

VOL. 21, No. 1
JANUARY • 2015

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.

Feasibility Report

Sarah Nicholson

“Gratitude is a good place to start!” concluded Peter Heinrichs and Susan Lewis in their report out of the UUCB Feasibility Study (FS) they recently completed. Their presentation two weeks ago is another amazing milestone for our beloved congregation. That we have the capacity to conduct a capital campaign of at least \$600,000 is incredible, and sets us up for the possibility of a significant building project. Further, they agree we will need to have the architects go further with the design before we could launch a capital campaign to ensure we have congregation-wide excitement about the specific project we choose to launch.

Importantly, as an example of the broader value of conducting the Feasibility Study, they are recommending that the congregation spend ample time before we plan the launch of a capital campaign to reflect on what we have learned through the Space Needs process so far “to deepen the discovery of who you are and what you really want.

Along with this, they suggest we spend some time on gratitude: “Express gratitude and celebration for your congregation’s courage, imagination, time, money, vulnerability and willingness! You may even wish to set aside a way to acknowledge to each other what is being noticed.”

The FS report asks: “What would it be like to see this Space Needs experience as a successful experiment where everybody is just following an energy without knowing the outcome.” Over the last three years we have evaluated and discussed and dreamed and designed, and discussed it all some more. It has pushed us to think about who we are and what we want to be, what we give our community and each other, and what we hope to. We created a covenant to ensure we live in right relation with one another, and we crafted a mission statement to guide our ministries.

And now is the time to take a breath to think and talk some more about what is truly important to us, who we want to be, but also who we are. What are our biggest challenges but also, and more importantly, what are our greatest assets? This is our 20th anniversary year—what a fitting moment for this focus!

Based on our discussions with Peter and Susan and the findings of the FS, the Space Needs Team is recommending that we assume the possible capital campaign will be conducted in the fall, which gives the congregation time to celebrate and explore. There are already several events focused on this, including the congregational conversation that was held the week after the presentation, and a wonderful service planned for January 11 that will

bring together some of our beloved former ministers, along with Deane, to celebrate us! We want everyone to get in on the act, to play and dream and connect.

Not to lose momentum on the building project itself, we plan to move forward with our architects to begin the next phase of the design process.

Design is not a linear activity, and it is normal, to review our assumptions and priorities, and, knowing now the right size for our project, to hone our vision so we get the best possible project for our resources.

In January, we will be holding another congregational vote to request permission to proceed with the next phase of design with Barba + Wheelock. It will be another opportunity to decide what is the best approach for us and to move forward together. Watch for more details in the coming weeks!

January 11th is Anniversary Sunday!

Life of the Church

by Chris LeGore, president

On Sunday, January 11th we will celebrate our 20th Anniversary with Rev. Deane and special guests Jill Saxby, Pam Gross and Richard Snyder. We will also recognize UU Belfast congregants who were among the 48 founding members.

Jill Saxby was our first part-time minister, joining us just ten months after November, 1994, when our founders formally declared their intent to gather as a UU Congregation.

With her loving guidance, we strengthened our sense of community while building our church support structures. For 20 years Jill has remained a treasured friend.

Pam Gross was our first half-time minister, joining us in the summer of 2000 and guiding us through nine years of profound development and growth.

Pam faced the challenge of completing her seminary work while helping us navigate our early adolescence – no easy task! What a joy it was to sponsor Pam's ordination into the UU ministry 10 years after she first joined us. Her journey and ours are forever joined in love.

When Cassie Snyder joined our church in 2002 her husband, Rev. T. Richard Snyder, came to us, as well. A retired Presbyterian minister, Dick brought his lifelong commitment to justice with him.

As leader of the Social Action Committee, Dick and UU Belfast were key to the birth of the Restorative Justice Project of the MidCoast. Although the Snyders have since moved to Camden, Dick and Cassie are lifelong friends of UU Belfast, where Dick will always be a valued guest in our pulpit.

All three guests will be speaking on the 11th, sharing their stories of this church that we love. We hope that they will be able to join all us at a potluck luncheon immediately following the service.

Let us all – old friends and new – celebrate together!

January 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!

JAN 4

Rev. Deane Perkins

JAN 11

Celebrate!

As a way to acknowledge our 20th Anniversary as a church, past ministers of UUCB Jill Saxby and Pam Gross, along with our friend Dick Snyder, will join Deane in a worship service of celebration and gratitude.

JAN 18

The Duality of Faith: The Pagan

UU Legacy of Margot Adler

Gemma Scott

Born of Jewish heritage, raised in an atheist household, Margot Adler's spiritual path led her to great attainment as a Pagan Priestess and renowned Unitarian Universalist leader. Through a tribute to Adler's great life and work, this service will honor and explore some of the historical and contemporary ways in which our faith supports many traditions including women and earth-centered spirituality.

JAN 25

Jeffrey Mabee

Join me for an exploration of the spiritual practice of love in an age of pop culture.

FEB 1

Rising in Love

Lane Fisher

As part of a graduate course, Lane ran a survey last fall to learn what members have valued (or not) in their experiences as volunteers within our congregation. This Sunday she will go beyond results that she shared with our Church and Program councils to reflect on some implicit challenges to us as a congregation and individuals. Lane is a long-time member of this church and a second year M.Div. candidate at Starr King School for the Ministry.

Get ready! • Get Set! • Get creative! • Draw in 2015!

Spark your creativity in the new year by drawing one face a day, for 100 days. The drawing can be any style, any face, sketch or detailed, ink or color. All ages, all abilities invited to join in the fun.

At the end of 100 days, we will have an art show at church to present our favorite drawings, or biggest, or craziest, or funniest, or most colorful! Contact Cheryl Richardson at 342-4649 or acrini-

taly@yahoo.com of congregational life to sign up for reminders and inspirations for the 100 days.

For those who like to talk about their art, we will have a gathering mid-way to share and discuss our processes.

How creative will you be in 2015? Let this project help get you in the groove. (and a sketch book is a great gift!)

Adult Life Span

The elves on the Adult Life Span Committee have been preparing new (and re-cycled) programs for the Winter/Spring semester. More details for each will be provided later. If you have any questions or to register, contact the Program Facilitator directly.

Here's what we've cooked up:
 "The Spirituality of Silence."

Continuing: Tuesdays; 12:00–1:00.
 (Jan Anderson, jdanders@gmail .com)

"Beyond Resolutions: Visions, Dreams & Intentions." Saturday; January 3, 1:00–4:00. (Linda Buckmaster, lsbuck1@gmail.com)

"Where Do UU's Come From?" A two-part video series in collaboration with the Membership Committee. Saturdays; January 10 & 17, 10:00–12:00. (Ian Howard, iannhoward35@gmail.com)

"The Gnostic Gospels. Book Discussion about early Christianity." Tuesdays; March 3 – April 14, 6:30–8:30 PM. (Deane Perkins, deane.perkins@gmail.com)

"How Good People Make Tough Choices. The Dilemmas of Ethical Living." Late spring: dates and times to be announced. (Debbie Bailey, debbiebailly@gmail.com)

Fresh and Clean!!

The church entryway and hospitality room are looking fresh and clean thanks to our new building and grounds point person, Jan Anderson.

Jan has spent weeks cleaning and painting at church, brightening up our most used spaces. Thank you, Jan. Now it is up to US to keep it looking good, by NOT using tape on the walls, using just the bulletin boards for flyers and placing tables carefully against the walls in the hospitality room.

Maret
 (for the management team)

Congregational Life events for the next three months!

January 10, 2015: Winter Frolic Day! There will be sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, a bonfire, hot cocoa, snacks, and of course, marshmallows! The event will be held at Dean and Jan Anderson's home. They have a great

sledding hill and live next to the river where hearty souls can have an exciting snowshoe adventure. In addition, they are very close to the rail trail that is great for a fun cross-country ski jaunt. When you've had enough fun or need to warm up, there will be a blazing bonfire, snacks and hot cocoa (with or without marshmallows). Come

spend an afternoon in our beautiful Maine winter wonderland and have some family fun in the great outdoors.

Date: Saturday, January 10
 (inclement weather date: Saturday, January 17)

Time: 3:00 pm
 Place: 93 Kaler Rd. Belfast
 What to bring: sleds, snowshoes,

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

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

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Endowment Committee

Margie Shannon 218-4033

Greeters

Jennifer Kirchoff 975-1913

Newsletter

Douglas M. Coffin 567-3707

To change address, tel. no., email, newsletter status, or to subscribe to the UUBB or UUCC, email office@uubelfast.org

cross-country skis, warm clothes, headlamps (since it gets dark early) and smiles

February 1, 2015: "Souper" Bowl Sunday, after the service. Bring your favorite soup or chili, some bread or cornbread, 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 as UUCB (please leave any photos in the kitchen). AND prepare a toast for your favorite UUCB milestone or fond memory over the past 21 years!

March 7, 2015: "Call Back the Sun." As Daylight Saving Time begins, and the days are getting longer and longer, we'll get together

to celebrate the return of the "SUN!" More information to follow.

Check the Order of Worship and UU Website for more information throughout the first quarter of 2015!

Please see Jen Wendell, Teresa Piper, Chip Curry or Cheryl Richardson for more information! They are your Congregational Life Committee

Minister's Report

DEAR FRIENDS,

I was recently given a gift that consisted of a large mason jar and a note on it that said: "Starting on Jan. 1st, I challenge you (and your family) to write down something good that happened each day. (It doesn't have to be groundbreaking, just good.) At the following New Year's Eve, open the jar and rejoice over the awesome year you had."

I like it a lot. Simple. Thoughtful. Consistent with

Susan and Peter's advice to feel gratitude and celebrate (as individuals and as a faith community). And a form of spiritual discipline.

I know there has been some discussion among some of our members about family worship at home. A gratitude jar is a great start. And maybe a gratitude jar in the foyer of our church as well?

With gratitude and much fondness to you all,
Deane



Don't forget, R.E. relies on your Clynk Bag money for our allergen free snacks (which are COSTLY!) Remember to take a few home during the holiday season! Bags can be found in boxes marked CLYNK in the kitchen and in the hospitality room. Each are right next to a door.

Have YOU fed the Guest At Your Table?

This year, the UUSC did not give out boxes in an effort to save money, but we have envelopes if you need them and a Guest At Your Table box for the entire church will be downstairs for your spare pocket change. Your coins will help feed the bellies and lives of countless people.

Five new members were welcomed at our December 14th Welcome Sunday.

Joining our Unitarian Universalist Belfast Church are: Erda Grass, Jane Morgan, Betsy Reed, Joe Watts, and Janneke Zaadstra. After welcoming words by Reverend Deane Perkins and President Chris LeGore, our joiners were presented with certificates, chalice pins, a red rose and a UU Booklet. Their commitment to UU values and the congregants' acknowledgement of them to our midst is a strong bond. We hope they will find here friendship, warmth, love and concern and a place where they can live these values. A special cake made by Mandy Thomas was thoroughly enjoyed.

The Membership Committee wishes to thank Ian Howard for leading this interesting New-to-UU Class. The next series will begin in March. Membership Committee: Patty Heath, Teresa Piper and Marje Stickler, chair

WELCOME TO UU BELFAST:
BETSY REED ALONG WITH BOB OLSON
Majory Stickler

Meet Betsy Reed who comes to Belfast by way of

Enosburg Falls, Vermont. Growing up in that green state and part of a Methodist tradition, she says she feels now as if her family was "a UU one at heart." Her experiences encompass raising a family and that of school administrator in Woodstock, VT. The sixties were "an interesting time" to be there, she says knowingly. Volunteer work includes Habitat, the library, community meals and starting a thrift store.

Welcome to Main Street, Belfast, Betsy, where we know you will be nearer daughters and able to walk to UU Belfast!