

**VOL. 21, No. 11**  
**DECEMBER • 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.*



*Blowing bubbles of hope in the effort to expand the interior of our church.*

## **Capital campaign for interior renovation moves ahead!**

*By Chris LeGore*

On Sunday, November 15th, 60 out of 61 members present voted to move ahead with a capital campaign for the purpose of transforming the interior of our church building. What a joy it was to reach this milestone after four years of research, debate and hard work! Many thanks to our Space Needs Team for leading us through this process with intelligence, grace and good will.

The next Sunday we blew clouds of

bubbles to celebrate. Reverend Deane shared Scott Denman's reflection that transforming the church's interior is an apt metaphor for the internal transformation that many of us will experience individually and collectively as we engage in the exciting work of re-building our beloved church.

At the service on the 22nd, Reverend Deane encouraged us to covenant to stick together (especially during the months when we must

vacate the building), to remember that we are renovating our building for the purpose of furthering our mission and to LOOK UP! in a spirit of abundance and hope.

After sharing a story about the Chartres Cathedral, Rev. Deane invited us to embrace a vision of a cathedral that inspires life, justice, love, compassion and beauty.

LOOK UP! Capital Campaign chairs Chris LeGore and Roger Lee are charged with leading the effort to

raise a minimum of \$700,000 for the needed structural work. Because the campaign is slated to begin in January, we are starting to plan now. We hope that each of you will be thinking about how you may contribute your labor to this effort. At least 25 visitors are needed for face-to-face visits with members and friends. More volunteers are needed to help with communications, administration and events planning.

Please share with Chris, Roger or Rick Davis how you might like to help with the campaign. We will be happy to answer any questions you may have. What a JOY it will be – a little more than a year from now - to climb the stairs (or ride the elevator) to our new sanctuary! Blessed be!

### Life of the Church

by Marty Daniels

On Sunday, Nov. 15th, our church took another leap of faith and voted to initiate a Capital Campaign to raise the funds necessary to restore the church to its original configuration. I say “another” because we have a history of taking such leaps! You could say that deciding to become a church at all was the first one, followed by purchasing the building at 37 Miller Street and then hiring Deane Perkins, our first full-time called minister.

As the first follow-up to the vote, some 20 members and friends of the church gathered Friday night, Nov. 20th, to look over the initial “drive-by” sketches of the architects and give them some feedback about the design and layout of the new interior. They gathered around three tables and pored over large copies of the sketches, and then doodled, added, and dreamed on several smaller copies. After nearly an hour of dis-

### December 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!

**DEC 6**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

*(Following the service there will be a Congregational Conversation on Multi-Site Programming with Ellsworth and Castine.)*

**DEC 13 Cultivating Loving-Kindness for Ourselves and for Others**

*Lynne Deeves*

Maine native, Lynn Deeves' entry into the healing arts came as a calling to cultivate peace and to be of greater benefit to others. Lynn is a singer-songwriter, who has worked with the Belfast Peace Festival for the past two years, putting on an inspirational, closing performance promoting peace. She will perform special music throughout the service as well.

*Following the service, there will be a special Congregational Conversation led by Mackenzie Barnhart and fellow students on the Syrian Refugee Crisis.*

**DEC 20**

**Would You Like to Hold the Baby?**

*Rev. Deane Perkins and RE*

This is a beautiful UU version of the nativity story, replete with beautiful music sung by the choir.

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**DEC 24, 7:00 Christmas Eve Service Rev Deane Perkins**

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**DEC 27**

**Poetry Sunday**

*Worship Arts Committee*

What is it about poetry that speaks to our hearts? What is it about this art of words that inspires us? In this service, members of our congregation will share some of the poems that have moved them the most. There will also be time for both silent and guided meditation.

**JAN 3**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

cussion, laughter, and sketching, the results were shared.

It was astonishing what creative ideas people came up with! What if the downstairs included a large central space near the kitchen? What if that space was large enough to accommodate weekly hospitality downstairs, but with walls that could be moved to create smaller meeting spaces? What if most of the downstairs walls were moveable, so that dinners and sales events could happen downstairs and the sanctuary

could remain sacred space? You could feel the excitement as these ideas were shared.

Some people envisioned the four rooms at the back of the current sanctuary as RE space, with possibly one or two of them doubling during the week as meeting rooms. Several people wanted to see the bathroom in the RE space be a proper kid-sized bathroom, with a door into the infant-toddler room as well as into the hall. Others envisioned the minister's office and administrative of-

fices at the back, with four RE rooms running the length of the building on the Library side.

Upstairs, almost all agreed that they didn't want to add much of anything except possibly a dumbwaiter coming up from the kitchen. But what if the raised stage was curved, maybe even a full half of a circle? What if the seating was oriented towards the Library instead of the back wall, freeing the back by the emergency stairwell for more storage? What if the moveable partition was 6-8 feet high, and was truly moveable, so that

a smaller, more intimate space could be created anywhere within the larger sanctuary? And what if all could be done with "green" materials?

Whatever designs we come up with will be tempered by the realities of costs and feasibilities. Of course not all our visions will be compatible, but it was a treat to be handed paper and pens and told, "Dream!"

If you did not attend the design cottage meetings either Friday Nov. 20th or Sunday, Nov. 22nd, don't miss the next one!

Look up! What will you dream?

**LGBTQ&A youth drop-by**

by *Patty Heath*

By now most of you have heard or seen some reference to the group LGBTQ&A Drop-by for Youth. In case you're wondering what it is, let me tell you a bit about what we are up to.

First of all, what do these letters represent: They represent, Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer (or questioning), and Ally. With the assistance of OUT As I Want To Be

in Rockland, our church decided to provide the meeting space for this group of High-Schoolers. We meet every Friday from 4:30-6:30, usually in the kitchen of the Church. Our core group is made up of about half a dozen youth. As we continue to grow the purpose of the group continues to grow also. At this point in time they are calling themselves a Social Club but will be adding programming that addresses any issues that may arise for them.

**Who? What? Where? Why?**

Because the church directory that comes out every January needs the latest contact information for all of our members and friends. Please verify that your directory info is correct and let me know at [office@uubelfast.org](mailto:office@uubelfast.org). Friends, especially, contact me if you want to be listed, since you are not automatically included like our membership.

- Names in your household
- Phone numbers
- Email addresses
- Mailing address
- How about a photo?

– *Maret Knight- Admin*

This is the incredible gift our Congregation offers to this amazing group of youth – a safe place to gather and join together in fellowship. These are private meetings but if you have something to offer the group, run it by me and I will offer the idea to them.

Last week the group met with Amy Sneirson, the Executive Director of

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

**Minister**

Rev. Deane Perkins 338-4482  
[minister@uubelfast.org](mailto:minister@uubelfast.org)

**Administrative Assistant**

Maret Knight 338-4482  
 Email: [office@uubelfast.org](mailto:office@uubelfast.org)  
 office hrs: Mon. & Thurs. 8:30-12:30

**Church Council**

Chris LeGore 589-4421  
 Marty Daniels 218-1275

**LifeSpan Education**

Susan Coe 691-5153  
 Linda Buckmaster 338-1701

**Children's Religious Exploration**

Danielle Bannister 505-5383

**Music**

Karen Nelson 338-0499

**Finances**

Michael Scott (treas) 322-6016

**Sunday Services**

Mandi Thomas 322-8123

**Membership Chair**

Marje Stickler 338-5059

**Congregational Life**

Cheryl Richardson 342-4649

**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

**LGBTQ Welcoming Congregation**

Patty Heath (802) 473-6945

**Sound Coordinator**

Cary Bradford 338-8448

**Hospitality**

Cheryl & Arthur Richardson 342-4649

**Nominating Committee chair**

Judith Grace 338-4408

**Endowment Committee**

Margie Shannon 218-4033

**Greeters**

Jennifer Kirchoff 975-1913

**Communications**

Wendy Watkins 342-4246

**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](mailto:office@uubelfast.org). Website contributions: [content@uubelfast.org](mailto:content@uubelfast.org)

the Human Rights Commission. A lively conversation about discrimination and their rights as individuals ensued, and they left the talk excited to have made such a powerful friend/ally in Amy.

Just before Halloween the group put together a fundraiser to raise money for the GSTA (Gay Straight Trans Alliance) that they founded at Belfast High School. Their hope is to have a “big queer dance” at the school. They showed Rocky Horror Picture Show and provided baked goods and props for sale. Although the show was poorly attended, they still managed to make enough to be encouraged to do more. So, pay attention! There will be other opportunities to support this very special group of youth, who, through their courageous endeavors, are helping create Peace in a harsh world.

### **Winter Solstice Celebration Saturday, December 12**

The hours of daylight become shorter each day at this time of year as the winter solstice on December 21 approaches. UUCB’s annual Winter Solstice Celebration on Saturday, December 12 at 4:00 PM at the Blue Goose in Northport will mark the shortest day of the year and the gradual return of more daylight with a program of music, dance, and stories. (Snow date is December 13.)

The celebration appeals to all ages. Festivities will include songs and music by the UUCB Choir, the Gawler Sisters, Velocipede, Shira, Heartson, Patty Heath, and the Belfast Bay Fiddlers; seasonal dances by the Sword Sisters, Highland Mary Morris dancers, and Helene Melonen; dancing and storytelling for children led by Chrissy Fowler; poetry read by Linda Buckmaster; carol-



*On November 6-7 our Coming of Age group participated in the first of 4 overnight retreats at the church. Friday night is reserved for a movie, ice cream Sundays and general goofiness while Saturday is spent in workshops intended to help them look deeper at themselves and their faith. In the coming months, they will be paired with Mentors from within the congregation to help them navigate their spiritual journey.*

### **News from RE:**

This year, in an effort to try and communicate better with the parents of RE, I began creating “Take it Home” sheets that are passed out at the end of each session. These sheets are a few sentences about what we did in class, and ways to expand the topic at home. It then dawned on me that perhaps the larger congregation might enjoy seeing these sheets as well. The last few Sundays I have posted what we did in RE on our RE Parents and Friends of UU Church of Belfast Facebook page, on the

UUBB and also on our website. It is one of many ways I am trying to bridge the gap between what we do upstairs with the adult congregation. So far, I have gotten some positive feedback on this information, so I shall continue to report back to you. Communication and connections will be vital in this upcoming transition, so be sure to look to the website, our Facebook pages, the newsletter, in addition to our time together on Sunday morning. Thanks to these sources we can stay connected even on the Sundays we can’t attend church.

ing; a lively Mummers Play written by Sumner Roberts and performed by him and his Merry Band of Players; and other entertainment. The audience will feast on goodies and cider at the en of the program.

Jennifer Kirchoff and Wendy Krueger are overseeing planning and organization of the Winter Solstice Celebration, but they need volunteers to decorate the Blue Goose with fragrant greens, set up chairs, clean up after the event, provide baked goods and cider, and distribute posters in advance. Contact Jen at jennyfurkirchoff@gmail.com or Wendy at wkrueger70@gmail.com if you can help.

Proceeds from the Winter Solstice Celebration will go to the Belfast Soup Kitchen this year. Tickets are \$10 for adults, \$5 for children and youth ages 6 to 18, and \$25 for a family; children under age 6 are free. The Winter Solstice Celebration is a popular event and seating is limited, so the audience is encouraged to arrive early.



*The Highland Mary Morris dancers perform a stock dance at the 2014 Winter Solstice Celebration.*

**Congregational Life funtivities**

**DEC. 5** --- wreath-making and Pomanders (oranges studded with cloves). 9:00 AM-noon. CongoLife will provide the oranges and cloves. We will have some decorations with which to adorn the wreaths; feel free to bring your own favorites. There will be wreath bases ready for decorating. FMI Cheryl Richardson /

a\_cinitaly@yahoo.com / 342-4649

**DEC. 12** - although not a CongoLife event, WINTER SOLSTICE, at the Blue Goose is always a funtivity!

**MID-December** -- caroling -- Meet at UUCB at 6:30. We'll carol around town, mostly to those who cannot leave their homes. After singing, we'll return to the UUCB for cookies and hot chocolate. Date to be an-

nounced. Sarah Nicholson is hosting this event. snicholson@woodardcurran.com / 632-5039

If you have any questions, please contact Cheryl Richardson at a\_cinitaly@yahoo.com or 342-4649.

CongoLife is looking forward to all the funtivities!! Is there a funtivity you'd like to see happen?? Let us know!!

**SERVOLUTION**

By Rick Davis, Member at large, NNED Board

CONTRARY to popular opinion, the Northern New England District (NNED) of our Unitarian Universal-

ist Association (UUA) is alive and well. As UUA regionalization goes forward, NNED is refocusing its efforts on serving local congregations in an approach that might be called a Servolution.

Before describing what that means,

a bit of history is in order.

When Unitarians and Universalists merged into a single denomination in 1961, many compromises were made to satisfy both groups.

One of those compromises was to continue the Unitarian governance

structure, which included a network of twenty or so Districts across the country. Each District had its own Board, staff, and programming. Funding for District staff came partly from UUA funds and partly from District dues paid by individual congregations.

Staff supervision was also a shared responsibility.

Over the half-century since the merger, it became increasingly clear that this system was inefficient and unworkable. Thanks to the electronic revolution in communications and information-sharing, a decentralized structure was no longer necessary.

So several years ago, our UUA began moving toward a Regional structure, consolidating nineteen Districts into five Regions. NNED (which covers Maine, New Hampshire, and Vermont) was assigned to the New England Region, which includes three other Districts serving Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and most of Connecticut.

The New England Region now has one "Lead" in place of four District Executives. High-quality programming – workshops, consultation, and other assistance – is now available throughout New England using the strengths and skills of the combined staff.

But the Districts remain in place. No longer involved in programming, and without paid staff, the NNED Board has spent the last two years exploring new roles.

During a facilitated retreat this September, the Board determined

### **The Collaborative Ministry Team**

(CMT) of the Belfast, Ellsworth and Castine UU churches, had its kick-off meeting on Friday Dec. 20 at the Ellsworth Church.

Besides two lay representatives

## **Minister's Report**

DEAR FRIENDS,

Our vote to have major reconstruction done on our building starting this summer is cause for much celebration. It has been quite a path getting here over the past four years, but there is clearly a great deal of excitement among our members and friends.

Congratulations to us all!

Meanwhile, the world we live in can get pretty messy. Even as we enter the busy holiday season, we may find we have a need to stop, hear the heart-beat of the world, and remember. To this end the Ministerium (the local interfaith group of which we are a part) will be holding a Vigil on Dec. 14; it is the third anniversary of the Sandy Hook tragedy. Not in despair, but always in hope of peace and compassion, we will hold vigil for those who died, and for the pain and loss we all feel from peoples' suffering

in this world.

I also want to let you know that there will be a Congregational Conversation after service on Dec. 6 to talk about Multi-Site Programming. Our youth service projects and the annual choir festival are examples of multi-site programs, since they involve other UU congregations. Our Council just voted to participate in another event that includes Ellsworth and Castine-- a weekend Retreat next October at Ferry Beach. Multi-site is a way for churches to work together, have fun together, and do ministry together.

The holiday season is an enjoyable time for many, and difficult for others. My hope is that during this season you take time for yourself, take care of yourself, and be present to your spirit.

With love from our family (Sue, Habibi, and me) to you,

*Deane*

that its role should be to "initiate and maintain contact with congregations to determine their needs and identify resources to meet those needs."

As a first step in this Servolution, NNED is asking the leadership in every congregation in the District to answer a few simple questions identifying and describing their church's one or two biggest strengths and one or two challenges.

The UU Church of Belfast already participates in collaborative efforts

such as the annual combined choir concert and youth social service projects. Other clusters of congregations in Maine are also working together to share expertise and resources.

The NNED Board hopes to promote and expand that kind of sharing, to build a stronger than ever UU movement in Northern New England, serving current members and potential members as well.

That would be a Great Servolution!

from each church, the Reverends Deane Perkins, Sara Hayman and Charles Stevens are part of the team. A larger task force, which included board leadership from the respective churches, had been meeting since

summer to discern interest and intention among the three churches to collaborate and possibly begin to combine resources, both human and otherwise.

The task force, with the able guid-

ance of Joe Sullivan of the New England Region of our UUA, decided interest was strong enough to proceed, and the CMT was formed to take more concrete steps to find ways for the three churches to cooperate and collaborate.

The idea of shared ministry was originally conceived of as a way for Revs. Deane and Sara (and possibly a ministerial intern) to cover responsibilities and share resources of the three churches since Castine's search process last year did not connect them with a minister they wanted to call. Castine has decided to continue its search for a full-time minister, and we are all hopeful that they will be successful this time.

The focus of the CMT is now, therefore, on sharing activities and ideas, and collaborating on interests where possible.

At Friday's meeting, a covenant was proposed and will be approved at the next meeting after a few tweaks to the first draft. The covenant acknowledges the varied histories and cultures of the three churches and assures the three congregations and their representatives that the interests of the individual churches are the first priority of the CMT as a whole. (The covenant, once approved, will be published here for all the congregations to see.) The group also accepted as a working model the following mission statement:

*"Our mission as the Collaborative Ministry Team of Belfast, Castine and Ellsworth, is to utilize and leverage the collective skills, resources and cultures of our three congrega-*

*tions to explore, inspire, enhance, and expand ministry within and among our congregations and out into our neighborhoods, our region and the world."*

The CMT was given a charge from the Task Force to take action or to explore several ideas for collaboration, the first of which is to find out what would be necessary for the three churches to have a ministerial intern for the 2016-17 church year, including how to fund it.

Keeping each other informed has emerged as another priority for the CMT. On an on-going basis, there will be communication through existing channels (such as this one) about events taking place at the three churches so that all three congregations will know about them. We will also look for ways to use technology to enhance our congregations' abilities to work together.

An exciting opportunity for collaboration and getting to know one another better that is already on the schedule is a retreat at Ferry Beach in Fall 2016 (October 28-30). Following on highly successful retreats for Ellsworth these last two years, this coming year Ferry Beach will be reserved for our three congregations to enjoy a joint retreat and deepen our friendships and knowledge of each other. More information on the retreat will be shared with all the churches in the coming months.

Other ideas the CMT will explore include shared offerings in adult RE, collaboration and cooperation on social justice issues, and an all-church worship service. Details will

### **The Green Sanctuaries Committee host a renewable energy informational night**

Featuring Chuck Piper

In a continuing quest to present carbon reducing opportunities, the Green Sanctuaries Committee will host an informational night highlighting solar energy options on **Wednesday December 9th from 6:30-8:00 PM**. The talk, by Chuck Piper, co-owner of Sundog Solar will be followed with refreshments.

Topics of discussion will include:

- Overview of Solar Energy
- Solar in Maine
- Community Solar Farms
- Pricing options and return on investment
- Mini-split heat pumps
- Solar Hot Water

be shared with you, the three congregations, as the ideas take form.

We welcome and encourage questions, ideas and discussion from all. Please feel free to contact your church's CMT representatives:

ELLSWORTH: Mary Susan Haynes, Robin Lovrien, & Rev. Sara Hayman

BELFAST: Sarah Nicholson, Judith Grace, & Rev. Deane Perkins

CASTINE: Leslie Fairbank, Fran Bos, Colin Powell, & Rev. Emeritus Charles Stephens.