

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.

A Report from the “Wanderers”

(And what they are)

by Michael Bowe

With plans to renovate our building and to run a capital campaign, another important initiative is under way: making plans for our period of displacement – a time frame of approximately nine to twelve months.

With the excitement of pondering a new building come the questions of how we keep the life of the church going during construction? Since everything in the building that we wish to keep must be removed for the construction period, we need to devise a plan to take care of all our things and the activities of our church life.

Specifically we will need:

- a place to hold services
- a place for choir practice
- a place in which to store property not being used for services
- office space for administrative staff and the minister to work
- a place to hold committee meetings
- a place to hold fund-raiser events

A group called the Wanderers, consisting of Charlie Biebel, Dean Anderson, Patty Heath, and Michael Bowe, has begun work on these questions. The name of this group is a reference to our legacy of temporarily occupying different locations, and thriving despite uncertainty. We have begun discussion and

exploration of possible solutions for our various space needs, but it is early in this process, and we are not at decision points yet. Empty places for such needs are at a premium.

We do know now there are probably no empty places available nearby that will take care of all our needs in one location. We did look at one such potential space, the old Universalist Church, but it is for sale, not rent. We have begun looking at office space, and gathering information about possible space for services in the East Side School, one of our former temporary church homes 16 years ago. We have put out feelers for space in one of our neighbor churches. We have begun looking into ideas where we can store the church belongings safely for the months we need to.

We will continue to gather input and ideas from all our church members, and we look forward to this. We know our coming period of transition will be a test, and we will do our best to suggest choices for the church that will allow us to keep functioning as well as possible despite inconvenience. We are interested in finding solutions that are low-cost, though some costs are inevitable, and should be considered an investment in maintaining church stability and continuity. Some of our transitional expenses will be paid from money we save by not using

our building as it undergoes construction.

Many of you know from experience our church has a history of adaptability and flexibility, as we utilized temporary homes. Once again we will need to rely on such an attitude. Please feel free to contact members of the Wanderers committee with questions and ideas about this coming transition for our congregation.

Ways for you to help:

- Do you know of resources that would assist us in this transition, such as good storage space?
- Do you have specific needs you want us to address?
- Are you willing to assist in the moving efforts?

Thank you for your patience, energy, and faith.

The Wanderers Group (*Charlie Biebel, Dean Anderson, Patty Heath, and Michael Bowe*)

Space Needs Team

Quick update from the space needs team: we are grateful to all who joined us to give input and play with ideas at our cottage meetings right before Thanksgiving. Between the two meetings, we had around 40 participants, and they were active and engaged discussions. We're working to consolidate the input and incorporate the input into the base design as we can.

In early January, we will start working with the architects to make it real, and this process will go on throughout the spring, even as the capital campaign is going on. We will be working hard to keep the congregation informed and involved as much as possible, through bulletin boards, newsletter articles, regular quick updates from our meetings and once per month after church update meetings, the first of which will be on January 17.

During the cottage meetings, a fair amount of energy in each group was spent trying to figure out how to create a space downstairs that would be sufficiently large that we could have Hospitality down there instead of in the sanctuary. Most of these schemes involved somewhat complex arrangements of folding walls. We took that guidance seriously and spent a good deal of time trying to figure out how to make it work but we now feel strongly that it cannot without being considerably more expensive, negatively affecting the quality of the meeting rooms (that can potentially bring in good rent and/or reducing the RE space. We believe that with the huge amount of room available to us upstairs in the new sanctuary, it continues to make sense to plan to hold our Hospitality in that new space. Please reach out to any member of the space needs team to discuss, and watch for information on the bulletin boards.

Congregational Life

**January 23, Sunday - 6:00 PM,
UUCB Sanctuary**

Get out your Hawaiian shirts and grass skirts! We're having a "Chase Away the Cold Hawaiian Luau!!!" We'll be playing balloon volleyball,

January 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!

JAN 3

Rev. Deane Perkins

JAN 10

Rev. Deane Perkins

JAN 17

A Life of Passion

by Jan Anderson

What part does a community of truth play in pursuing a life of passion? Based on the Unitarian Universalist principles, #1, #3 and #4, we will explore the dimensions of a community of truth and a life of passion as they intersect in each of our lives. We will also consider the concept of radical hospitality, one of UUCB spiritual commitments.

JAN 24

Rev. Dick Snyder topic tba

A long-time friend and supporter of UUCB and one of our very favorite guest speakers. Come and be inspired.

JAN 31

Multigen service

with Danielle Bannister, RE and Susan Coe

FEB 7

tba

doing the limbo and hula and eating. In keeping with Luau tradition, please bring a finger food to share, which can actually be eaten with "fingers." We'll have an Hawaiian Punch and all sorts of Hawaiian music - can you say Don Ho?!!! Aloha!

Don't wear too many layers of clothing - it's going to be beach weather!!!!

FMI Teresa Piper; 505-0911; tere-sapip@gmail.com

**February 7, Sunday, 1:00 PM
(after lunch)**

Second Annual Winter Frolic!! To be held at Jan and Dean Anderson's home on Kaler Road. Frosty, Olaf, Jack Frost, The Abominable Snowman, and all of their friends would love to have you join them for a day of outdoor winter fun! There will be

sledding, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, a bonfire, hot cocoa, snacks, and of course, marshmallows! They have a great sledding hill and live next to the river where hearty souls can have an exciting snowshoe adventure. In addition, they are very close to the rail trail that is great for a fun cross-country ski jaunt. When you've had enough fun or need to warm up, there will be a blazing bonfire, snacks and hot cocoa (with or without marshmallows). Come spend an afternoon in our beautiful Maine winter wonderland and have some family fun in the great outdoors. This event was great fun last year!!! Please join us!

FMI Teresa Piper; 505-0911; tere-sapip@gmail.com

Stay tuned - more funtivities to come!

Your Congregation Life Committee

RE Report

The childcare room is seeking adults to help in our child care room one Sunday a month. You must be good with small children and screened/trained by the DRE. The position does pay \$10.00 per Sunday. Please see Danielle Bannister for more information.

This month our younger RE kiddos continued their Sprit Play Baskets which are UU values/principle stories told with small visual aids. It is proving to be quite engaging for our little ones. Our older RE classes got a chance to talk to members of our Worship Arts team as they discussed what makes a multigenerational service work for them, as well as the opportunity to speak with a representative from the Space Needs Team about the changes coming to the church, and more specifically, to their RE space. We got a chance to hear their voices, sorrows, fears and hopes for the new space. In mid-December the groups worked on decorations for their Night Tree. Based on the children’s book by Eve Bunting. They made ornaments for the birds and wildlife to hang of trees right in their back yards. We finished off the year with the pageant, Would You Like to Hold the Baby, and then made cards to give to our Caring Circle. Our YRUU had a little fun making the former infant/toddler room upstairs their own earlier this month by painting on the walls. Take a look sometime. We have some amazing artists in our group. They also took time out of their meeting to write letters to refugees stuck in containment centers over the holidays. *Danielle Bannister, Dir., Religious Exploration*



Our COA kids making birdseed ornaments

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 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. Website contributions: content@uubelfast.org

Friends, Fun and Food is back!!

It's time to sign up!

Do you ever feel like you know the person sitting next to you at church, but you don't really KNOW him or her? Would you like to find out more about the interesting lives of the people you worship with at UUCB?

Well, now you will have that chance! Last winter, many of us had fun getting much better acquainted with some of our fellow UUCBers over a yummy, relaxing meal and we're ready to do it again! This time, we want to get to know YOU! Sign up for FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD (sponsored by the Membership Committee).

*****Sign-ups start January 3 and end January 24.**

Here's how it works:

- Sign up at church or by contacting Teresa Piper (Sign-ups end January 24, 2016).
- If you're willing to be an initial host, indicate that when signing up (pairing up with someone else is a fun way to host, so grab another person!).
- You will be placed in a group of 5-8 people (size of groups will depend on the level of interest).
- You will receive a list of members in your group.
- The initial host will contact members of the FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD group to set up the first gathering.
- The FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD group activities will kick-off no later than the end of February.
- Each group will gather to share a meal, exchange stories and have fun.
- Each group will then decide when and where the next gathering will be and who the host(s) will be.
- Repeat as many times as works

Minister's Report

DEAR FRIENDS:

Our church consists of people who are part of a binding; that is, of a covenant that promises to "nurture the spirit and help heal the world." Our members do not subscribe to specific beliefs, doctrines or creeds. Rather, we choose to work with creation to help create the holy through relationship. This is what it means to be a member of our church.

We are entering the year 2016. We are about to have a Capital Campaign for our building project. And we know that we will have to leave this building for at least six months—perhaps even up to a year--starting in the middle of the summer. So part of our binding, part of our covenant, is that we promise to stick together. More than ever we need to find ways to stay in community and fellowship so that our energy and spirit abounds.

I will facilitate a Congregational Conversation after service on January 3—our first service of the New Year—to brainstorm ways in which we remain a close-knit community while away from 37 Miller St.

McKenzie and I are hoping, too, that the postponed presentation on the Syrian Refugee Crisis will take place after service on January 10—we'll let you know.

These Congregational Conversations are an example of what keeps us together, because we discuss things that are meaningful to us. And in so doing, I think we get a better sense of who we are and where we want to go. I hope you can join us for these Congregational Conversations—this year, next year while we're in another space, and years to come.

Meanwhile, a very Blessed New Year to you all!

Fondly, *Deane*

for the group until the end of April. (REMEMBER-- every group will be different and there is no pressure to adhere to a schedule, but the hope is that each group can meet at least twice.)

- All FRIENDS, FUN AND FOOD groups will join together for an All-Groups potluck dessert evening at UUCB on Saturday, May 14 from 7:00-9:00 PM.

• IMPORTANT...

- How to "do" meals will be a decision made by each group. These could be potluck or host(s) provide or go out to a restaurant. They could be lunch or dinner or breakfast or just snacks. The group decides.

WHAT WILL YOU GAIN?

- Recognition of names and faces at UUCB
- New friends
- Good meals (some that you won't have to cook!)
- New recipes
- Maybe a few pounds!

WHAT DO YOU HAVE TO LOSE?

- Only a chance to be a part of a warm, welcoming, delicious and absolutely fun activity

Sign up through the month of January at church or contact Teresa Piper (207-505-0911 or tere-sapipe@gmail.com). If you have special considerations, please let Teresa know.

The Volunteer Interest Survey is coming!

A small task group from the Program Council has developed a Volunteer Interest Survey to assist newcomers to the church learn more about the 'workings of the church' and it will help us learn more about our current members. It will help us identify potential volunteers for the work of the church, who they can contact if they have specific areas of church life in which they are interested and it will help in building relationships within the church. The survey will be sent out on the UUBB and other places in January with more details at that time.

Looking Up, Building our Vision!

With great joy and anticipation we begin our Looking Up, Building our Vision! campaign this month. Unlike past stewardship drives, funds for the campaign are being raised in two phases, the first of which begins on January 17th. The first team of visitors will visit with many of our church leaders during the latter part of January. Beginning February 14th, a second team will begin calling on additional members and friends for their financial support.

By February 14th nearly all members and others connected with our Church will have received campaign

materials in the mail, followed by a contact from one of our trained visitors.

Our visitors are eager to have the opportunity to speak with every member and friend of our church. These visits are about having meaningful conversations and getting to know each other better, as much as providing a way for people to make their confidential pledges and gifts to the campaign.

If you have any questions about the campaign, or wish to volunteer to help with visits, events or communications, please contact Chris LeGore, Rick Davis or Roger Lee. There is plenty of work to do and fun to be had!