

NUU NEWSLETTER

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

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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.

Life of the Church

Marty Daniels, President

In the fall of 2014, I attended a conference called “Lower the River” in New Hampshire with several members of our congregation that addressed leadership and volunteerism in churches. It felt like a topic that was very relevant to UUCB. It seemed as though there were never enough volunteers for what needed to be done.

At that conference, one of the many things we learned was the so-called “20-80 rule.” This is a general rule that has been found to apply to virtually all volunteer organizations, and to many private enterprises as well. The rule states that in any organization, roughly 20% of the members are actively involved in the running of the organization and do approximately 80% of the work.

When we looked at UUCB, we realized that we do slightly better than the 20-80 rule. In other words, we have a higher rate of active participation than most volunteer organizations. This was very reassuring to me at the time, and allowed me to relax about trying to recruit more volunteers.

Fast forward to the fall of 2015. The congregation took a vote and decided to move ahead with both a Capital Campaign and a major building renovation. Suddenly it was no longer “business as usual”. Suddenly we had a need for all kinds of volunteer help above and beyond what

we normally do!

First, there was the Capital Campaign. We needed canvassers; a campaign treasurer; people to organize a kick-off event. Then there was the renovation itself, and what that would mean in terms of space needs; decision making; and the actual move! Yikes! How would we ever get all this done?

The answer is by blowing away the “20-80 rule!”

The core Space Needs Task Force continues the work of coordinating the renovation with the architects, general contractor, and structural engineer. Added to that group are the Wanderers, who are locating spaces around town where we can worship, meet, and get together while we are “homeless.” In addition there is the Aesthetics group that is making decisions regarding the aesthetic details of the renovation. Then there is the Sound group that is researching the best sound system for our new sanctuary.

Now add the Capital Campaign and

the many canvassers who visited people, plus the people who organized and participated in our kick-off event Feb. 14th.

Now add the Moving group, which is planning and coordinating the actual move in June...

What have you got? Try the UUCB “40-60 rule,” or maybe even a “50-50 rule!”

All this simply proves, once again, that we are a congregation of “doers.” Once again we are taking a leap of faith, believing that we can accomplish something huge and daunting that will lead to better things in the future.

Just imagine, in about one year’s time we will be in our newly renovated building, with a bright, spacious sanctuary and clean, new RE and meeting rooms downstairs...

And it will all be due to YOU – your time, energy, and treasure!

So here’s to all the marvelous volunteers that have stepped forward to help make this dream a reality!

THANK YOU!

Capital Campaign Update

by *Chris LeGore*

“Looking Up: Building our Vision” is doing remarkably well, with a current total close to \$680,000. Following the advice of our Full Harvest consultants, we are currently preparing for a “sprint to the finish line!” As with the first quiet phase, we

have been asking a few of our members if they would be willing to increase their pledges beyond what they have already pledged. About one half of the people we have approached have responded positively to our calls.

By the end of March, a letter will be sent to our members and pledging

friends. We will announce a (hopefully) significantly larger campaign figure, and will ask people to consider increasing their campaign pledges to help us reach our goal. In the mailing we will include – at last - a detailed description of what we expect the building project to look like at various giving levels.

With everyone's participation in this campaign we hope to come as close as possible to our stretch goal of \$880,000. Thank you to all of our members and friends whose generosity has been overwhelmingly heart-warming and affirming.

Wanderers/building update

As the June moving date draws closer, many of the pieces to our temporary space puzzle are fitting together.

We know our Sunday services will be at the Eastside Elementary School, in the school gym, with R.E. classes held in rooms near it. We look forward to returning to the school, one of our former church homes before we bought the Miller Street building from the Methodists. At the Eastside School we will be permitted to have a small piano on the gym's stage, along with a storage box. We will have simple hospitality prep with coffee makers and microwave. In exchange for school usage, we will remove our trash, build a stage storage box, and supply volunteers to read to the younger students at the school.

Our church offices will be housed in the Belfast Center, in two rooms on the third floor. One of these rooms will be Deane's office, while the larger 500 square foot room will house meeting space and Maret's and Danielle's desks. These offices, along with other offices nearby share a comfortable common waiting

April 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!

APRIL 3 **Rev. Deane Perkins**

APRIL 10 **It's Not Personal**
given by Lane Fisher

Drawing from special study she did last year with Devorah Greenstein, former director of accessibility for the UUA, Lane will explore accessibility as a question of awareness and attitude more than building structure.

APRIL 17 **Rev. Deane Perkins**

APRIL 24 **Universe Story**
led by the Green Sanctuary Committee

Our special earth Day service will be led by the members of the Green Sanctuary committee. This will be a multi-gen service, and will feature the beloved Universe Story!

MAY 1 **Rev. Deane Perkins**

room, use of a kitchen, and bathroom. The large office should accommodate almost all of our meetings. In exchange we pay rent, internet, phone, and provide cleaning to these spaces. While the rooms are by no means fancy, they should offer an affordable temporary space solution in a popular Belfast location, with elevator access.

We are grateful to St. Margaret's Episcopal Church for reaching out and generously offering several other space solutions. Our choir has permission to practice Thursdays in their church Sanctuary on Court Street. In addition, we anticipate usage on Tuesdays of space within their parish hall for our popular Seasoned Souls group and on Fridays for our LGBTQ youth group. Also, we hope to use their kitchen/meeting room for some larger congregational life activities. In exchange we will make a donation to St. Margaret's.

As of this writing we are not certain where our grand piano will go, but

with Karen Nelson and others we are working on possibilities.

Temporary church property storage will happen at two storage units at Roger Lee's Spring Street center just behind the church, as well as basement storage in the homes of the Richardsons, the Andersons, and Linda Buckmaster. Come June the Moving Committee will lead us through packing, moving, unpacking and storage, to clear the church and make way for construction.

Once we move, the most interesting challenge of the wandering period occurs as we all work together to stay integrated and connected, despite our various locations.

As is evident, many persons and groups will help us keep our church community intact during major building renovation. We are grateful for the resources and kindness around us, and look forward to new connections and opportunities that will result. Details will be ironed out and further planning will continue as the move approaches and then

unfolds.

The Wanderers or the church Council welcome questions, ideas, and comments about the plans just outlined.

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

Earth Day Events at UUCB and beyond

Please join in on these two events our Green Sanctuary Committee is sponsoring at our church during Earth Days Waldo County this year. Details on other Earth Days events in the community follow.

LOCAL FOODS POTLUCK AND INVENTION CONVENTION EXHIBITS

Wednesday, April 20, 6:00-7:30 PM: Please join us in celebrating Earth Day with a local foods potluck dinner and "Invention Convention!" All are welcome to attend. Please bring a potluck dish of (mostly) local fare, along with your recipe.



Rainbow's End green cemetery in Orrington

Children ages 6-12 are invited to design/imagine an invention that will help to remedy an environmental issue that the child has been

researching.

Hosts: Green Sanctuary Committee and Belfast Free Library's Children's Floor. FMI on "Invention

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

Rick Davis 930-3562

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

Convention" contact Erica Rubin Irish erirish@belfastlibrary.org. FMI on potluck contact Jasmine Fowler jazzpf@gmail.com .

PUSHING UP DAISIES: FUNERAL ALTERNATIVES AND NATURAL BURIAL
Wednesday, April 27, 7:00-8:30 PM: Alison Rector of the Maine Funeral Consumers Alliance will offer a presentation in our sanctuary about green burial options. What's the best choice for you, your family and the environment in end of life planning? All are invited to join the discussion.

Host: UU Church of Belfast, Green Sanctuary Committee

FMI: Alison Rector at arector@fca-maine.net

OTHER EARTH DAYS EVENTS OF INTEREST INCLUDE:

Tuesday April 19, 6:30 PM at the Colonial Theater: "The Messenger" This film is a visually thrilling ode to the beauty and importance of imperiled songbirds, and what it will mean to all of us on both a global and human level if we lose them. Come watch birds in flight close-up and learn how to help them survive.
Host: Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition. FMI: Cloe Chunn at cloechunn@gmail.com

Thursday, April 21, 6:30 PM Avian Haven at the Library: Laura Suomi-Lecker will show us what goes on behind the scenes at Avian Haven, where injured birds are treated medically, cared for, and released whenever possible. Host: Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition

Friday, April 22, 10:00-12:00 Earth Day Hike - Hills to Sea Trail - Come join us on the Hills to Sea Trail from City Point Station (north end of the

Minister's Report

DEAR FRIENDS,

There is a great deal of excitement at UU Belfast as a result of our Capital Campaign and our building project. The start date for our renovation, July 1, is only three months away. I imagine, as we watch the progress of the renovation, that time will seem to go by pretty quickly for us as a congregation.

At one point this Fall I found myself rather concerned that we might, as a church, have difficulty staying connected while we were away from our building. But I no longer have that concern. The energy of this congregation, as well as the genuine care we have for one another, will keep us together.

I think, too, that we know that this building project is kind of another beginning for us. Our new space is not just for us, but a means by which we can connect better with

our own community; that is, how do we expand further our mission and ministry into the world?

Most UU congregations often question their sense of purpose and identity—these are healthy issues that we all need to consider. So our time away seems to me to be a wonderful opportunity to do just that—look at who we are and what we want to do as a religious community dedicated to making the world more healthy and more just.

So I would like to suggest that this be our major congregational topic of conversation in the months that we are away—what is our mission in our community and our world? What will this look like concretely? How will our space reflect our ministry? How do we, as UUs in Belfast, Maine, make a difference in the world?

Fondly, *Deane*

Passy Trail) to Route 7, about 3 miles. Meet at the train station on Oak Hill Road. Bring Water, snack, wind and rain protection, sturdy footwear appropriate for weather conditions. Host: Belfast Bay Watershed Coalition FMI: 338-1147

Friday, April 22, 5:30 pm potluck, 6:30 pm open mic: Earth Love Party: Inspiration, LOVE, and solutions! at Waterfall Arts. Open mic, poetry, short films, music, movement, sharing, listening, dancing, bring a dish to share, kids invited and supported, send an idea, video clip, volunteer or

collaborate. FMI:Gretchen Piper motherwortfarm@gmail.com .

Wednesday May 4, 6:30-8 pm: A community-wide book discussion of Elizabeth Kolbert's Sixth Extinction (chosen as one of the NYTimes 10 best books of 2014). Bookstores have ordered extra copies.. Discussion will be guided by readers' input, so prepare to do some very brief and simple "homework" to more deeply engage you in the discussion! FMI contact Beverly Roxby at beverlyteach@gmail.com .

Corliss C. Davis

CongoLife, April/May

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! Cheryl will host this event. FMI a_cini-taly@yahoo.com / 342-4649 h / 213-7334 c

May 7: Please join CongoLife for a

Cinco de Mayo celebration 6 pm – 8 p.m! Sue Cobb and Cheryl & Arthur Richardson will be preparing all things Mexican!! Virgin Margarita's anyone?

Your Congregational Life Committee
Cheryl Richardson
207.342.4649 Home
207.213.7334 New Cell#

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