

**VOL. 22, No. 5**  
**MAY • 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.*



*An artist's rendition of the stage area of the new sanctuary.*

## **The Building Project Planning Stage is Coming to an End!**

*By Marty Daniels, President*

After nearly five years, the planning stage of the building project will come to an end on Sunday, May 15th. On that day, the congregation will vote whether to spend the \$871,000 raised in the Capital Campaign on the building renovation project as designed by our architects, Barba + Wheelock. We have already chosen a general contractor, Charlie Plourde, who built the Methodist church in town and has built or renovated several other churches in Maine. Charlie has been working closely with the architects, a structural engineer, Al Hodson, and our church's Space Needs team to come up with the best plan for the amount of money we have raised.

This is the culmination of a long journey! Shortly after we called our first minister, Rev. Deane Perkins, we experienced a sizeable increase in the number of people attending church. The largest increase was young families with children. Suddenly we found that it was not unusual to have between 20 and 30 children present on Sunday mornings! Sunday morning hospitality was crowded and noisy, and meeting space and times became hard to find.

The Space Needs Task Force was created that year. The original members were Roger Lee, Sarah Nicholson, Jan Anderson, Michael Bowe, and Jane Dopheide. Jane left in 2013 to serve as President. Chris LeGore and Marty Daniels were

asked to join the team in 2014 as we contemplated hiring Full Harvest consulting firm to conduct a Feasibility Study. The congregation voted to hire Peter Heinrichs and Susan Lewis of Full Harvest that fall, and the Feasibility Report came out that November.

What the Feasibility Report showed was that while we could probably raise \$550,000 to \$600,000, the congregation was not very excited about any of the plans for additions to the building that had been presented so far. Full Harvest recommended that we hit the "pause" button and take some time to celebrate both who we are and the old building that has served us so well these last 15 years. Meanwhile, the Space Needs team

continued to meet and to explore possibilities. A Crosby Team was established in the spring of 2015 to take a hard look at the old Crosby School to see if that was a possibility. When it became clear that this option would not work out, the team came back to an idea they had thought about at the very beginning:

What if we gutted the interior of our building and restored it to its original form?

When the Space Needs team first considered that option, it seemed too expensive. Returning the sanctuary to the second floor would require an elevator, and the sheer scope of such a project was daunting. However, after three years of exploring various additions to the building, none of which sparked the congregation's imagination, the team came back to the idea of restoring the building.

When this was presented to the congregation in the fall of 2015, there was for the first time an overwhelming sense of enthusiasm! As Peter and Susan put it, the congregation was in "full body wag". In November of 2015, the congregation voted to proceed with both a Capital Campaign with the assistance of Full Harvest Consulting, and with drawings and sketches from the architects for renovating the interior space.

Since then, we have been a whirlwind of activity! Michael Bowe left the Space Needs team to head up the "Wanderers", a sub-group charged with finding us places in town where we could worship, have offices, and gather while our building is under construction. Chris LeGore left to head up the Capital Campaign. Wendy Watkins and Debbie Bailly joined the Space Needs team to coordinate communications and aesthetics, respectively. Jane Dopheide rejoined the team as a liaison from RE.

### May 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!

*DURING THE MONTH OF MAY there will be a common theme of "Peace" throughout all the worship services and many other programs at UUCB. A series of readings and articles will be distributed via email at the start of the month to supplement the Sunday programming.*

**MAY 1**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

**MAY 8**

**Restorative Justice: a model for our lives**

This service will feature 4 speakers from our congregation who have contributed many hours and much wisdom to the Restorative Justice program here in Waldo County. The program began at the UUCB, and is not flourishing on its own with the help of donations and volunteers. Our speakers will explore with you how their work with RJP has brought peace to their lives and those they have touched. Come and listen to ways you can incorporate this philosophy into your life and the lives of those you touch.

**MAY 15**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

**MAY 22**

**Rev Chris Antal**

Rev. Antal will lead a workshop at the UUCB on May 20-22 entitled "Tending Moral Injury in Returning Veterans." He will lead our congregation in a homily focused on the premises of this workshop during our service. There will also be a service on Saturday evening, May 21 open to the public. (More information about this service and the workshop can be found on the UUCB website at [uubelfast.org](http://uubelfast.org).)

**MAY 29 Multi-gen: Celebrating the generations in our congregation.**

You hear "multi-gen service" and perhaps are not inspired. Yet consider how interactive we can be when we seek to recognize the wisdom, humor, interests and spiritual wonder that each generation in our congregation contributes. We promise laughter, thoughtfulness, education and fun as we come to understand what makes our neighbors tick at this service!

**JUNE 5**

**Rev. Deane Perkins**

A Sound group was formed to look into the best sound system for our new sanctuary as well. All of these people and groups are working towards the best plan for our building given the amount of money we have raised.

Will we have a finished product when we are done? No. Much of the finishing details will be left undone. We will begin our life in

our renovated building with plywood floors and unpainted walls. Some of the details we hoped for, such as a dumbwaiter and moveable walls downstairs, will have to wait until a later date. But everything will be fresh and new, and some of the issues that have plagued us, like the mold in the basement and the patchwork electrical wiring, will be fixed. On Sunday, May 15th, the final

vote to move ahead will be cast. Mark your calendars! Don't miss this historic moment!

**Capital Campaign Reaches Amazing Heights!!**

*by Chris LeGore*

At the time of this writing, April 21st, we are at 99.1% of our "stretch" goal of \$880,000, with just \$8,000 to go. But as our goal grew, so did our vision of how we wanted our new building to come together. After we reach our goal – and with your help we are confident that we will – we will need additional funding to pay for the finishes (paint, flooring, etc.) that will make our church home truly beautiful.

If you haven't already pledged to the Building our Vision campaign, please join the folks listed below as contributors to this wonderful project. All amounts are welcome and every dollar is VITAL to making our vision come true.

Thank you to all of these members

and friends who have made this campaign another "Miracle on Miller Street!"

Neva Allen, Jan & Dean Anderson, Ando Anderson, Chip Austin, Dan and Tally Avener, Debbie Bailly, Danielle Bannister, Jason & Leah Bannister, Patty Barnhart & Dagmar Moravec, Charlie & Lynn Biebel, Linda & Michael Bowe, Joanne Boynton, Happy & Cary Bradford, Diane Braybrook, Becky Brimley, Marion Brown, Linda Buckmaster, Meredith & Matt Burgess, Martha Burke, Andrea & Andy Butler, Lucy Carver, Alex Chaplin, Susan Coe, Douglas Coffin & Meg Haskell, Ian Collins, Nancy Crooker & George Siscoe, Anne Cronin, Chip Curry & Chris Goosman, Marty Daniels, Corliss & Rick Davis, Evelyn DeFrees & Brad LaRoche, Scott Denman & Wendy Watkins, Angela Domenichelli, Bill & Jane Dopheide, Jessica Falconer, Lane Fisher, Liz & Rick Fitzsimmons, Marjorie Ford, Jasmine & Rob Fowler, Judith Grace & Jeffrey Mabee, Susan Grace, Bob Har-

bour & Kerri Vacher, Cris Hughes, Tara & Eric Kennedy, Jen & Dan Kirchoff, Maret & Joel Knight, Ezra Kreamer, Kathy & Bill Kreamer, Wendy & John Krueger, Jacqui Lee, Roger Lee, Chris and Jay LeGore, Dona Lounsbury, Nancy McAlley, Chris Michael, Jane Morgan, Kathy Muzzy & Carol Baus, Sarah Nicholson, Deane Perkins & Sue Cobb, Allison & Lindsey Piper, Chuck & Teresa Piper, Betsy Reed, Jim Rhodes, Arthur & Cheryl Richardson, Nan Rowe, Chris & Michele Schmidt, Margie & Mike Shannon, Paul Shepherd & Eileen Wolper, David & Linda Smith, Deb Smith & Reggie Dyche, Patty Smith, Marje & Dave Stickler, Mandi Thomas & Joe Watts, Eva Thompson, Lynn & Tony Walauski, Karen Wigglesworth, Ola Wight, Anna Wood & Jon Cox.

We also thank our friends from far and near: David Abbott, Coyote Moon, Lawrence & Lynda Falconer, the Greeley Family, Marianne Gregor, Barbara Klie, Karna Olsson

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

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To change address, tel. no., email, newsletter status, or to subscribe to the UUBB or UUC, email office@uubelfast.org. Website contributions: content@uubelfast.org

& Philip Brown, Paul Sheridan, Carol Simon, Deborah Smith, Cassie & Dick Snyder, Roger Sprague, Glenn Turner, Viking Lumber and Miriam Watkins.

### **Northern New England UU Model to Go Nationwide?**

A strategy to encourage and support sharing of strengths among UU churches in Northern New England might serve as a national model, if one official of our Unitarian-Universalist Association (UUA) has anything to say about it. Rev. Harlan Limpert, UUA Chief Operating Officer, learned about this approach while attending the 2016 Annual Meeting of the Northern New England District (NNED) on April 9. He was so impressed with what NNED had done that he asked for documents describing the process so he could pass the information along “onto various district and regional leaders as a model to consider.”

What impressed Rev. Limpert was a Listening Campaign designed by

the NNED Board to capture the strengths and challenges of our congregations. Each of the 64 congregations in the NNED was asked to list one or two things they do best, and what makes them successful in that area; what one or two challenges face them, and why they find that area challenging; and what they think is most important to do to advance Unitarian Universalism in the 21st century.

Each of the eight NNED Board members was assigned eight congregations to follow up with. In addition to the initial contact by email, as many as three follow-up calls were made to encourage everyone to participate.

This persistent follow-up is largely responsible for the amazing response rate. We received 44 responses, for an overall response rate of 69%. Excluding those in blended (multi-denominational) settings and those facing an emerging crisis (sudden loss of a minister), the actual response was closer to 83%.

The results of the Listening Cam-

paign were then used to identify topics for workshops to be held at the Annual Meeting and to identify potential presenters. Representatives of successful congregations comprised panels on Social Justice, Youth Programs; Lifespan Religious Education and Worship. UUA/New England Region staff members presented workshops on Beginning Anew and on Congregational Relevance. Our own Marty Daniels was one of the presenters on the Youth Programs panel, which also featured Rev. Sara Hayman of Ellsworth.

The NNED Board intends to review the results of the Listening Campaign in more detail to identify further potentials for helping our congregations meet the challenges of Unitarian Universalism in the 21st Century with help from neighboring congregations and from the New England Region staff. Doing so may enhance this successful model not only in Northern New England, but possibly across the country.

*Rick Davis*

NNED Board Member

### **Looking Ahead**

As the UU Church plans for renovations next year, we are also planning on how to keep our programs up and running in temporary locations. There will still be a calendar, and it will still be in Maret's office, so please call the office at 338-4482 or email office@uubelfast.org to schedule activities. The planned administrative office space at the Belfast Center is a large room where our regular meetings and activities can still take place, but only one at a time.

Administratively, Maret

### **NEWS from Your Collaborative Ministry Team (CMT):**

The Collaborative Ministry Team of the Ellsworth, Belfast, and Castine UU churches had its monthly meeting on April 12 in Ellsworth and advanced plans for wonderful events and ideas for the three-church community we are creating.

**Multisite Ministerial Internship:** As of the date of our meeting, we learned that the multisite ministerial internship we had applied for had been approved by the UUA. The same week of our meeting, Lane Fisher, the candidate for the internship, was notified of the approval of this internship as part of her progress

to becoming an ordained minister. Lane was guest worship leader on April 17, and was introduced to the congregation as our new intern. The announcement was met with warm applause from the congregation. Lane, who will likely be formally introduced to the three churches at the June 12 worship service, will begin her full-time position on Sept. 1. The internship will be supported by a grant from the UUA and by the three churches Lane will serve.

CMT representatives of each congregation reported that at congregational conversations held in the last month, there was enthusiasm for the idea of the internship and of being

teaching congregations. We on the CMT are so proud that we have been able to create this unique and pioneering type of internship for Lane and for our churches!

NOTE: Lane will be supervised by a team of persons representing each congregation. PLEASE get in touch with your representatives to the CMT if you are interested in being considered for serving on this important team that will help Lane get the greatest benefit from her internship!

### **Keeping the Flame Burning – the 2016-17 Annual Budget Drive Begins!**

As the church year winds down,

many folks have been asking “when are we having the Annual Budget Drive?” The answer is “NOW!” During the first week of May, every member and pledging friend will receive an informational letter as well as a pledge card and envelope.

To keep things simple, we ask you to bring your pledge card to church on Sunday, May 15th – the day we vote to move forward with our building renovation and restoration. If you cannot attend on the 15th, please mail in your card or place it in the basket any Sunday in May. It is important to complete the drive in time for the Annual Meeting on June 5th.

People’s generosity during the Capital Campaign has been truly astounding. With several months of “wandering” ahead of us, however, it is as important as ever that we have sufficient funds to keep our Belfast UU flame burning. If everyone agrees to maintain their annual pledge at the current level, we should be able to meet our financial obligations and maintain the vitality of our programs.

Please help make this a record year for successfully completing the Annual Budget Drive in the shortest time ever! Thank you.

*Chris LeGore and Corliss Davis,*  
Co-Chairs

### **Save These Dates!**

#### **Week of May 2nd:**

Annual Budget Drive begins. Letters will be sent out. We ask that you pledge the same amount as last year.

#### **Saturday, May 7th:**

Cinco de Mayo dinner! Join us at 6:00 for the last community supper in our current sanctuary! Dinner is free; donations welcome.

#### **Sunday, May 8th:**

Congregational Conversation about the building project after Hospitality. Set-up for the Book Sale!

#### **Friday, May 13th:**

Informational session about the building project at 6:00 in the sanctuary. Sneak preview of the Book Sale for those who attend!

#### **Saturday, May 14th:**

Book Sale! One day only! Friends, Fun & Food Dessert Potluck at 6:00!

#### **Sunday, May 15th:**

Congregational vote to spend the money raised by the Capital Campaign on the building renovation project as currently designed. This is also “Come of Down!” Sunday. People are invited to hand in their

Annual Budget Drive pledges.

#### **Friday, May 20th:**

First night of Chris Antal workshop, “Tending the Moral Injuries of War.” Sponsored by the Peace Advocacy Committee and the Jim Harney Chapter of Veterans for Peace. Pre-registration required.

#### **Saturday, May 21st:**

Chris Antal workshop continues, 9:00-5:30. Chris Antal service, open to the public, at 7:00.

#### **Sunday, May 22nd:**

Chris Antal is our guest in the pulpit, 10:00. Chris Antal workshop continues, 12:00-4:00.

#### **Sunday, May 29th:**

Congregational Conversation about the building project after hospitality.

#### **Sunday, June 5th:**

Program Council at 8:30 AM. Annual Meeting after hospitality.

#### **Saturday, June 11th:**

Pride Day! Parade begins at 10:00. Tables and events at Steamship Wharf from 12:00-6:00. “Sort, Toss, and Pack Day” at church. Sign-up sheets for both events coming soon!

#### **Sunday, June 12th:**

Collaborative Ministries joint service at Fort Knox! Details to follow.

#### **Wednesday, June 15th:**

Moving Day! A crew from the Waldo County Re-entry Center will be on hand to do the heavy lifting! Many hands make light work. Please help out if possible.

#### **Saturday, June 18th:**

Tag sale at the church!

#### **Sunday, June 19th:**

Last service in our current space! This will also be the last RE and Choir Sunday. Come hear the music!

#### **Monday, June 20th:**

Our temporary offices are open for business at the Belfast Center, Suites #318 and #319, 9 Field Street, Belfast.

#### **Sunday, June 26th:**

There will be no service at the church. Details to be announced.

#### **July 1st:**

Demolition begins!

#### **July 3rd:**

First service at Eastside School. Child care will be available.

## UUVA 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 spiritual growth.
  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  
PO Box 452, Belfast, Maine 04915



### Religious Exploration

Changes ahead! Wow, it's hard to believe that we are almost at the end of our RE year! There will be a lot of changes happening in the next few months so I wanted to keep you in the loop of some upcoming dates.

**May 29th** will be a multigenerational service so there will be no RE that day, but there will be childcare.

**June 5**, there will be a bridging ceremony for our graduating Seniors. There will be RE and childcare as normal that day.

**June 12** is a multi-church gathering at Ft. Knox. It will combine several UU churches and will be one/half multigen and one/half an RE group activity led by the DRE from each of the participating churches. We are hoping to have picnic lunches and time for families to have fun in the fort, weather permitting. If there is rain, we'll be meeting at the Castine Church.

**June 13-18** is our church move days. All hands will be on deck this week. Watch for emails about how

you and your children can help out!

**June 19** the last day in RE/church in our current space. (Danielle off for the summer after this day)

**June 26** Services is working on something, but there will be no childcare/RE

Renovations begin in July.

**Summer Services:** Keep checking back for exact start dates, but during the summer months we will be having church at the East Belfast School. We are in the process of trying to arrange child care for the summer months, so stay tuned.

**Sept. 11** is the projected first day of RE/Ingathering. We'll have RE in some of the classrooms they have sectioned off for us. We'll stay at the church until the renovations are done!

Check your email or the website often for more up-to-date information! If you are a new family visiting, please be sure to contact the Director of Religious Exploration, Danielle Bannister, at [dre@uubelfast.org](mailto:dre@uubelfast.org) so she can keep in

touch and give you information about our programs!

Danielle Bannister

Director of Religious Exploration,  
DRE [dre@uubelfast.org](mailto:dre@uubelfast.org) 505-5383

### CongoLife

April 30, Saturday morning, in the kitchen: Second Annual seed starting. CongoLife will provide soil, peat pots and seeds thanks to generous donations from Aubuchon, EBS and Trustworthy. Please bring your own seeds, if you like! Cheryl Richardson will host this event. FMI [a\\_cinitaly@yahoo.com](mailto:a_cinitaly@yahoo.com) / 342-4649 h / 213-7334 c

May 7, Saturday in the Sanctuary: Please join CongoLife for a Cinco de Mayo celebration 6:00-8:00 PM! Sue Cobb, Susan Coe and Cheryl & Arthur Richardson will be preparing all things Mexican!! Get your sombreros out!! (This is a free event, but donations are graciously accepted).

Your Congregational Life Committee