

VOL. 22, No. 3
MARCH • 2016

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.



We celebrated the strength of our community as we built our web.

Capital Campaign Kickoff – the best Valentine ever!

By Chris LeGore

Members and friends who came to church on Valentine's Day were treated to two unique events: a highly participative church service followed by a joyous kickoff celebration. In the morning, speakers Dan Avenir, Angela Domenichelli, Jane Dopheide (speaking for Bill), Avery

Kreamer and Lane Fisher shared how the church informs and supports their life goals. Morten Moesswilde and others provided lovely music, and Cris Hughes and several youth assisted with the service.

Immediately following the service, baskets of Valentine's cookies and

lunchtime treats gave us the energy to participate in the afternoon's activities. Emcee Chip Curry kept the party moving, from the "UU Pokey" to a hilarious, heartfelt skit from the YRUU's, to our famous web exercise. In addition, the COA teens shared their posters celebrating

the changes to come.

For a joyous kickoff Sunday, I thank service organizers Susan Coe and Lane Fisher, and party organizers Ezra Kreamer, Betsy Reed and Martha Burke.

The highlight of the party (for me, at least) was announcing that to date we had raised \$622,700 (the number changes every day). Because we are so close to our \$700,000 goal, we encourage everyone to reach for our S-T-R-E-T-C-H goal of \$880,000.

Wouldn't it be fantastic to complete most of our Phase II projects in addition to our bare bones Phase I plans?

The generosity of this congregation is truly inspiring. The hard work of organizing the campaign is dwarfed by the joy of witnessing the extent to which our members and friends are supporting the Looking UP Renovation and Restoration Project. People are saying "yes!" with their checkbooks and with their feet (so far, more than seventy-five people have volunteered time and talent to the project). What a blessing!

Chris LeGore, Past President, Looking Up Capital Campaign Co-Chair

LOOKING UPdate!

Marty Daniels, President

The preparations for the building renovation are proceeding at a steady pace. Several teams have been formed to facilitate this process. It is astounding to me how engaged members of the congregation are!

First, there is the Capital Campaign, which has already brought in \$625,000. More than 20 individuals have volunteered their time to visit with members and friends as part of the Capital Campaign canvas. The stewards of the campaign have sent out informational packets, set up trainings for the canvassers, and are

March 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!

MARCH 6

White Rockets

Rev. Al Boyce

Everyday we are provided with opportunities to be greater engaged in our world. Very often, if the cause, no matter how noble, does not involve us personally, we are tempted to remain uninvolved. Al's sermon will address the topic.

MARCH 13

Guest Speaker

MARCH 20

Rev. Sara Hayman from Ellsworth UU

MARCH 27

(Easter Sunday) Rev. Deane Perkins

APRIL 3

Rev. Deane Perkins

keeping track of pledges and contributions as they come in.

The Wanderers' group is working out the details of where we will meet and worship next year. They have visited many possible venues around town and spoken to many individuals as part of this quest. They are approaching the point where they can make definitive recommendations to the Council.

The Sound Team is exploring new equipment. This is more complicated than it might initially seem. The uses of our sound equipment are varied, and each one is affected not only by the equipment we choose but also by the size, contours, and surfaces of the new sanctuary. Spoken voice has different qualities than singing voices or instruments. This group is also exploring the advantages of hiring a sound engineer to help make the crucial decision about what kind of sound equipment to buy.

The Aesthetics Team is currently focused on the configuration of the stage area, with its uses and handicapped accessibility in mind. Next they will look into the moveable

dividers that will separate the seating area from the back of the sanctuary. In the future they will be tackling the aesthetics of the lighting and other fixtures, all the while balancing appearance with cost.

Green Sanctuary has been looking into building materials. While their primary interest is in the use of energy efficient and non-toxic materials, they must also balance this philosophy against cost and practicality.

The Kickoff group met weekly for a month to plan the Capital Campaign kickoff celebration that took place at the church Sunday, Feb. 14th. Approximately 30 people were involved in one way or another on the day of the celebration, doing everything from leading activities to cleaning up afterwards.

Then there is the Space Needs Task Force itself, which continues to meet every Monday night to review and coordinate the activities of the other teams. They are the liaison between the congregation and the architects, the general contractor, and the structural engineer. Members of this team have also met and will continue

to meet with the State Fire Marshall, the Planning Board of the City of Belfast, and banks and the insurance company to make sure that we are meeting all state, local, and legal requirements.

All together, some 28 people are or have been directly involved in the planning for the building renovation. That's approximately 20% of our

congregation – and that doesn't even include the canvassers or the many people who helped with the kick-off celebration Feb. 14th! All this reminds me that we are and have always been a congregation of "doers." I have the utmost faith that we will "do" this renovation, and end up with a new facility that we can be proud of!

What a month it was in RE! Here are some highlights:

Danielle Bannister, DRE

Primary Room:

- Spirit Play stories still seem to be quite engaging and exciting for both the guides and children. Our guides are finding that the stories are prompting some enlightening conversations which are prepping them to ask those big questions in later classrooms.

Intermediate Room:

- What a group of thinkers this group is! They never cease to amaze me with the insights their guides tell

me they garner from the sessions. We took several classes to talk about the Rich, Middle, Working and Poor classes and the privileges, or lack thereof, that come with each level of Class. We followed that up with talking about peaceful protest when dealing with injustice. It is amazing how much of this they understand and already see in their lives.

COA Room

- In January, the group had their second overnight retreat and watched



"Seed in the Ground," one of our many Spirit Play stories.

Jurassic Park which prompted some GREAT discussion about cloning and genetic modifications. Where do we ethically draw the line? We have some deep thinkers here! They got to do some one on one work with their Mentors the following day and have already begun making stronger connections.

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 Advisory Team

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

Greeter Coordinator

Cheryl Richardson 342-4649/213-7334

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

Youth Group

· Along with Jessica, I have been meeting with the Youth Group on the 1st Sunday of each month. (This group is independent of the 4 youth going to Guatemala). During meetings we have had them write letters to refugee camp children, paint the walls in their room as a form of meditation (check out the old baby room some day.) as well as come up

with the skit they performed at our after church party in February.

- Update on OWL (Our Whole Lives-Sex Ed and Values course for grades 10-12): This program, which is lead by Jessica Falconer and Ian Howard had to be rescheduled due to snow and is now set for March 7. For more information on that, please talk to Jessica or Ian.

Wanderers Committee Recommendations

The past couple of months have been very busy for all of us, holidays, visitors, family, vacations, and a little snow. We had a remarkable event last Sunday celebrating the kick off of the capital campaign.

After careful consideration of other sites, the Wanderers would recommend for Sunday service, the East Belfast School. The school auditorium/gymnasium has ample room and a stage that could be used as an interim sanctuary. There are four other rooms we could utilize for Religious Education space: a large Art/Music room, the library, the teacher's room, and a shared office space. All of the rooms are close to

or adjacent to the gym and bathrooms are just outside the gym. This provides us with an opportunity for service as volunteers at the school.

We are considering in the office space at Westbay Professional Building, a stone's throw from the church across High Street on Spring Street. There are two upstairs offices that could be used for administrative offices that could be rented on a monthly basis. Included in the rental would be access to a downstairs meeting room, bathrooms, utilities, and high speed wifi.

The Council has approved the recommendations for pursuing these buildings for our use. We are in the process of finalizing agreements with the School District and the landlord (landlady) at Westbay Professional.

The Wanderers are seeking storage space for the contents of the church. Some folks have stepped forward to house some of the contents and Roger has generously offered one his storage units behind the church as a continued space for some of the contents. We continue to search for additional storage space provided by the congregation and the community.

Dean Anderson

Wanderers Committee

CongoLife

is planning to play a major role in maintaining congregational cohesion during the time in which UUCB is away from home during the planned renovations. We want to work diligently to help the congregation stay connected by having more events than we have had in the past.

This year we have a new, larger and very energetic committee consisting of: Sue Cobb, Cris Hughes, Teresa Piper, Cheryl Richardson and Muzz, our Church Council liaison.

The events we are planning include but are not limited to:

MARCH 11: Contra Dance! Get out your dancing shoes and join CongoLife in the UUCB Sanctuary; 6:00- 9:00 PM. Chrissy Fowler will be the caller. If you've ever attended one of Chrissy's Contra Dances, you know they are always fun and lively! (Lessens are from 6 to 7ish; Contra to follow).

WEATHER PERMITTING, a second Winter Frolic at the Anderson's. Date to be determined.

APRIL 10: An after-church chili potluck. Bring chili, soup, breads of any type and desserts. All of CongoLife will host this event.

APRIL 30: Second Annual seed starting. CongoLife will provide soil, peat pots and seeds. Please bring your own seeds, if you like! Last year Aubuchon, EBS and Trustworthy were very gracious with their donations. Cheryl will host this event. FMI a_cinitaly@yahoo.com / 342-4649 h / 213-7334 c

MAY 7: Please join CongoLife for a Cinco de Mayo celebration, 6:00-8:00 PM! Sue Cobb and Cheryl & Arthur Richardson will be preparing all things Mexican!! Virgin Margarita's anyone?

JUNE ?: CongoLife is planning a



surprise for the entire congregation to prepare everyone for the transition to our "home away from home"! Stay tuned!

Your Congregational Life Committee

Friends, Fun and Food

The Membership Committee is excited to give the update on Friends, Fun and Food (FFF). We have 9 different groups with a total of 82 people involved in this fun activity! Most groups have planned their first gath-

ering and hopefully everyone is getting an opportunity to become better acquainted with their group members. The FFF groups will continue to meet until April or May. On May 14, all 9 groups will meet at the church for a dessert potluck. Yum!

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

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I WONDER WHY . . .!

"Did you buy a Hannaford gift card this month?"

"No."

"I wonder why?"

2/3rds of our members and friends do not buy gift cards. I wonder why? I'm sure there are many reasons:

1. **They are too expensive.**
Gift cards start at \$50. On the average, people spend at least \$50 a week, so you are just spending it in advance. You go shopping with your purchases pre-paid! And the cards never expire.
2. **I don't come to church every week.**
When you do come to church, buy a gift card. Or stop into the office on Monday or Thursday morning and buy one from Maret.
3. **I also buy prescriptions and lots more than groceries at Hannaford.**
You can buy all those things with your card. Everything in the store except another gift card.
4. **I forgot my check book plus I charge my groceries at the store so I get points.**
Make a note to bring your check book. Or use your credit card for a very small fee—and still get your credit card points. Cards are available for \$50, \$100 or \$200.

This could be our biggest (AND SIMPLEST) fund raiser. If all our members and friends bought cards to pay for their groceries at Hannaford, we would raise at least \$15,000 per year. WOW, that would be almost as big as all our fundraisers put together and AT NO COST to anyone. When it runs out, buy another one at the UU so we get credit (please don't renew at the store.)

So, "I wonder why?" Think about it. It's an easy way to support our church.