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JUNE • 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.

Report from New Orleans

The service on May 17th was conducted in its entirety by Belfast, Ellsworth, Bangor and Rockland youth who traveled to New Orleans for a service trip during the April school break. They shared what they learned about the ravages of Hurricane Katrina and the injustices done to the residents of the Ninth Ward. I learned that we are blessed to have teens among us who are articulate, insightful, and wonderfully compassionate. Whether you attended or not, you cannot help being moved by these reflections from Emma Bowe, Max Howard and Avery Kreamer.

Chris LeGore

EMMA BOWE:

Fundraising people will often ask how we justify raising 20-40,000 dollars when we could just send that to Guatemala or New Orleans. I believe this is justified through human connection- often areas that are struggling don't have the people they need, and often money cannot void that hole. Being able to do service work also helps us young people find direction and fulfill this desire to help that we all have inherently. Often human connections and love are what people need most- we spoke with a woman who said that since big money always involves politics, and in the end, the people with the big money



These new members joined the church on May 3, 2015. Welcome them! From left to right: Chris Mitchell, Karen Wigglesworth, Dona Lounsbury, Megan Eckhardt and the Rev. Deane Perkins. (Missing from the picture is Rebecca Miller.)

don't help. The volunteers who come only to help, without an ulterior motive, that is what causes change.

New Orleans' past is rich and diverse but also painful and unjust. The issues of racism and classism in New Orleans have been pushed under the rug and ignored. In 1927, the city of New Orleans intentionally broke the levees flooding the areas St. Bernard's Parish and the Ninth Ward. In 2005, the city most likely made this choice again, flooding the predominately black Ninth ward, displacing thousands and leaving those who did not have money to rebuild; people were homeless, workless, without the area and people with whom they'd grown up.

When planning for this trip, someone asked me why the government or city didn't help to rebuild the Ninth Ward. The honest truth is that the Government of Louisiana and New Orleans do not look out for their most downtrodden citizens, those of the ninth ward. The institutional racism continues to oppress citizens and no one acknowledges it. On the plane home, I sat next to a lady from New Orleans who noticed we were on a service trip. She asked where we had been and I told her "here" "In New Orleans?" She asked, I replied yes and she simply said- OH, it was apparent she was not aware of the struggles still occurring in the Lower Ninth Ward. Through this encounter, I under-

Looking Ahead to Summer Worship

On July 12, Frets Halligan will host his annual UU Hit Parade of Hymns. If you have one you would like included, contact him at looseuke@gmail.com and put UUCB Hits in the subject line.

On July 19, when Jan Anderson describes her spiritual journey, there will be a congregational conversation immediately after the service.

At that time she hopes to engage our elders in a conversation about their lives and spiritual journeys, and perhaps ask how they would like to be remembered. The conversation will be followed by soup, pizza and pie potluck, and games for the children.

stood another reason I believe service trips are important, they build awareness, not only for us, but also citizens who choose or unintentionally ignore the injustices that many people still face. As Unitarian Universalists, I believe it is our call and duty to lift up those who cannot lift up themselves and spread knowledge and break down ignorance.

MAX HOWARD:

A plane ride, an hour long taxi ride through New York, a bus ride from New York to Boston, then one from Boston to Portland, and then finally a two hour car ride home at 2:00 am. This is how we ended the trip. The upside of this is that I had a lot of time to think and reflect on my

June 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!

JUNE 7

All Choir Sunday

Lila Nation and Rev. Deane Perkins (see related article)

JUNE 14

Rev. Deane Perkins

JUNE 21

A Testimonial Reflection

Rev. Duncan Newcomer and Rebecca Jessup

A testimonial reflection on the transformative experiences possible in “a thin place,” a spiritually receptive cultural and natural “zone.” New Harmony, Indiana, is such a place, and it was the site of Rebecca & Duncan's month-long writers' residency this spring. They will share the story of their spiritual and artistic transformation at New Harmony.

JUNE 28

How Do You Measure Your Life?

Mandi Thomoas

This service will be led by Worship Arts, who will host a flower communion during the service. Please bring a flower to share, as part of this tradition! Mandi Thomas will give the homily on “How Do You Measure Your Life?” There will be a musical performance by a small, vocal ensemble.

JULY 5

My Spiritual Journey Through Restorative Justice

Chris LeGore

Being a volunteer mentor for the Restorative Justice Program and a teacher at the Maine State Prison has challenged Chris LeGore to think deeply about what it means to be a member of the Unitarian Universalist faith and live by our seven Principles. She will share some of these challenges, what she has learned from them, and some of her hopes for UUCB's future justice work.

experience. The downside is that I was so tired I didn't remember most of it the next morning.

But I do remember thinking, as I watched the street lamps glide past, that I loved these people around me. Some I had barely known before the week had started. Like Mek, who went from being the quietest person I had ever met to the loudest. But in a good way. Some I had known before, but I only grew more connected to. Like Olivia,

who inspired me with her maturity and insight, or Luke who is so open and trusting. Some I have had as my idols and leaders, people I've looked up to in times of need, and my respect only grew for them after this experience. Like Deane, who has continued time and time again to guide our group through physical and spiritual obstacles. And then, some are just people I loved already and this experience has only brought me closer to them.

What I'm trying to say is that although this experience was for the people that we met in New Orleans, the people we helped and learned from, it was also for each other. It was for us to grow, as ourselves and together. For us to become the group we are before you now.

I love you guys.

AVERY KREAMER

(interviewed by Chris LeGore):

When asked to share his most powerful impression of New Orleans, Avery Kreamer answered "The community. It was such a strong feeling, and we were so welcomed at the UU Church where we stayed."

Avery and others were amazed at people's openness as our youth installed CFL bulbs throughout their homes. "It's different from up here," said Avery. People's trust in the youth, as they roamed freely through their homes was "stronger than any other trust that I've ever

Minister's Report

Dear Friends:

You will soon see a sign in the Wayside Pulpit (outside) that will read: "Black Lives Matter." In addition, the banner that we have that says: "Standing on the Side of Love" will soon be hanging on the left side (as you face the front doors) of the church.

With the racial unrest within our country, with the numerous deaths of blacks by police, and with the increasing awareness of institutional racism and classism, it was imperative that our congregation ask: "what can we do?" A number of ideas have been forthcoming. For example, it was thought that perhaps we could have a forum with the Sheriff's Office and the Police Department here in Belfast to find out what kinds of training our officers have and how they deal with prejudice and racism, both within their ranks and in the larger community.

During a Congregational Conversation at church a month ago it was

also clear that our schools need to engage in serious work to educate our young people about multi-culturalism, diversity, racism, and prejudice.

It is difficult to know how to respond adequately to the systematic dehumanization of minorities and people of color when those of us in our church community are predominantly white and middle-class. We have our own, personal work to do, and so ideas for classes, book groups (e.g. reading *Waking Up White*) and resources were suggested as well.

As UUs, as a beloved community, we need to stand in solidarity with all people who are disenfranchised, and together find ways to dismantle systematic oppression. Our two outdoor signs may be small, but they tell the larger community that we are willing to struggle with our neighbors to overcome fear and bigotry.

Fondly, *Deane*

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
Linda Buckmaster 338-1701

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 UUCG, email office@uubelfast.org

felt. People opened their doors and we just came in. They let us in without any fear – it was pretty powerful.”

When asked if he had any “aha!” moments, Avery shared that “lots of people up here don’t know how much NOLA people still need help. We saw tons of groups like our own helping out. We thought the Maine kids would be alone, but lots of people are still trying to help. I saw so many people with a passion to help – I was taken aback by how loving people can be.”

In describing the overarching mission of groups like ours, Avery replied: “it’s about showing the people of New Orleans that we will never stop giving. Even though they may have enough to survive, they’ll never have enough to be happy. It felt good to be part of a movement saying that we’ll never stop helping.”

Avery ended our interview by saying: “I may never have a chance to go back down, but I will always have the chance to tell people to do more.”

All-Choir Service and more!

This coming Sunday, June 7, will be an all-choir service you will not want to miss! The UU Belfast Choir has been working very hard to make this our best choir service ever with all thirty-two members participating. To mention just a few of our favorites, we will be singing “Over the Rainbow,” “Reach Out and Touch Somebody’s Hand,” “Al Shlosa,” “We Rise Again,” and the Bach’s “Air and Alleluia.”

As you probably know by now, Sunday, June 14, will be my last Sunday as Music Director, and on that day we will be introducing the inspirational “Let the River Run” which was presented at the final service at GA last year. For the postlude, and our final song, we will reprise “Why We Sing,” one of our all-time favorites.

As I come to the end of my twelve years as Music Director, I find that I cannot write this music news brief without trying to express what being at the head of the music program here has meant to me. I have grown musically, both in technical knowledge and appreciation for the wide range of music we have presented; I have learned humility and gratitude amongst the immense talent in our choir that I have been privileged to direct, and I have experience great spiritual joy on so many, many occasions as all that love came pouring out of the hearts of our choir members in song. No, my decision to retire was not an easy one to make, and, truthfully, I waffled a few times in the process, but other musical adventures await me. I am excited that this fall I will be starting a chorale at our local Senior College helping those who are losing their hearing and/or eye

The Purpose of Life

In a recent New York Times editorial, David Brooks began by writing, “Every reflective person sooner or later faces certain questions: What is the purpose of my life? How do I find a moral compass so I can tell right from wrong? What should I do day by day to feel fulfillment and deep joy?”

He goes on to say that 50 years ago, we might have consulted advisors, authority figures in the theological spectrum such as Reinhold Niebuhr, Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel and Harry Emerson Fosdick (who might UU’s have consulted?) In the “secular priesthood of intellectuals,” John Dewey, John Paul Sartre, and Hannah Arendt.

He contends, that today “intellectual prestige has drifted away from theologians, poets and philosophers and toward neuroscientists, economists, evolutionary biologists and big data analysts,” folks who are not in the business of offering wisdom on the ultimate questions.

He notes that “there are fewer places in public where people are

talking about the things that matter most. People in general are less articulate about the inner life.”

As a result, many feel lost or overwhelmed. They feel a hunger to live meaningfully, but they don’t know the right questions to ask, the right vocabulary to use, the right place to look or even if there are ultimate answers at all.”

If we accept David Brooks’ analysis of the society we live in, how might we Unitarian Universalists respond to this dearth of conversation? Do we know how to talk about the inner life? Do we know answers -- or even questions to ask?

We have made efforts to embrace a vocabulary of religion and spirituality. Do we have a personal relationship to that vocabulary? Does it mean anything to each of us?

If people are lost and hunger to live meaningfully, can UU’s provide the place and the time for the sustenance and sense of belonging that is at the heart of human behavior?

Just a few questions.

Jan Anderson

sight make music together, not to mention the many folks who have told me that they have never had the opportunity to sing in a choir and would love to do so; I plan to keep our folk trio, ALF, going strong, and then there is this persistent notion that I might actually get to sing in a choir one of these days. Please, be aware that I have volunteered to absent myself through this fall to aid the transition of your new Music Director, but I will still make myself available to be a substitute accompanist at church from time to time, and to play cello when asked. So in closing, thank you. Thank you for having given me this amazingly rich opportunity to grow in so many ways.

In thankfulness and love,
Lila

...the music never ends!

Welcome back to our Summer Friends! Please contact Maret in the office to get this year's church directory, info about the website or a copy of the annual report.

Mythology Camp at the UU

This summer our church will host and sponsor our very first week-long summer day camp! Open to the community, it will be geared toward two age groups: 6-7 and 8-10. The topic is mythology. Camp counselors, including YRUU members along with Jessica Falconer and Jane Morgan, will guide campers in activities that center around mythology, ranging from Greek and Roman

gods and goddesses to the modern mythology of Harry Potter. Why is mythology important? How does it fit in with our human quest for spirituality? How do we fit into mythology, and what makes each of us a special part of humanity?

Activities will range from scavenger hunts to crafts, from Quidditch to beach walks. Join us August 10-14 from 9am-1pm, with a Friday feast and performance for parents and guests Friday at 1pm. The cost is \$50 per camper. For more information or to register, please email summercamp@uubelfast.org, or visit www.uubelfast.org/summercamp.



Mythology Camp
At the Unitarian Universalist Church in Belfast

DATES: August 10-14
TIME: 9am-1pm
AGES: 6-7 and 8-10
COST: \$50

Why is mythology important? From Greek and Roman gods and goddesses to Harry Potter, we will learn about it all, through games, crafts, theatre, field trips, cooking and more.

Contact:
summercamp@uubelfast.org for more information, or visit www.uubelfast.org/summercamp to register

From Pegasus to Patronus, let your imagination fly!

Green Sanctuary Committee Earth Days

What's Next?

In April, the Green Sanctuary sponsored a month-long Earth Days event. Throughout the month, we sponsored events such as:

- Environmental commitment tree
- Guest speaker Rob McCall
- Pot Luck Dinner

We also promoted events such as:

- Free movie at the Colonial Theater (sponsored by the local Sierra Club)
- Green Fair held at the Boat House
- Earth Days Parade
- Seminar on "Degrowth" at the Belfast Library

We are proud to say that this was a success. Although this was a collaborative effort with other organi-

zations within the community, you, the UU, played an integral part in making this a success. We couldn't have done it without you!

But the spirit of Earth Days does not have to end. You can continue your commitment to preserving and saving our environment. We, the Green Sanctuary Committee, urge you to reflect on what you are currently doing and what we, the

human race, are doing to our home - Earth!

Continue to make a difference by being a part of the solution. Whether it is reducing your energy use, recycling, or educating yourself on local and global environmental issues; you can and will make a difference. Please visit the UUBC website under "Green Sanctuary" as you continue your journey to a greener lifestyle.

Thank you again for making the Earth Days event a success!!

The Green Sanctuary Committee

Elder Oral History Project getting started

The Adult Life Span has been talking for the past year about an Elder Oral History Project that would be a series of interviews with some of our church elders to hear and record parts of their life stories. We are aware that we have some very interesting and wise elders among us, and we would like to be able to preserve and share some of those stories with the rest of the congregation.

The Committee is willing to spearhead the project, but we can't take it on alone. We would like to pull together a Project Task Force

of folks who are willing to perhaps be interviewers, to help with logistics and our church-wide celebration in the fall, and/or work on the technology aspect. Our goal is do the first phase of four of these interviews by late fall. Even if you are not interested in doing the interviews yourself, you may want to help with this project in another way.

We are in the process of pulling together a first organizational meeting. If you are interested in participating in some capacity, get in touch with Linda Buckmaster (lsbuck1@gmail.com; 338-1701).

UUA PRINCIPLES

We gather together to affirm and promote:

1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual growth.
4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast
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