

UU NEWSLETTER

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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

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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.

UUCB Communications Survey Results

by Wendy Watkins

Thanks to all who responded to our recent communications survey. We wanted to measure use of our four primary communications media: UU News/UUBB, our website, the newsletter and UUCB's Facebook page and ask for suggestions. We discovered that all four have devoted followers and, interestingly, some were rarely or ever used by others.

UUNews/BB: You value these as our most effective communication tools. However, because of high volume, important information often gets lost. You requested more visual distinction between UUNews and UUBB messages, and the option for summaries.

Facebook: Although used by many, not everyone was aware of our Facebook page. Respondents suggested email links to new postings and coaching/training sessions.

Newsletter: The Newsletter is read by most people, most of the time. You want us to continue publishing it. It fosters deeper connections with the church and you like receiving it directly into your inbox once a month. Paper copies are valuable to visitors and those who do not use the internet.

Some thought the newsletter could be bi-monthly or quarterly, with enhanced technology, more color and photos. Readers would like to

see more in-depth spiritual articles, regular columns, words from our youth, newcomer profiles, information on how to get involved, quizzes/surveys, and committee articles and reports.

Web Site: Most visit the web site regularly/occasionally, but about 20% never use it. The site got high marks as a "brochure" for newcomers and seekers. Users considered it a good source of current happenings, scheduled services/speakers, and committee activities. Most design suggestions related to making the Home Page easier to navigate, with easier access to information.

What People Want/Need: Several overarching "themes" emerged. People seem hungry for deeper, thought-provoking material, spiritual reflections on current important life issues or events. More content

from church leadership internally and to the public were also noted.

People want more information about church activities, both upcoming (posters and articles) and past (reports with photographs from sponsoring groups or committees), and more committee news.

You want opportunities to explore thoughts, feelings and opinions through interactive dialogue. You suggested a member's chat area or blog, letters to the editor, surveys, pod casts and videos or an "Ask Your Officers" column.

And finally, respondents appreciated the opportunity to provide input on UUCB communications. Thank you again to members and friends who responded. We take your input seriously, and will continue to try to provide high quality communication services.

Life of the Church

By Marty Daniels

On June 14th, Lila Nation's last choir Sunday, it was announced that Karen Nelson, our accompanist since 2009, has been hired as our new Music Director!

Karen holds a Bachelor of Music degree in music education from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. She has over 15 years of experience in both choral and instrumental music instruction from kindergarten level through community college level. She spent a de-

cade in North Carolina where she taught music in schools and colleges; hosted classical music programs on public radio; and served as a church music director.

In addition to serving as our accompanist, she has also hosted WERU's Maine's Sunday Best since 2010.

In her interview with the music search committee, Karen shared that her mother made her take piano lessons as a child and made her practice, often against Karen's will. She joked that we owe her mother

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.

our thanks for instilling Karen's love of music into her. So, all you parents out there, keep up the good work! (By the way, Karen got even with her parents later on, in high school, by taking up percussion and bringing home things that make noise and practicing them!)

Karen has no plans for major changes as she steps into her new role. She feels honored to have watched the choir grow and improve over the last six years, and is committed to continuing that trend.

We warmly welcome Karen aboard!

Thanks for a successful 2015 Stewardship Annual Budget Drive!

We recently celebrated our church's twentieth anniversary, a true mile-

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!

During the month of July, members of our congregation will speak to their Spiritual Journey. Speakers are as follows:

July 5	Chris Legore
July 12	Frets Halligan
July 19	Jan Anderson
July 26	Patty Heath

August speakers:

August 2	Rev. Deane Perkins
August 9	Rev. Nancee Campbell
August 16	Rev. Deane Perkins
August 23	Rev. Sal Strosser
August 30	Bonnie VersbonCoeur

Throughout the summer, special music will be provided by musicians from our congregation and their guests. There is no RE or child care during the summer. The infant/toddler room is available for parents to be with their children and listen to the service.

stone in our dynamic history. Our community's members and friends, all of us, are truly the heart of our church, lending inspiration, initiative, imagination, and commitment to our daily, monthly, and yearly activities.

There exist both inner and outer manifestations of our work, with each component supporting the development of the other. For example, our minister Deane Perkins and our Services Committee work tirelessly, through word and deed, to create services that touch our hearts and souls. Our Fundraising Committee, with assistance from many volunteers, constructs events that support our church monetarily, while benefitting the outside community. Our Green Sanctuary Committee gently guides us in the attainment of green goals

in relation to the Gaia Principle, while engaging us a practical ways like the Window Dressers to help preserve the planet.

The Stewardship Annual Budget Drive (ABD) is another essential ongoing, cyclical event that enables us to operate the church. This year, 106 members and friends pledged or contributed a total of \$145,283. Pledges are the financial backbone that keeps the structures and systems of our church alive. For example, it is unlikely that we would be a strong congregation without the stability of a building to hold us. A full-time minister and key staff have helped us expand outreach to the youth of our church. Their recent presentation about the inner value of a recent service trip to New Orleans had many of us in tears.

In the early days, the ABD focused heavily on visits to members' homes, an integral part of growing our church. This year, we strived for a more streamlined approach, knowing that the time saved would free members and friends to focus on their other church interests. The Stewardship Committee is deeply grateful that our members pledged so generously this year, providing the support we all need to thrive in this wonder-filled community.

-- Linda Bowe & Scott Denman
for the Stewardship Committee

Reminder, there will be no RE or childcare available until Sept 13. The childcare room will be open during the summer but not staffed. If you use the room, you need to stay with your child.

Space Needs Team

By Sarah Nicholson

When the asking price of the Crosby School was lowered to approximately 1 million dollars, the Space Needs Team (SNT) assembled a team to investigate if the building could be a feasible, sustainable and viable option to consider as a home for the UUCB. Concurrently, at a meeting in April, the Congregation voted to reengage the architects to move our building project forward through the next phase of design in preparation for the congregation's consideration of a capital campaign in the fall. To accommodate the Crosby investigation, however, the Space Team was asked to minimize our expenditures with Barba + Wheelock until it was known whether Crosby was a "real" option.

With this direction, the SNT proceeded with a process to evaluate the priorities for the UUCB building expansion project. At the same time, the Crosby Team visited the school and explored existing

reports from previous organizations that had considered the property. They found that, on top of the purchase price, the building needed at least \$1 million in repairs and operating costs would likely exceed \$100,000 per year. Based on this information, the committee determined there was no possibility of UUCB purchasing the building on its own.

The Crosby Team then learned from Wayne Marshall, City Planner of Belfast, that two developers were currently interested in the School. The second phase of the work was to determine if we might work out a lease arrangement with one of them. The team met with a private developer from Waterville who envisioned market rate housing throughout the space. Early indications were the rent would be multiple times our current operating expenses. There were also concerns over permitted use within the space. Hopes were high, however, when they conferred with the non-profit developer, CEI (Coastal

WHO'S WHO AND WHO TO CALL

Minister Rev. Deane Perkins 338-4482 minister@uubelfast.org	Sunday Services Mandi Thomas 322-8123	Sound Coordinator Cary Bradford 338-8448
Administrative Assistant Maret Knight 338-4482 Email: office@uubelfast.org office hrs: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-12:30	Membership Chair Marje Stickler 338-5059	Hospitality Cheryl & Arthur Richardson 342-4649
Church Council Chris LeGore 589-4421 Marty Daniels 338-0129	Congregational Life Chip Curry 930-3590	Nominating Committee chair -
LifeSpan Education Susan Coe 691-5153 Linda Buckmaster 338-1701	Green Sanctuary Jasmine Fowler 342-3260 Corliss Davis 930-3562	Endowment Committee Margie Shannon 218-4033
Children's Religious Exploration Danielle Bannister 505-5383	Buddhist Sangha Judith Simpson 338-0579	Greeters Jennifer Kirchoff 975-1913
Music Lila Nation 338-5002	Caring Circle Patty Smith 338-5802	Communications Wendy Watkins 342-4246
Finances Roger Lee (treas) 338-6837	Safe Congregation Tera Kennedy 342-5470	Newsletter Douglas M. Coffin 567-3707
	Stewardship Committee Chair Scott Denman 342-4246	To change address, tel. no., email, newsletter status, or to subscribe to the UUBB or UUCB, email office@uubelfast.org. Website contributions: content@uubelfast.org
	LGBT Welcoming Congregation Patty Smith 338-5802	

Enterprises, Inc.), whose interest was to keep the theater space and provide affordable space to us and residential tenants. However, upon further scrutiny on their part, CEI decided to not pursue the project.

The result of the Crosby Team's work then is to acknowledge the Crosby School is not a suitable option for UUCB to consider. There were aspects of the project that sounded appealing – a large theater space we could rent to community groups, as well as existing classrooms and office space suitable for our other needs.

On the other hand, there were questionable aspects – the spiritual quality of the space, long term contractual rental implications, and whether we would have sufficient freedom for programming and fit-up of the interior and exterior of

the space. The team feels satisfied we have considered the possibilities of this option, and has recommended the Space Needs Task Force close any possible considerations of the Crosby School and instead continue to develop a 37 Miller Street expansion and renovation.

With this report from the Crosby Team the SNT is back focused entirely on the expansion of our own building. On June 6th, we had a workshop with Nancy and Cynthia (Barba + Wheelock) about project priorities that was attended by more than 30 people. It was a lively and fascinating discussion and will serve as the basis of our work going forward through the summer.

We considered coming back to the congregation for approval to move forward from here with the archi-

tecs, but when we reviewed the minutes from the April 2015 meeting, we felt confident that we have the support of the congregation and, given the time of year, decided it was not productive to try to pull everyone in one more time to vote again.

As ever, we are open to input from all of you, so please reach out if you have questions.

Our deep gratitude goes to the folks on the Crosby Team (Susan Coe, Linda Buckmaster, Chuck Piper, and Chip Curry) who rolled up their sleeves and jumped in deep to do the investigation, and to Beth Whitman who had the compelling vision that spurred us into action. It is a huge gift to know with confidence that it is not a viable option for us, regardless of how intriguing it appeared.

Greetings from Hospitality Central

Let me begin by thanking the over 50 UUCB members and Friends who have helped make Hospitality a success (even under some unexpected and somewhat trying circumstances) this past church year.

For the coming summer months we will be taking a bit of a respite. Hospitality will function on sort of a catch-as-catch-can basis. By that I mean that there will be no official signs-ups and I will not be dunning the congregation for weekly volunteers. Hospitality will happen if someone steps forward on any particular Sunday and does it. I will ensure that coffee, juices and small snacks are available. If someone wants to put these out and/or do the clean up then there will be Hospitality after services. Otherwise, Hospitality won't happen. I will most often be around to help and advise where needed.

As always please feel free to send your thoughts and comments to me. With affection and thanks, I remain,

cheerfully yours, Arthur
Arthur Richardson
207-342-4649 Home
207-213-7333 New Cell



Our Church Community thanks Lila Nation for her Service!!

On Sunday, June 14th, the congregation celebrated and thanked Lila Nation for her 12 years of service as UUCB Music Director. Under Lila's direction the choir has lifted the hearts of our congregation beyond measure. Our choir has a reputation as one of the best vocal groups in the mid-coast (if not the entire state!).

For the first time, and with Lila's leadership, UUCB hosted the UU Multi-Church Concert this past March. Dozens of choir members from four churches were thrilled to sing to their largest audience ever. What a joy it was to have to set up every chair in the building!

During the June 14th service Reverend Deane spoke of Lila's "awesome" leadership and talents. The church thanked Lila by presenting her with a rock-and-stainless-steel cat-tail-like garden sculpture of 7 stones on 7 stalks – matching our 7 UU principles.

After church we celebrated with carrot cake for all, and a video, compiled by Frets Halligan, of dozens of congregation members thanking Lila for her service. We all know that there is no way to thank Lila enough for her talent and dedication and, above all, for her passion.

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!

Listening to you: Results of the Stewardship ABD Survey

This spring we surveyed UUCB members and friends to learn our collective preferences regarding the Annual Budget Drive. Eighty (80) responses meant that more than half of our members took the time to share their views. The most encouraging finding is that our campaign this year aligned well with the preferences of most members

and friends.

For example, a major change in the 2015 ABD was the option of having a home visit from a Visiting Steward. Slightly more than 73% of the respondents said they either liked having the option or preferred to simply complete and return the pledge card themselves. Moreover, this year we decided not to invest the significant time and resources necessary to organize a Steward-

ship Kick-Off Dinner. A clear majority agreed that while the gala was fun, it did not have a direct relationship to pledging and therefore we should invest our resources otherwise. Another change instituted in 2015 was to have only 4 testimonials (and during the ABD itself instead of prior to the kick-off). This matched well with 65% of those completing the survey, who said they preferred 4 to 6 testimonials.

Generally, a majority of the survey results were supportive of the methods used to communicate with the membership about the ABD, including the mailed request packet, E-Notes, and pulpit and Order of Worship announcements.

We've posted the results of the Stewardship survey on the UUCB website. Take a moment to look over the quantitative survey results as well as the wealth of thoughtful

comments (all 131 of them!). We think you'll find them engaging and useful – as we did – and stimulus for more thought on how we can continue to improve the ABD and the overall stewardship focus of the UUCB.

Thank you for your participation in the survey and the Annual Budget Drive!

-- *Linda Bowe & Scott Denman*
for the Stewardship Committee

UUCB's Shared Plate

Ministry was begun in the fall of 2013. Each month we share half of the offerings collected at Sunday Services with non-profit organizations that support our UU Principles. The recipients are selected by a vote of the membership. Since it's inception, this program has collected more than \$9,300 in donations to these worthy organizations. Our recent SurveyMonkey vote selected 11 organizations (out of 16 nominated) to benefit from the Shared Plate program during the July 2015 to June 2016 fiscal year.

Our first recipient, Mid-Coast Hospitality House, will receive half of the offerings for July and August. Hospitality House, in Rockport, is a shelter offering comprehensive recovery services for homeless women and families, and is managed by the Knox County Homeless Coalition. The work of this program is directly congruent with the UU principles of inherent worth and dignity of all persons; justice, equity, and compassion; world community with peace, liberty, and justice for all.

Shared Plate recipients for the

remainder of the year are:

Sept.: Habitat for Humanity. Oct.: Window Dressers. Nov.: People for People. Dec.: Interfaith Fuel Fund. Jan.: Soap Closet. Feb.: Game Loft. March: Greater Belfast Area Ministerium Food Cupboard. April: Safe Passage. May: Restorative Justice. June: Waldo County Home Health and Hospice.

Thank you to all those who participated in the selection and who provided feedback and comments to help shape the future of this vital program.

Jessie Gower, Chris LeGore