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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.

Life of the Church

By Marty Daniels, President

As a former teacher, I always feel ambushed by August. Suddenly the crickets are singing at night and I know it is time to start planning for the coming year. It's a time full of anticipation and excitement, but also trepidation. What kind of a class will it be? What demands will be put on me by my principal and the district administrators?

I always used to take a couple of weeks in August to just putter around my room, running off those "beginning of the year" papers; composing my "Welcome Back" letter to parents and incoming students; and shifting around the furniture, looking for that "perfect arrangement" that would make everyone happy.

Beginning this church year feels to me a little like beginning the school year. Mentally I am puttering around my "classroom", thinking about how best to organize things and what the challenges are likely to be this year.

I already know my "class list", the members of this year's Council, and I am really excited about them! We have several "new kids" this year who will be bringing in new energy and new perspectives – Sandy Keller, Joe Watts, Chuck Piper, Karen Wigglesworth, and Michael Scott. We are already "rearranging the furniture", switching which half of the old hospitality

room the infants and toddlers will be in and building a wall so as to reduce the noise and allow a space to set up hospitality ahead of time (I fear there will be no "perfect arrangement" this year – is there ever, really?)

We also have some new staff, Karen Nelson (our new "music teacher") and Ellie Daniels (my sister!) as the new accompanist. We even have a "substitute accompanist", Steve Eaton, whom many of you will have met by the time this article comes out.

I also already know many of the challenges we will be facing this year – votes on our building expansion; a Capital Campaign; and a closer examination of multi-site

programming. (What's that, you say? Something new in the "curriculum"?)

And just like when I start a new school year, the anticipation and excitement are winning out over the trepidation. Moving ahead with the building project! Getting the "full-body wag" going! A new RE curriculum! A new YRUU year! Adult Life-Span offerings! And what the heck does "multi-site programming" mean, anyway?

Always something new and exciting! That's why I became a teacher – and that's what I love about being your president.

With gratitude to all the people who are our church – Marty Daniels

The Grace of Great Things

by Jan Anderson

This past summer, the Worship Arts Committee graciously invited several members of the congregation to share their spiritual journey. I accepted the invitation.

You might think the subject of my spiritual journey would be easy to compose; a piece of cake. Not so. I soon realized the difficulty of writing a 20-minute sermon on my whole life!! I was comforted along the way by my belief that we are what Parker Palmer calls a "community of truth," held together not only by thought and feeling but also by "the power of the grace of

great things." It is by gathering around great things that we become who we are as knowers, teachers, and learners.

A community of truth embraces diverse viewpoints, understands the inadequacy of language to express the ineffable, and welcomes the conflict that reveals our biases and prejudices and leads to greater understanding. A community of truth advocates honesty and accepts the lens of humility through which we view life.

In a poem by David Whyte "What to Remember When Waking" he writes:

To be human is to become

visible while carrying what is hidden as a gift to others.

I decided to hone in on the questions that shaped my journey: Why? and How? "Why do we do what we do?" Not what is the need in the community or world; that, we can all understand. But why, inside of each of us? Why do I feel called or compelled to engage in tasks? Why engage in community projects which always carry the risk of failure?

Why, when I am an introvert, a solitary person, why would I accept the challenge of a public effort?

The second question, how do I engage in a community task and embrace the 7 principles? How do I honor my personal belief in the inherent worth and dignity of every person and trust people to commit themselves to their tasks even knowing that they might fail? How can I be supportive without being intrusive? How do I cling to my sense of integrity and identity in the face of those who want me to be something else?

Beyond the public questioning, another more important question was driving my life: Could I really love without exposing myself to the vulnerability inherent in that decision? Why risk my heart by a full investment in loving?

On my morning walk, the answer came to me: We are a community of truth, we are a mirror to each other. I can hide my true self, my authentic self, from the critical gaze of others... or I can share my optimism and love... my hopes and fear, my limitations and guilt. The great things we discover are between me and thee: I cannot know myself if I do not know you; I cannot know you if I do not know myself. Love allows me to open my-

September 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!

SEPT. 6

The Ukulele's Community Spirit

led by Frets Halligan

Music adds great meaning to our services at UUCB and when you add in the community the meaning is strengthened. Frets and others (maybe you!) will lead our service this Sunday which will be about the joys and fun of music.

SEPT. 13

Ingathering

led by Rev. Deane Perkins and staff

SEPT. 20

Stranger Danger

led by Jessica Falconer

We live in a fear based world. How was this culture created? How do we overcome the fear it instills in us? The story for all ages will be "Making the Moose Out of Life", an unlikely hero story by Nicholas Oldland. Patty Heath will provide special music.

SEPT. 27

led by Rev. Deane Perkins

OCT. 4

led by Rev. Deane Perkins

self to both the sweet and the bitter; self-knowledge is a mirror to the knowledge and love of others.

A teacher once told me that to share my story is to own it. In an ordinary life, there are many opportunities for transformative moments. As I finished the Worship Service, said the closing words and extinguished the chalice, I experienced a transformative moment. At that moment, I owned my story; it became a part of me. I no longer look on my life from the outside. Now I see it from the inside. It is no longer a series of events, strung together, but a coherent whole. My story is me.

Today, I know that living in the Spirit is being an ordinary person who accepts daily life with a desire to deepen relationships. The spiritual person is one who loves and

forgives.

I enter our sacred space each Sunday with anticipation, knowing that I share with others the desire to listen, to discuss and to reveal the great things of life.

May this always be part of our time together.

September's Shared Plate

recipient is Waldo County Habitat for Humanity, a local affiliate of the international organization dedicated to the belief that all people deserve decent, Safe, and affordable housing. They build simple, energy-efficient homes in a spirit of hope and unity for low-income households. Their work supports the inherent worth and dignity of every person and justice, equity, and compassion for all.

Happy New RE year!!!

This year RE begins on September 13th. Handbooks will be mailed out to parents giving full information about this year's program. Parents, please take a moment to fill those registration forms. I know I ask for them every year, but allergies change and emergency contact info often changes so I need to make sure I have the most up-to-date information to keep our children safe.

This year we will be training a few of our guides in CPR and First Aid. If you are a guide and have these certifications already, or would like to obtain this training, please let me know! Our new and improved baby room is up and ready for action. It is now on the other half of the old hospitality room, allowing for the children to make a little bit more noise while allowing the hospitality crew a place to set up as well. The space is a tiny bit smaller than the space we had last year but we didn't want to send the children upstairs and the noise bleeding into the sanctuary

had become an issue so a happy compromise was made.

OUR CLASS BREAK DOWN this year will be as follows:

Infants and Toddlers to age 4 will be downstairs in the baby room. We will have one adult and two teen providers each Sunday to care for our little ones.

Primary Room will be in the same location and will be for ages 5 to Grade 2. We will have two guides and offer a curricula the first half of RE and then structured free play time.

The Intermediate Room will be for Grades 3-5 in the same room as

last year. This room will have two guides and be using two curricula suggested by the UUA.

Our COA Room is for our middle school children. They will meet in the shared office space (the one with the couch).

The YRUU or high school students meet Sunday evenings from 4-6. Contact Jessica Falconer or Jon Cox for more information on the Youth Group.

Can't wait to start the New Year with you all! See you on the 13th
Danielle Bannister, Director of Religious Exploration, DRE
dre@uubelfast.org 505-5383

Want to be on the "FUN" committee?

Please join CongoLife to plan funtivities for the coming year. We plan potlucks, winter activities, game nights, holiday cookie making, and anything else you can imagine! Do you have any funtivities you'd like to happen in the coming year? Please let CongoLife know. We are Meg Eckhardt, Cris Hughes, Teresa Piper, Cheryl Richardson and Muzz - our Council Liaison. Come see what the FUN is all about!!!

Cheryl Richardson
207.342.4649 Home 207.213.7334 New Cell#

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 Cheryl Richardson 342-4649	Nominating Committee chair Judith Grace 338-4408
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 Karen Nelson 338-0499	Caring Circle Patty Smith 338-5802	Communications Wendy Watkins 342-4246
Finances Michael Scott (treas) 322-6016	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 UUC, email office@uubelfast.org. Website contributions: content@uubelfast.org
	LGBT Welcoming Congregation Patty Smith 338-5802	

FEATURED

New member biographies



Megan Eckhardt and her boys.

On May 3, we welcomed MEGAN ECKHARDT as a new member of UUCB. Megan and her partner Dave moved to Maine from Philadelphia last year with their two little boys Oliver and Utah, looking for a great place to raise their children and giving Dave the chance to pursue a life-long dream of becoming a lobsterman.

Arriving in Belfast, one of the first people they met was Jessica Falconer and were intrigued by Jessica's enthusiasm for UUCB and especially the youth RE program, featuring teachings from the Harry Potter stories. The boys began coming with Megan to church on Sundays and she says she soon found herself thinking, "Maybe this is a good place for my kids," and later deciding, "Maybe this is a good place for me."

Multi-talented and versatile, Megan has worked in insurance and as a professional graphic artist and since arriving in Belfast has started a new business. Her new cleaning service, Little City Cleaning, just launched this spring, features eco-friendly cleaning products and is off to a very successful start.

Minister's Report

Dear Friends:

If you have had the chance to go by the church in July or August, you may have noticed the "Black Lives Matter" sign in our Wayside Pulpit. We received a note asking that we change the sign to "All Lives Matter." Although our First Principle supports well the latter, there are reasons why it is important to keep our sign the way it is.

"Black Lives Matter" is a specific movement resulting from police prejudice and brutality aimed against blacks. It is a movement that is asking whites to dismantle institutional and systemic racism in relation to blacks, and to be aware of white privilege. It is a movement that opposes the rampant injustice and inequality that blacks face daily in this country.

One has only to read *The New Jim Crow*, by Michelle Alexander (who was also a guest speaker at General Assembly in 2012) to see how pernicious some our systems and laws are. This is not to deny that injustice and hatred against other peoples of color also exist, but it is

clear that we live in the midst of a racial caste system where blacks are at the bottom.

Our Unitarian Universalist Association asks of us that we join our black neighbors in support of the "Black Lives Matter" movement, and that we "awaken" ourselves to the racial issues that plague our communities. Our UUA President, Rev. Peter Morales, writes in the most recent issue of the *UU World*: "We see case after case of unarmed black people murdered by police. We see the resurgence of Jim Crow: mass incarceration of African Americans, attacks on voting rights, income inequality that crushes people of color. We must open ourselves to experience the "other"—for once we truly experience one another in depth and over time the "other" is no longer other. "They" become "we."

Building the Beloved Community takes time. It takes commitment. It is soul work. And together, together, we can do it." (*UU World*, Fall, 2015, pg. 5)

Fondly, *Deane*

Please join us in welcoming Megan and her family to UUCB and be sure to wish the boys Happy Birthday in October, when Oliver will be turning 5 and Utah will be turning 2!

Meet KAREN WIGGLESWORTH, not New to UU, but from Ellsworth UU Church where she has served on 4, yes four, committees. Originally from New Jersey, she followed her mentor to Jackson Labs in Bar Harbor where she has done research and lived for quite a

few years. Wanting to live in a vital community upon retirement, she has built her solar house and established herself and pets in Belfast.

After taking the New to UU Church in Belfast, she has joined the Church Council and Membership Committee where she is co chair. Her enthusiasm and smile are part of her assets to our church. Not to mention her amazing tea cup collection which have appeared at special teas on Milker Street. Please welcome her to our community.