

# UU NEWSLETTER

NUU BELFAST

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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

**VOL. 21, No. 9**  
**OCTOBER • 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.*

On November 1st, 2009, Dawn Fortune was a guest speaker at our church. It was three days before a vote on marriage equality, and Dawn's passionate sermon fired us up, inspiring us to go out and right a wrong. Unfortunately, we didn't have enough time. The measure failed. But Dawn had inspired herself and us, and the rest is history. Dawn asked us to be her sponsor church, has continued to be a guest speaker at our church, and has given powerful sermons, on gender issues, gun control, poverty, and many more. She has also won awards for some of these sermons. Check out Dawn's website to see what she's been up to these past few years. <http://dawnfortuneministry.weebly.com/about.html>. From Bangor Theological Seminary to Andover Newton Seminary, interning in Massachusetts and California, she has called Maine, and UUCB, home. She's coming home again, so that we, the congregants of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast Maine

can ordain her. Dawn has fulfilled all the requirements for becoming a UU minister, with flying colors. But only a congregation can ordain a UU minister. That's us. We have the honor of hosting her ordination, but we also have had the responsibility to support her quest, and bestow this final gift.

Come to church on Sunday afternoon, November 1st, at 4:00 to take part in this sacred ritual. Plan to bring food, usher, arrange flowers, and anything else that is requested, so we can do our church, and our newest minister proud.

We're a pretty cool church. We grow ministers.



*Dawn Fortune*

## **Life of the Church**

*By Chris LeGore, Past President & Baby Boomer*

Now that I have hit my “medicare years,” I find that it is way too easy to surround myself with Baby Boomers, to the exclusion of other age groups (with the exception of children and grandchildren).

### **FROM DAWN FORTUNE:**

*One of the things that folks might notice that is different about this ordination from others are my pronouns – those bits of language that we use to refer to other folks, specifically third-person pronouns, like he, and she. I identify as genderqueer, which is a place somewhere between male and female, and as such, words like she and her feel to me like a person is talking about somebody else, not me. Likewise, I am not male, and thus he and him are not appropriate for me either. The words I used most often are ze and hir (pronounced “zee” and “hear”). If those words are too challenging to remember or awkward to use, I am also comfortable with people saying they and them when referring to me. I know that the folks on my ordination committee have been working hard to adapt to this new language, and I greatly appreciate the effort. Language is key to how we experience our identities and how we feel welcomed or not in our world. It's important stuff, and I am truly grateful.*

Fortunately, being a member of the UU Church of Belfast gives me a chance to swim in a bigger sea. It has been especially fun and inspiring to get to know many of our younger members. I enjoy hearing about their challenges and, best of all, feel blessed to share the UU journey with them.

As a member of the Church Council I get to work and laugh with people who range in age from 30ish to 70 (well, almost). At Sunday services I have been treated to moving homilies from two amazing young women - Mandi Thomas and Jessica Falconer - both of whom have a gift for metaphors, speak with great passion, and challenge me to pay closer attention to the people around me.

More than ever, younger members are taking on leadership responsibilities. New young leaders this past year include Worship Arts Co-Chairs Mandi Thomas and Andrea Butler and Green Sanctuary Chair Jasmine Fowler. Our four new Church Council members - Michael Scott, Joe Watts, Sandy Keller and Chuck Piper - will probably make this Council the youngest we've had in a while. How lucky we are to have new energy, creativity and commitment!

These are just a few of the dozens of folks who have kept this

### October 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!

**OCT. 4**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

**OCT. 11**

**By Their Right Name**  
given by Eva Thompson

The unknown and the unnamed hold a strange power over us. How can we make progress, if we don't understand the nature of what we're dealing with? We'll consider the importance of calling things "by their right names."

**OCT. 18**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

**OCT. 25 - tba**

**NOV. 1**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

"boomer" connected to a more vibrant, hopeful world. Bless the parents who bring their beautiful children to church each week (our Coming of Age group promises to be sizeable this year!), the elders whose loyalty and wisdom inspire us, the teens who teach us what it really means to question, the former "young leaders" who are now stalwart stewards, the staff who keep us on track and all of the members and friends whose presence and hard work have made this a loving, thriving community.

Blessed be and lucky me!

### The Installation of Sara Hayman at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

On Sunday, September 20th, several members of the UUCB traveled to Ellsworth to watch or participate in the installation of Sara (Huisjan) Hayman as their called minister.

Most of us have heard Sara preach in Belfast over the last year or two. She first came to Ellsworth four years ago, at about the same time Deane came to us. Deane immediately reached out to the youth programs at Ellsworth and Bangor and invited them to participate in our YRUU service trips to New Orleans and Guatemala. It was beginning with this collaboration that we began to get to know Sara as well.

The installation was attended by over 150 people, including 11 ministers from Maine and New England and as far away as Colorado. The UUCE choir, bolstered by Sarah Nicholson, Deane Perkins, and myself, sang "My Heart is Ready." Rev. Wendy Williams of the Jefferson Unitarian Church in Golden, Colorado

The Religious Exploration team is in desperate need of some new guides "teachers" and child care providers this year. We need a few people to come forward and volunteer one Sunday a month to help in RE or in child care. Training is provided as well as complete sessions for the older groups. You are with another person in the classroom and the sessions are fun and easy and a great way to get to know our youngest UU's.

If you think you might like to help out, PLEASE contact the DRE, Danielle Bannister, at [dre@uubelfast.org](mailto:dre@uubelfast.org)

Danielle Bannister

Director of Religious Exploration, DRE, [dre@uubelfast.org](mailto:dre@uubelfast.org) 505-5383

gave the sermon, entitled “Harnessing Fire.” In the sermon, she reminded us that perhaps the greatest human advancement occurred when we harnessed the power of fire, and called for us all to imagine a world where we have harnessed the power of love.

After the Act of Installation, Rev. Deane gave the charge to the congregation of Ellsworth, to support Sara in all of her work and reminded them to lend her enough authority to make the kind of changes that will allow their congregation to thrive. Rev. Emilie Boggis then gave the charge to Rev. Sara, calling her the sunshine in the lives of the people who know her, but reminding her to look to the night as well, making sure she gave herself rest and respite and a chance to look at the stars above. Both Rev.

Wendy and Rev. Emilie attended seminary with Sara at Meadville Lombard Theological School in Chicago. All in all, it was a lovely service that reminded me of the importance of ritual in our lives.

After the service, we all were treated to a bountiful reception that included lobster mac n’ cheese, ham, cheese and crackers, veggies and dip, blueberry compote, and delectable dark chocolate frosted cupcakes.

The reception was an opportunity to get to know members of the Ellsworth congregation as well.

As we move forward, I am delighted to know that Rev. Sara and the congregation of the Ellsworth church are our neighbors, and look forward to continuing to collaborate with them in the future.

**Membership thoughts**

Have you wondered about the bonds and binds in membership in a UU Church? Why did you join and become a full member or not?

Come. Listen at our November 1, 2015 after-church Congregational Congregation and take part in a lively discussion. Rev. Deane Perkins will lead us as we ponder the benefits of being a member. Others, very much a part of our community, come and share time, talent and treasure. Which makes sense for you? Some of our last New Member Class participants will be there to suggest why they joined the UUChurch of Belfast.

*Marjory B. Stickler*  
Membership Committee,

**A Quiet Welcome**

By *Maret Knight*

How do you show that UU Belfast is a warm, inviting place to visit or belong?

- Park a block away from church, so that there is room for

visitors or those with mobility issues to park on Miller St.

- Choose to sit in the front of the sanctuary, which leaves space in the back for latecomers.
- Wear your name tag.
- Smile!

**October Shared Plate**

October's Sunday Worship Service collections will be shared with Window Dressers, a volunteer-driven non-profit organization dedicated to helping Maine residents reduce heating costs, fossil fuels consumption,

**WHO'S WHO AND WHO TO CALL**

<b>Minister</b> Rev. Deane Perkins 338-4482 minister@uubelfast.org	<b>Sunday Services</b> Mandi Thomas 322-8123	<b>Sound Coordinator</b> Cary Bradford 338-8448
<b>Administrative Assistant</b> Maret Knight 338-4482 Email: office@uubelfast.org office hrs: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-12:30	<b>Membership Chair</b> Marje Stickler 338-5059	<b>Hospitality</b> Cheryl & Arthur Richardson 342-4649
<b>Church Council</b> Chris LeGore 589-4421 Marty Daniels 338-0129	<b>Congregational Life</b> Cheryl Richardson 342-4649	<b>Nominating Committee chair</b> Judith Grace 338-4408
<b>LifeSpan Education</b> Susan Coe 691-5153 Linda Buckmaster 338-1701	<b>Green Sanctuary</b> Jasmine Fowler 342-3260 Corliss Davis 930-3562	<b>Endowment Committee</b> Margie Shannon 218-4033
<b>Children's Religious Exploration</b> Danielle Bannister 505-5383	<b>Buddhist Sangha</b> Judith Simpson 338-0579	<b>Greeters</b> Jennifer Kirchoff 975-1913
<b>Music</b> Karen Nelson 338-0499	<b>Caring Circle</b> Patty Smith 338-5802	<b>Communications</b> Wendy Watkins 342-4246
<b>Finances</b> Michael Scott (treas) 322-6016	<b>Safe Congregation</b> Tera Kennedy 342-5470	<b>Newsletter</b> Douglas M. Coffin 567-3707
	<b>Stewardship Committee Chair</b> 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
	<b>LGBT Welcoming Congregation</b> Patty Smith 338-5802	

and CO2 emissions by lowering heat loss through windows. Window dressers' work supports several of our UU principles, particularly the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.

### **THANK YOU UU Church!**

*For Your Help in Bringing Restorative Justice to Maine.*

A decade ago, the Belfast UU Church's Social Justice Committee gave birth to the Restorative Justice Project of the Midcoast. There's a lot to celebrate!

During the past ten years, RJP staff, and hundreds of trained, committed volunteers, have positively affected the lives of thousands of young people and adults in dozens of communities, schools, and workplaces, introducing them to restorative practices.

The UU Church continues to further the work of RJP's mission by offering space for RJP's five-week "Introduction to Restorative Justice" class, something every resident of the Maine Coastal Regional Reentry Center will take during their stay at the center (which varies for each resident, and anywhere from 3-12 months of the remainder of their prison or jail sentence will be spent at the Center).

Your welcoming environment creates a safe space conducive to learning and sharing. The class asks residents to consider themselves in an interconnected web of relationships.

After exploring their own personal webs of both strong and broken relationships, they are asked to consider: when a crime occurs, who is impacted, how are they impacted? What feelings and needs might arise out of this harm? These questions respond

## **Minister's Report**

DEAR FRIENDS,

You might have noticed the blurb in the Council Minutes that talked about partnering with a chapel in Cardiff, Wales. Let me explain a little more about what this is.

There is a program sponsored by our UU Association where U.S. congregations partner primarily with Unitarian churches in Transylvania, the Philippines, and the Khalsi Indians of northern India. The vision of this program is: "We envision a worldwide Unitarian and Unitarian Universalist community that promotes peace, justice, and liberty for all, supported by partnerships that are integral to congregational life." (see our website)

I personally see the Partner Church Program as yet another element in our Peace Advocacy Church Program, but on an international level. Both can be ways to foster connections, relationships and understanding that are crucial in today's world.

Rev. Carie Johnson at the Augusta UU church is helping to create another partnership (with the bless-

ing of the UUA program) with the 22 Unitarian chapels in Wales (there are no churches in Wales except for the Church of Wales). So why partner with Wales rather than with churches in developing nations or areas? Apparently all of the chapels in Wales have small memberships and could use support (not necessarily financial) to help them grow.

Rev. Carie was particularly interested in our youth service program, and wondered about having our youth go to Wales sometime and see what kind of programming among youth could be promoted there. She wants UU Belfast (it could also be multi-site with Ellsworth and Castine) to connect specifically with the chapel in Cardiff (Caerdydd in Welsh), the capital of Wales. The congregation has only about 45 members, but speaks English.

I think that this can be an incredibly exciting program to participate in, allowing us to have greater international awareness and presence as UUs.

Fondly,  
Deane

to harm in a way that punishment does not. Many residents state that it is easier to "do their time" and not think about their victims, rather than face the impact of their actions.

This type of inner work is often transformative not only for those who have committed crimes, but for communities that seek safety and health. In part, our work is based on the multiple studies which show that offenders, who understand the impact of their actions, are less likely to reoffend.

During the class residents are given a glimpse of actual restorative practices, including a "circle" role-playing activity that is based on a fictional robbery scenario. Participants are then asked to look at their own lives and whether or not a restorative circle would help them repair the harm they've done. Residents who have taken this option have expressed a huge weight being lifted off their shoulders.

Residents are also matched with trained RJP mentors, many of whom



*"RJP interns, volunteers, and Reentry Center residents express their gratitude for the use of the UU Church space!"*

are UU Church members with big hearts and open minds. These mentors help ease the transition from being “in” to getting “out” by providing pro-social support and intro-

ductions to living in healthy communities.

The residents and the co-facilitators of the Introduction to Restorative Justice class want to shout out a

huge “thank you” to the UU Church for offering us this space. We have felt truly welcomed as a part of your community!