

**VOL. 21, No. 4**  
**APRIL • 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.*

## Mid-Maine YoUUth Return to NOLA

By Deane Perkins

The Mid-Maine YoUUth, consisting of youth from Unitarian Universalist churches in the area, continue their efforts to “nurture the spirit, and help heal the world” through their annual service projects. Four years ago this program began when nine youth and three adult chaperones from the Bangor, Belfast, and Ellsworth churches went to New Orleans, Louisiana (NOLA) to help with the recovery program there. The youth then went to Mano-en-Mano in Maine a year later, and last July they went to Safe Passage in Guatemala. The program has a three-year cycle, where we engage in a national service project, then one that is local, and finally a project that is international. With the cycle complete, we return to New Orleans. It is startling to think that, after almost ten years from the time that Katrina decimated New Orleans, much work has yet to be done.



*Mid-Maine YoUUth, April, 2015*

**APRIL 12**  
[after the service]  
Congregational meeting  
and vote on whether to  
reengage the architects!

What is different this year, and is very exciting, is that the Rockland UU Church is participating in this program. So twelve youth and three adults will be going from four different churches—what our UU Association calls “multi-site programming.” The youth have been meeting at UU Belfast since September on a monthly basis as a way to get to connect and know one another better, and to prepare for the service project that will take place during school vacation in April. We have been watching the Spike Lee documentary, *When the Levees Broke*, have discussed is-

sues surrounding racism and injustice, and have learned more about the culture(s) of New Orleans. When we’re in New Orleans, we stay at the First UU Church of New Orleans (FUUNO), where there are three relatively large rooms full of bunk beds. This usually means that other UU churches throughout the country also participate during the week in the ongoing recovery program. So we’ll make new connections that way as well. After hard work during the day and dinner provided by FUUNO, we have worship that is created by our youth. We encourage the youth

to see this kind of service as a spiritual pilgrimage, so that worship, together with journaling and personal check-in, become significant aspects of our daily routine. When we return from NOLA, we will be going to all four churches to do a worship service during May based on our experiences.

Please wish our youth well as they do important work, both for others and for themselves. This is work that makes connections, and allows for transformation.

### Life of the Church

By *Chris LeGore*, President

Now that we've been sharing half of our non-pledge offerings for a year and a half, we can look back on a full year's worth of statistics and view an amazing result. For several years we received from \$5,000 to \$5,500 (annually) from our weekly offerings, without sharing our offering with anyone. We have relied on that revenue to pay our expenses in the same way that we have relied on revenue from fundraisers and pledges.

So when we started the spiritual practice of sharing our plate, we were a little nervous about the results. But with a full 12-month's worth of data at hand, I'm thrilled to announce that not only did we collect \$5,650 for our church, we also collected \$6,316 for a variety of worthy non-profits that are feeding the poor, protecting the environment and standing up for people's rights. What could be better?!

Halfway through our second cycle of sharing, results are not quite as exciting as our first year. Perhaps it is due to the stormy winter weather that has kept many folks at home. Perhaps the organizations

### April 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!

**April 5** **Easter – Partial Multigenerational Service**  
*Rev. Deane Perkins*

**April 12** **Rev. Deane Perkins**

**April 19** **Feeling at Home with Nature and Nature's God**  
*Rev. Rob McCall*

Rev. Rob McCall, formerly of Blue Hill Congregational Church, and author/host of Awanadjo Almanack will be presenting the UU Earth Day Service, sponsored by the Green Sanctuary Committee. His sermon will include selections from his books and Almanacks along with current thoughts.

**April 26** **Report from Selma**  
*Anne Ossana and Rev. Mark Worth*

Anna (DRE, Ellsworth) and Mark (former minister in Castine) traveled to Selma last month for the 50th Anniversary march. They bring their experience to us.

**May 3** **New Member Sunday**  
*Rev. Deane Perkins*

which members nominated and voted on are not as compelling as the previous year's. Despite a slight dip, however, the Church Council voted on March 18th to extend the Shared Plate Program for another year. What program could better address the outreach mission of UUCB?

April is the time when we ask members and friends to nominate new organizations for the next fiscal year (July 1st- June 30th). Is there a worthy cause that you'd like to support? Go to our church website [uubelfast.org](http://uubelfast.org), download the nomination form and place the completed form in the offering basket any time during the month of April. Nominations will close on April 30th followed by the opportunity to vote online during the month of May.

I believe that sharing our plate is a way to honor and live our principles. My thanks go to all who have contributed to Shared Plate through the weekly offering. You have extended our reach far beyond the walls of 37 Miller Street!

### Vote to reengage the architects!

Since the Feasibility Study report out in January, many in our congregation have been enthusiastically engaged in gratitude activities and forging connections. The Space Needs Team (SNT) has also provided opportunities to reflect on our building, now and in the future. We are also preparing the way to restart our planning process for the hoped-for building expansion project. To do this well, including

understanding and setting the congregation's priorities for the project, the SNT believes we need to reengage our architects, Barba + Wheelock, and so we invite you to the meeting and vote scheduled for April 12 (after the service).

We already have the money in hand that we need to do this! This is because several generous folks are willing to commit early to their planned capital campaign giving to fund this early part of the project. While moving forward with the

architects does not commit us to doing the capital campaign or the project (future votes will determine that), it is one more important step along the path!

It is essential to know that the congregation is in support of this effort before we move forward, and so we are holding this meeting and vote to give voice to the congregation's collective and individual perspectives. Please join us on April 12 for the congregational meeting and vote!

tion is complete and hung on the tree. By Earth Day, Sunday April 19, we hope the tree will be green!

We are sponsoring the service on April 19 in honor of Earth Day April 22. We have invited Rev. Rob McCall, creator of the "Awenadjo Almanac" on WERU, to give the sermon. He will be speaking about feeling at home with nature and nature's God.

An exciting array of events has been planned by a local group of volunteers for April 22-26. You can find a full schedule for "Earth Days Waldo County" at <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Earth-Days-Waldo-County/388426807948777>

The kick-off event will be a potluck dinner at our church on Wednesday, April 22 from 5:00 to 6:00 PM. A children's craft session will follow the dinner to allow adults to attend a speaker in the Abbott Room at the Belfast Free Library from 6:00-8:00 PM.

So... prepare to think green (sanctuary) and celebrate our precious and precarious Earth during April.

## April is Green Sanctuary Month!

The Program Council has chosen the Green Sanctuary Committee as the "committee of the month" for April and we think you're going to notice! Here are some of the ways:

We will be installing an exhibit of photos and other art work in the main hallway designed to show you why we believe in the work of Green Sanctuary. The exhibit will run the entire month of April.

We will be announcing details

soon about our first home grown UUCB eco-challenge. Some of you may remember that we joined a Northwest Earth Institute online eco-challenge for several years.

This time, we're doing it in-house.

We'll make a list of possible actions with their carbon offsets available for both children and adults. We will also install a "tree" in the sanctuary with paper leaves that can be filled out when your ac-

### 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**

Mandi Thomas 322-8123

**Membership Chair**

Marje Stickler 338-5059

**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

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

## Peace Advocacy

At a special meeting in early 2013, the Peace Advocacy Group, our Church Council, and Rev. Perkins sought church approval for UUCB to commit to becoming a Peace Advocacy Congregation.

In January, 2013 our church voted on and passed a Peace Statement of Conscience, the first step in the three year Peace Advocacy Congregation application process. During these three years our church has been performing peace activities in each of several areas:

- International Peace
- Personal, Domestic and Congregational Peace
- Peace Lobbying and Activism
- Military Personnel Support

A Peace Advocacy Committee (PAC) has been formed to guide the application process and it will assemble and submit the final application to the UUA in early 2016.

The PAC committee will be asking each church committee that has

## Adult RE - Ethical Decision-Making

A dynamic 4-week discussion group on how to resolve ethical dilemmas, in which core values appear to be in conflict, will be held Tuesday evenings, 6:30-8:00, April 21 through May 12 at our church. Using Rushworth Kidder's book *How Good People Make Tough Decisions* for background, starting with chapters 1-6, we'll also explore how to find the courage to act on our convictions. Contact facilitator Debbie Bailly to sign up. 338-4143

sponsored peacemaking activities in one of the above categories to write a short report on their efforts. We ask for supporting documentation, such as posters, press releases, etc., which will be submitted along with the application itself to UUA.

The PAC will provide a short electronic or paper form to each committee that can be used to describe your peacemaking efforts. You'll be hearing from us soon and thank you for your peacemaking work!

PAC committee members: Neva Allen, Marty Daniels, Paul Eagle and Deane Perkins.

## CongoLife

Wanna start something?  
Seeds, that is...

CongoLife is hosting a seed starting party on April 11, in the hospitality room, 9:00-noon! Let's relieve some of that cabin fever! We'll be bringing soil, containers, and some seeds. But, bring your own, if you like! For more info: Cheryl Richardson for CongoLife 207.342.4649 Home 207.213.7334 New Cell# a\_cinitaly@yahoo.com

## Multi-Choir Festival a Huge Success!

As you know, the 5th Annual Multi-Choir Festival was hosted by our church this year, but you probably don't know that it broke all records! Not only did five choirs participate this year, each singing three songs on their own, but the combined choirs totaled over eighty participants, and though the concert was free, donations were accepted to help the youth of the participating churches with their service trip to New Orleans in two weeks, and the donation amount was over \$650!

The music, as in past festivals, was varied and inspirational, with some humorous songs thrown in as well, but when all five choirs joined together, it bordered on the miraculous. Lila had the audience join with the mighty chorus to reprise the last verse and chorus of, "Life Calls Us On," just to make certain that the event got a standing ovation (She claims she was just kidding when she announced that!), but they deserved one anyway. The audience even requested an encore, so at the very end of the concert everyone joined together to sing, "Siyahamba" accompanied by African drums. What an amazing event all around.

## April is Food Cupboard \$\$\$ Donation Month

During the month of April, our shared plate will benefit the Ministerium Food Cupboard located at the Methodist Church on Mill Lane. In addition, **for a \$20 donation, you will receive the cookbook** created this year to benefit the Food Cupboard with over 300 recipes from area chefs, restaurants and you!!

Our church is an active contributor to the Food Cupboard—from board participation, to the donation of canned and packaged goods, or labor packing and distributing food to over 250 families in the area when our turn comes around half a dozen times a year.

***DID YOU KNOW IT COST \$2500 MONTH FOR THE FOOD THAT IS DISTRIBUTED??***

The cupboard pays the Good Shepherd Food Bank for its stock; donations are also received from local grocers.

So please donate generously either through the offertory plate during the service or with a \$20 donation for a cookbook at the Hannaford Card sales table during hospitality!

