



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.



An artist's rendering of a new sanctuary.

Looking UP: Building our Vision!

By Chris LeGore

February is “kickoff month” for our Capital Campaign! You can feel the excitement in the air as conversations shift from generalities to the details of what we really want our new home to look like. The Space Needs Team has expanded to include folks who are researching every aspect of the project from energy efficiency to aesthetics and design. Our campaign visitors are excited, as well, as they anticipate heart-to-heart conversations with members and friends about our church and the project.

Although there has been some campaign activity during January, the vast majority of our members and friends will be hearing a LOT more

this month. To start off, information packets will be mailed to more than 100 members and friends on February 10th. On February 14th, we’re planning a glorious kickoff event that will include a special service followed by a fun-filled celebration.

Several of our members will be participating in the service, sharing how their personal ministries as UU’s support, and are supported by, the church. Immediately after the service there will be delicious finger food and joyous entertainment until about 1:00.

Valentine’s Day is a great day to officially kick off our campaign. Please mark it on your calendars! Soon afterwards, a campaign visitor

will be calling you to schedule a time to get together and talk about the church, the project, and how being a Belfast UU matters to you. Please welcome your visitor with an open heart.

If you have any questions about the *Looking Up: Building our Vision* campaign, or have not received a packet by February 14th, please get in touch with Chris LeGore or Roger Lee, your campaign co-chairs. Things truly are Looking Up!!!

Building Project news!

By Marty Daniels, president

On Sunday, Jan. 17th, Sarah Nicholson led a “congregational conversation” about the building project. The most exciting part was that she had slides of the most recent floor

plans! Sarah and Roger Lee met with the architects, Barba + Wheelock; the contractor, Charlie Plourde; and the structural engineer, Al Hodson on Jan. 8th. The updated plans came out of that meeting.

About 40 people attended the conversation. The biggest topic of discussion was the use and configuration of the downstairs meeting rooms. In the newest drawings, there are two meeting rooms on the library side of the building nearest the kitchen, each about 12 feet by 20 feet, divided by a moveable wall. This would allow the space to be used as two meeting rooms or one larger space about the size of our old hospitality room.

The two RE rooms on that side are also connected to the meeting room and to each other by large double doors, creating the potential for that entire side of the building to be opened up for some events.

This configuration elicited lots of questions and comments. Why do we need two meeting rooms? Couldn't we use the RE rooms as meeting rooms? Could we create a large enough space to allow hospitality or dinners to happen downstairs?

February 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!

FEB 7

Can You Hear?

Trudy Ferland

Join Trudy Ferland as she shares the story of the Maine UU State Advocacy Network: how MUUSAN started, what advocacy means in this religious context, why it is important, and where MUUSAN stands now. Trudy, who co-chairs the Maine UU State Advocacy Network with Dale McCormick, is a member of the First Universalist Church in Pittsfield.

FEB 14

What Matters?

UUCB Speakers

The work we do in our church leads us to ministry in the world. Several of our UUCB members and friends will share their experience with this. Our building expansion is just one way we are growing our ministry as we reach further into our community and the world to do what matters.

FEB 21

Rev. Deane Perkins

FEB 28

Guest Minister

MARCH 6

Guest Minister

Could we add more moveable walls, either now or in the future, to allow the greatest flexibility?

In the course of the discussion, several points of view became clear. First, many people wish that hospi-

tality and other food events, like dinners, could take place downstairs. To that end, they would like more moveable walls connecting the RE rooms to the meeting spaces and possibly the corridor. At the same time, many other people felt that the RE spaces should be dedicated to RE, allowing the kids to "make them their own" without having to routinely share them as meeting or function spaces.

This is an issue that the Space Needs team has been wrestling with for months. Their recommendation is that hospitality and other large events take place in the sanctuary. As Sarah Nicholson pointed out, "This is probably going to be the greatest compromise we will have to make."

Nonetheless, the Space Needs team will continue to look into moveable

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

by Ezra Kreamer

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast's "Looking Up: Building Our Vision" capital campaign will be launched on Sunday, February 14th with a special service, followed by a Kickoff Celebration from 11:00 AM to 12:30 PM. Come and join the celebration, where you will find something for everyone! Enjoy face painting for the kids (and kids at heart!) • music • spoken word • finger food, and much more!!!

Sunday, February 14th 2016...a day to remember!

walls and the use of pocket doors or large double doors to increase the flexibility of the downstairs meeting rooms. The final decision will have to take cost, sound insulation, and handicapped accessibility all into consideration.

Upstairs, the biggest changes are the addition of a third bathroom to meet code requirements and a kitchenette at the back of the sanctuary! The kitchenette can be closed off with folding doors and will include a sink; a counter and cupboards; a dorm-sized refrigerator; and outlets for coffee makers and a microwave. It will be possible, therefore, to house hospitality supplies upstairs without having to bring them back and forth from the kitchen.

It was clear from the discussion that a great deal more research needs to be done around acoustics. An off-shoot of the Space Needs team, consisting of Morten Moesswilde, Cary Bradford, and Dean Anderson will be looking into the issues of sound quality and equipment.

Sarah ended the meeting with a list of upcoming events. Please mark these dates on your calendars:

FEB. 5: Space Needs team meets with the architects, contractor, and structural engineer for a Schematic Design Review.

FEB. 14: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN KICK-OFF EVENT!

FEB. 28: Congregational Conversation to update everyone on the building project.

MAR. 5: Space Needs team meets with architects, contractor, and structural engineer to do a Design Development Review.

MAR. 20: Congregational Conversation to update everyone on the building project.

MAR. 31: CAPITAL CAMPAIGN CELEBRATION!

APRIL 17: Congregational Conversation to update everyone on the building project.

APRIL OR MAY: Congregational Vote to approve moving ahead with the project.

End of June: **BREAK GROUND!**

CongoLife

FEBRUARY The second annual Winter Frolic is planned for Feb. 7 at Jan and Dean Anderson's. Roasting marshmallows, hot chocolate and cider will be available. There will be snowshoeing, sledding and cross-country skiing. Bring your own snow equipment. Teresa Piper is hosting this event. FMI teresapipe@gmail.com // 505-0911

Valentine card construction

(CongoLife will provide construction paper for the cards) and cookie making will be held on Saturday, Feb. 13, at 9:00 AM in UUCB's kitchen. We will provide some heart-shaped cookies, but feel free to bring some of your own. Then, on the 14th, which is the kick-off of the Capital Campaign, we'll share the cookies with the congregation. Sue Cobb will host this event. FMI alaughing-dog@gmail.com // 518-744-1240 (cell)

MARCH CongoLife is planning an after-church chili pot luck event for March 13. Bring chili or soup and

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

Children & Youth Lifespan

Jane Dopheide 338-1730

Music

Karen Nelson 338-0499

Finances

Roger Lee (treas) 522-8007

Sunday Services

Mandi Thomas 322-8123

Membership Chair

Marje Stickler 338-5059
Karen Wigglesworth 232-2649

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

John Krueger 338-8676

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 UUCC, email office@uubelfast.org. Website contributions: content@uubelfast.org

bread and/or cornbreads and desserts.

APRIL On April 30, Cheryl will again host a seed starting event. CongoLife still has quite a bit of soil, peat pots and seeds from last year. You may bring your own seeds, as well. The seed starting supplies were donated last year by Aubuchon, EBS and Trustworthy. FMI a_cini-taly@yahoo.com // 213-7334 (c) // 342-4649 (h)

Cheryl Richardson
207.342.4649 Home
207.213.7334 New Cell#

Religious Exploration

by Danielle Bannister

January in RE was a busy one! We started the New Year off by all age groups making cards for the Caring Circle. This was a concrete way for the children and youth to hear about what our Caring Circle does for our congregation while also allowing them a way to help with the task. Other sessions in January included, for the Primary Room, Spirit Play baskets that help teach our seven Principles and six Sources. They heard about Mr. Hatch, a man who lived alone and had no friends, and how he learned about the joy that can be found in a community. They also learned that the weight of a single snowflake matters; just like they do. These simple stories convey some pretty large concepts that we just

Minister's Report

DEAR FRIENDS:

One of the multi-site (also called collaborative ministry) events that our Council has agreed to participate in with Ellsworth and Castine is a Fall Weekend at Ferry Beach. This will take place October 28-30, 2016. The reason I want to let you know about this is that we can start making reservations now.

Ellsworth UU has been going to Ferry Beach (near Saco, ME) as a congregation for two years now. They have a small team that puts the programming for the weekend together, which might include yoga, meditation, dancing, drumming, presentations on a variety of subjects, creative arts, programming for kids, worship services, making s'mores at the campfire and so on. There is also plenty of free time at the beach. We would probably do some of our own programming, but would do a fair amount with both Ellsworth and Castine.

We were informed that the cost/person is \$175. This includes meals from Friday evening dinner

to Sunday lunch. People would be in the Inn or Dorm (2-3 people in each room, shared bathroom), though there is also camping at a lower cost. Two of our youth, with Jessica Falconer as the chaperone, went camping there this past October and met up with the Ellsworth group. The \$175 cost also means that for every two people who pay that amount, a third person goes for half price; it's an easy way to provide scholarships.

This is a wonderful opportunity for us as a congregation to be together, especially during our transition period next year. It is also a great chance to be with Ellsworth and Castine in ways that would not happen otherwise. To have a weekend together would be both meaningful and a lot of fun!

Jessica Falconer, Susan Coe and I are, so far, the Ferry Beach Team for Belfast. We have space for 50 people. If you wish to make a reservation, please get in touch with Susan (blsky13@yahoo.com).

Fondly, Deane



Some of the cards made by the children for the Caring Circle.

touch the surface of in our sessions. It gets them ready for bigger discussions as they move on in RE. Our Intermediate Room had a few weeks worth of discussion on class categories: rich, middle-class, working, and poor. Although this age group ranges from grade 3 to grade 5, roughly, they had some deep conversations about how society views each class. They made murals out of what they found in print for each category and found that the working and poor classes were the least group represented. Our Coming of the Age class had their second overnight retreat with some of their Mentors in attendance. They have also been working on a project for our celebration on February 14 after church. Our youth group met on the first Sunday of the month to discuss our upcoming OWL program (which is a course on human sexuality and values that UUCB is offering to grades 10 through 12 starting in February.) They also continued their mural on the upstairs meeting room. It's looking really wonderful, and I encourage you all to take a look at it.

SAVE-THE-DATES

Friday, May 20-Sunday, May 22 for an important weekend workshop:

Tending Moral Injury in Returning Veterans: This workshop is for clergy and faith leaders from faith communities committed to implementing the lessons learned from the workshop. The workshop will equip and empower them to tend to the moral injuries and soul wounds that result from war and military service, drawing from the unique resources of their respective traditions and from assets in their local communities.

Facilitator: The Rev. Chris J. Antal, who is an ordained Unitarian Universalist Minister in Final Fellowship with the UUA, is a clinical staff chaplain in the Philadelphia VA Medical Center and the called and settled minister at the UU Congregation at Rock Tavern, New York. Prior to that he served four years as an Army chaplain with one tour in Afghanistan. Chris' ministry was featured in Spring/Summer 2015 Issue of Disarmament Times by the UN NGO Committee on Disarmament, Peace and Security. He is the lead author of "Moral Injury, Soul Repair, and Creating a Place for Grace," published in the peer-reviewed journal Religious Education (Vol.110 No. 4 July-September 2015).

Cost: \$125 per person or \$345 for three or more from one faith community. Participating congregations and faith-based organizations are encouraged, where possible, to sponsor teams of three with Leadership Development or scholarships funds.

Location: UU Church of Belfast, 37 Miller St., Belfast, Maine, 207-338-4482

To register or FMI contact: Kathy Kreamer, kathrynkreamer@gmail.com
Registration and payment deadline: May 1, 2016; please mail to 129 Miller St., Belfast, ME 04915

Sponsored by: the UUCB Peace Advocacy Documentation Committee

Three Churches are Better Than One!

Judith Grace joined the newly created "Collaborative Ministries Team" as one of three representatives from Belfast in November. Marty Daniels interviewed her on Jan. 20th to find out what they have been working on:

Q: What is the CMT?

A: It is the Collaborative Ministries Team. It is a team consisting of three members each from the Belfast, Castine, and Ellsworth UU churches who have come together to find ways for the churches to work

together for the betterment of each and to establish connections between the three churches.

Q: How did the CMT come into being?

A: It began with the youth service trips to New Orleans and Guatemala. Then when Castine couldn't find a minister, Deane and Rev. Sara Hayman from Ellsworth offered to help by spending some time serving Castine. Castine decided to continue their search for a full-time minister but in the meantime collaboration had begun and members began to see

lots of possibilities for collaboration between the three churches.

Currently the CMT meets monthly and is working on the possibility of a shared internship and making plans for a shared weekend next fall at Ferry Beach.

Q: So what would a shared internship look like, and what would it cost?

A: There is an application process through which the UUA pays half of the \$15,000 stipend for a 9-month internship. The three churches would divide the rest of the cost.

UU PRINCIPLES

- We gather together to affirm and promote:
1. The inherent worth and dignity of every person.
 2. Justice, equity, and compassion in human relations.
 3. Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spirituality.
 4. A free and responsible search for truth and meaning.
 5. The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process within our congregations and in society at large.
 6. The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice for all.
 7. Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part.



The Unitarian Universalist Church of Belfast
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Q: What might an intern do?

A: The intern would have different responsibilities and goals in each of the three churches. In that way, the intern's presence could be helpful to each church's particular needs and the intern would have diverse learning opportunities. The UUA has expressed particular interest in an

internship that is shared by three churches.

Q: Would this be a one-year deal?

A: We can apply for this grant for up to three years. Our hope is that, if successful, we could continue to offer the internship.

Q: What do you see as some possible functions an intern might serve for the UU Church of Belfast?

A: Perhaps being an assistant in the RE program; perhaps leading a particular Social Justice project; working on extending our outreach program; or serving as a volunteer coordinator.

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