, Window Dressers, Interfaith Fuel Fund, BCOPE, Game Loft, RJP, Food Cupboard, New Hope for Women, and Belfast Family Planning.

Longfellow said "Give what you have. To someone, it may be better than you dare to think." How wonderful it is to imagine the good work that we are supporting.

## Life of the Church

*Marty Daniels*, President-Elect On Sunday, Nov. 2, Waldo County got walloped by the first serious snowstorm of the season. Who could have imagined that we would have so much snow so early?

The decision was made to hold Sunday worship anyway, but to encourage people to stay home if

they were at all concerned about the state of the roads. Rev. Deane made the decision to modify the service, saving the one he had prepared for when there would be more people, and Lila decided to save the anthem the choir had been working on for a later date as well.

Surprisingly, some 30 people showed up anyway. We lit the

chalice and Deane welcomed those who had come. We read the affirmation together, and the choir sang "There is More Love" with Patty Heath belting out the solo at the beginning.

And then something magical happened. Deane invited those who were there to pick their favorite hymn and explain why. The

explanations were so moving and the chosen hymns such a reflection of the spirituality of those who were present that many people were brought to tears.

A few of the choices were "Finlandia," "Tis a Gift to be Simple," "How Can I Keep from Singing?" and "Amazing Grace." The explanations included childhood memories; the beloved music of people who have passed on; and moments of epiphany or transcendence. And of course we sang them all.

It was a lovely service, powerful and meaningful. It reminded me why I love our church community, why it is that I have continued to come for twenty years. The storm was a blessing, a chance for us to slow down and remember what matters most: faith, fellowship, and love.

Blessed be.

### Congregational Life

Following are Congregational Life's "funtivities" for the month of December and beyond:

- Saturday, Dec. 6th at 9:00 AM - holiday wreath making in the Hospitality Room. Bring your own wire wreath base - we'll provide the greenery and the wire for attaching the greenery. You should also bring any decorations you would like to put on your wreath. You might choose a certain theme: seashells and sea glass; rose hips and pine cones; very small terra cotta pots and small garden "tools." The possibilities are endless!! You can also bring a styrofoam wreath base and several bags of cranberries and toothpicks. This makes a very lovely wreath which is also BIRD friendly! FMI Cheryl Richardson 342-4649 or 213-7334

### 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!

**NOV. 30**

**Powerful Pacifism**

*Jessica Falconer*

Is it possible for acts of pacifism to transform the world? Can hate truly become love? The answers to these questions may emerge in surprising places - such as the ways in which a black American Civil Rights leader transformed the Ku Klux Klan. Can we follow his lead?

**DEC. 7**

**Exploring the historical and ethical challenges of the Israel/Palestine conflict**

*Dr. Alice Rothchild*

Dr. Rothchild will speak of her journey as a Jewish American growing up with a particular narrative and then exploring the narrative of the "other". Frequently at odds with the mainstream Jewish community and the decisions of the Israeli government, she continues to speak from a place grounded in Jewish values and traditions of debate and reflection, concern for social justice and the oppressed, and the impact on her own community. Her focus on the personal narrative incorporates facts on the ground as gathered from her participation in numerous health and human rights delegations for over 10 years in an effort to find a viable long term solution to this complex conflict..

**DEC. 14**

**Deane Perkins**

**DEC. 21**

**Holiday Treats and Lore (Multi-gen)**

*Andrea Butler and Susan Coe*

In lieu of a pageant this year, we will explore the reverence we share for holiday food and other traditions with story and music through our lives.

**DEC. 24**

**Christmas Eve 7:00 PM**

**Deane Perkins**

**DEC. 28**

**What is Worship Arts**

*Susan Coe and the Worship Arts Committee*

Recently renamed the Worship Arts Committee, what does that mean to our Sunday services and the many ways we celebrate spirituality, compassion and faith as a congregation? As we explore the many ways we express ourselves through the arts, our communication may take many forms. What will be your favorites?

**JAN. 4**

**Deane Perkins**

- Wednesday, Dec. 17 at 5:00 PM - holiday cookie making. We'll provide the dough and decorations. But, if you want something special on your cookies or have your

favorite holiday cookie cutter(s), please bring those with you! FMI Jen Wendell 441-6316

- We hope to sing carols in Belfast again this year. As soon as we set a

date, we'll post it on UUBB and our new website.

- After the first of the year, we will be planning some full moon walks and sledding. And a multi-gen surprise!!
- February: "Souper" Bowl Sunday, February 1st. This will happen after the service. Bring your favorite soup and join everyone in the sanctuary for a Pre-Super Bowl party. We will also be celebrating UUCB's 21st Birthday.

Do you have any photos from over the years? We want to display photos of our amazing 21 years. Please any photos in the kitchen on the island. Thank you!

This event will also be billed as "Soup for All" in that we'll be collecting donations for the Belfast Soup Kitchen. More to follow. FMI  
 Cheryl Richardson  
 Cheryl Richardson  
 207.342.4649 Home  
 207.213.7334 New Cell#

**Proxy voting form now available**

The congregation approved the following by-law on October 26th:

SECTION 4.6. Proxy Voting For any congregational meeting other than calling a minister, a total of no more than 5% of the membership may be granted permission to vote by proxy. Permission shall be granted only to persons who, for reason(s) of ongoing personal health concerns and/or disability, are unable to attend a congregation-

al meeting in person.

Persons requesting permission to vote by proxy must submit a form authored by the Church Council. Forms should be submitted at least one week in advance of the meeting for which proxy voting is requested and must include the name of the person (proxy) who is given the authority to vote on behalf of the absent member (principal), with the understanding that the proxy will be made aware of the principal's concerns and beliefs

**"Beyond Resolutions" Workshop in January**

Adult Life Span will be offering a one-day workshop, "Beyond Resolutions: Visions, Dreams & Intentions," on Saturday, January 3 from 1 to 4. The New Year gives us the opportunity to review our visions and dreams and to make clear intentions for acting upon them. How can we move beyond making resolutions to living them? Through activities, discussion, & reflection, this workshop will help you move forward. The class is open to anyone, but class size is limited to 14. If you are interested in registering, contact Linda Buckmaster at [lsbuck1@gmail.com](mailto:lsbuck1@gmail.com).

related to the issue at hand. A member can serve as proxy to one principal, only.

The Proxy Voting Form is now available from Maret in the church office (and will be available on the church web-site soon).

**WHO'S WHO AND WHO TO CALL**

**Minister**

Rev. Deane Perkins 338-4482  
[minister@uubelfast.org](mailto:minister@uubelfast.org)

**Administrative Assistant**

Maret Knight 338-4482  
 Email: [office@uubelfast.org](mailto:office@uubelfast.org)  
 office hrs: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-12:30

**Church Council**

Chris LeGore 589-4421  
 Marty Daniels 338-0129

**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**

Jennifer Kirchoff 975-1913

**Newsletter**

Douglas M. Coffin 567-3707

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## Minister's Report

FRIENDS:

I thoroughly enjoyed watching some of our young people from church—and many, many other children from the Belfast area—in the high school production of “The Wizard of Oz” a couple of weeks ago. They all did a wonderful job, and it was a lot of fun.

There are numerous themes throughout the play, but it clearly ends with Dorothy expressing her love and gratitude for her life, family and friends.

The “Love Feast” service that we had at church where three families shared a food that had a great deal of significance for them as a family tradition was also an expression of gratitude—for food, for family, for the love they shared with others.

Later that day there was a “Season of Gratitude” potluck dinner for the community coordinated by the

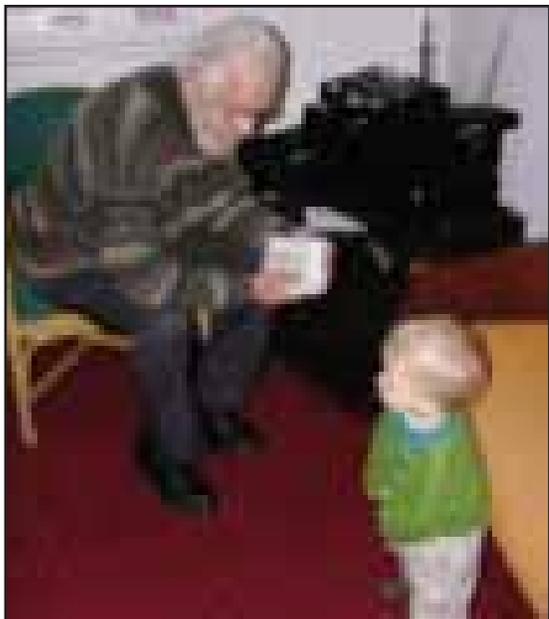
local ministerium. Perhaps 50-60 people attended, sharing food that they had prepared and talking with others about what it was for which they felt grateful during this holiday season.

It was during the potluck dinner that we were reminded that it was Abraham Lincoln who declared a Day of Thanksgiving in 1863, hoping that even in the midst of a great conflict like the Civil War, there could be a season of gratitude and a way for reconciliation.

I think of gratitude as a spiritual practice—it's good anywhere, anytime. And it comes from who we are in the center of our very being.

I am grateful to you for sharing with me the beautiful and loving community that is ours.

Fondly, *Deane*



*Left: in 2004, Wylie Fowler was getting information from Rudy about the sound system.*

*Right: Wylie, taken last month, preparing to run the sound system as one of our sound technicians. He was just under 2 in the first picture and is 11 now., and very talented.*

### Sound interest passes on!

Wylie Fowler the son of Jasmine and Rob Fowler has been intrigued by our sound system since he could walk. When almost two years old, he would gravitate to the sound corner and watch Rudi as he

tweaked the dials on the amplifier. As the years went by, Wylie continued to ask questions about the equipment and when we gave up our old amplifier, Wylie asked if he could have it. We decided, since it was broken, it would be fine for him to take it but we did not give

him the power cord. Some time later, Jasmine asked if we still had the power cord. Wylie had repaired the machine and was able to make it work with 9 volt batteries.

Jasmine said she was spending a fortune on batteries. Fortunately Dean Anderson had taken a lot of the old equipment and stored it in a box. He was able to supply a very happy Wylie and Jasmine with the power cord.

During the past few years, Wylie has spent time with the sound technicians watching and questioning how the equipment

is used during the service. One of our technicians is going to be away most of the winter and so we had to find a replacement. Wylie volunteered and he will start his new job on Sunday November 9.

We look forward to have Wylie on our team.

**FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD**

NEW! (sort of) to UUCB: Wanna' beat the winter doldrums, get to know some of your fellow UUCBers, enjoy a yummy meal and have fun all at the same time? SIGN UP FOR "FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD" (FORMERLY CAROUSEL DINNERS). Here's how it works:

- Sign up—name, phone number, email (*Sign up ends December 31, 2014.*)
- If you're willing to be an initial host, indicate that when signing up (pairing up with someone else is a fun way to host!)
- You are placed in a group of 5-8 people (size of groups will depend on the level of interest)
- The initial host contacts members of the assigned FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD group
- How to "do" meals will be a decision made by each group

(could be potluck, host provides, out to a restaurant, lunch, dinner, breakfast—whatever the group decides)

- The FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD group activities will kick-off either the weekend of January 23-25 or January 30-February 1
- Each group will gather to share a meal, exchange stories and have fun.
- Each group then decides when the next meal will be and who the host(s) will be.
- Repeat as many times as works for the group until April (every group will be different and there is no pressure to adhere to a schedule)
- All FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD groups join together at the culmination potluck dessert evening at UUCB on Saturday, April 25 from 7:00-9:00 PM.
- What will you gain?
- Recognition of names and faces

at UUCB

- New friends
- Good meals (some that you won't have to cook!)
- New recipes
- Maybe a few pounds!

What do you have to lose?

- Only a chance to be a part of a warm, welcoming, delicious and absolutely fun activity.

If this sounds like something that interests you and you want to participate, sign up through the month of December at church or contact Teresa Piper (207-505-0911 or tere-sapiper@gmail.com). If you have special considerations, please let Teresa know (cannot drive at night, need gluten-free meals, can only do Saturday nights, etc.) as it will help in coordinating FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD groups.

FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD groups will begin in late January or early February.

**Winter Solstice Celebration Saturday, Dec. 13**

The hours of daylight become shorter each day at this time of year as the winter solstice on Dec. 21 approaches. UUCB's annual Winter Solstice Celebration on Saturday, Dec. 13 at 4:00 PM at the Blue Goose in Northport will mark the shortest day of the year and the gradual return of more daylight with a program of music, dance, and stories. (Snow date: Dec. 14.)

The celebration appeals to all ages. Festivities will include songs by the UUCB Choir, January Men, Andrea Boothby and friends, and Patty Heath; seasonal dances by the Sword Sisters, Highland Mary Morris dancers, and Shana Bloomstein; dancing and storytelling for children led by Chrissy Fowler;

**Feasibility**

PLEASE SAVE THE DATE AND COME!!! Feasibility Study consultants, Peter Heinrichs and Susan Lewis of Full Harvest Consulting, will be reporting their findings to the congregation on SUNDAY, DECEMBER 7TH at 11:30 a.m.

During the first week of November, Peter and Susan conducted 37 interviews that included almost 60 members and friends. Through a series of 17 questions, they invited people to share their thoughts on the church's effectiveness in meeting their and the community's expectations, their input on the proposed designs and their level of commitment to a possible capital

campaign.

On December 7th Peter and Susan will share their findings and offer their guidance and support as we consider our next steps in addressing our space needs. This is an informational meeting, only. There will be no voting at this time.

Please come, listen deeply and be sure to ask questions. Going forward, it is important for us to have a shared understanding of our congregation's space needs and our readiness to address them. Your presence and thoughtful participation will help ensure that our community will continue to work together to keep UUCB a vital spiritual home for us all.

poetry; caroling; a lively Mummers Play written by Sumner Roberts and performed by him and his Merry Band of Players; and other entertainment. The audience will feast on goodies and cider at the conclusion of the program.

Jennifer Kirchoff and Wendy Krueger are overseeing planning and organization of the Celebration, but they need volunteers to decorate the Blue Goose with fragrant greens, set up chairs, clean up after the event, provide baked goods and cider, and distribute posters in advance. Contact Jen at [jennyfurkirchoff@gmail.com](mailto:jennyfurkirchoff@gmail.com) or Wendy at [wkrueger70@gmail.com](mailto:wkrueger70@gmail.com) to help.

The Winter Solstice Celebration is a fundraiser for a local organization serving Waldo County residents in need. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and youth ages 6-18, and \$25 for a family; children under age 6, free. The Winter Solstice Celebration is a popular event and seating is limited, so the audience is encouraged to arrive early.



*Sumner Roberts and Bob Brown ham it up in the Mummers Play at a Winter Solstice Celebration.*