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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

Karen Wigglesworth

NEWS YOU CAN USE

At a lively meeting on a morning early in the New Year, a group of interested folks from the Communications Team, leadership and staff met to share ideas of what lies ahead for communications in our church, to talk about what is working and what needs to be improved, and ways in which our communications could be reorganized for greater efficiency and to be more responsive to the needs of the congregation.

The individual groups which make up the Communications Team work devotedly, and largely behind the scenes, “keeping the UUCB community informed, updated and represented effectively in the larger community,” as their mission was stated in the Annual Report. The team is a loosely organized coalition of individual groups who produce our website, social media, print media, bulletin boards, newsletter and other formats through which we keep in touch.

At this January meeting, ideas began to emerge of changes we could implement to use our media presence in innovative and exciting new ways:

Might we re-imagine our newsletter format? Could we move toward a more frequent publication schedule (weekly? biweekly?) and combine with the newsletter some of the func-

tions of our bulletin boards, while leveraging the extensive reach of their combined contact lists? Increasing the frequency of publication would allow us to share information and announce events and activities in a more timely fashion, and establishing a production schedule would simplify gathering content and editing, streamlining the process.

Our UU Bulletin Boards (UU News, UUBB and UUCC) continue to be a vital tool in disseminating information, not only to our friends and members but to many in the community at large. In our past fiscal year, over 3,200 messages were received, moderated and sent out over the Boards. What are some ways we can we keep the best of these boards while tailoring the content more closely to the kind of mailings recipients want to receive?

Perhaps we will experiment with enhancing our mailings and publications with buttons to facilitate donations and allow an easy sign up process for volunteer activities, surveys, links to events calendars, all user-friendly and convenient.

Many have requested greater accessibility of sermons on our website, not only those of our own Rev. Deane but also of visiting clergy and our own lay people. How shall we go about expanding our offerings of sermons and entire services in a convenient format?

And attention is needed to the many



Memorial service for Eva Thompson

A Memorial Service for Eva Thompson, a treasured friend of our church who died on December 29th, will be held at the UUCB on Sunday, February 25th at 2:30 PM.

We will be joined by members of the Rockland Universalist Church which Eva also attended, as well as by her family and many friends.

There will be an opportunity to write a message for the family or to bring cards or notes which will be given to them after the service.

We welcome contributions of flowers—large or small—which can be taken home with you. Please join us to celebrate the life of a remarkable woman who was dear to so many of us.

Patty Smith for the Caring Circle

other small things which add to the richness of how we connect and communicate:

- An image archive is needed to provide a secure, easily accessible and well organized repository for our growing collection of images chronicling the life of our church.

- The Wayside Pulpit: it needs a little love and someone to see the possibilities of how it might be better used to communicate our message to passers-by on Miller Street.

As the meeting progressed and the ideas began to flow, a picture came together of a sort of centralized communication wheel with our new Administrative Assistant, Sarah Hewitt, at the hub. Sarah has extensive experience in electronic media and an abundance of graphic design skills at her fingertips, all of which she is ready and eager to put into motion on our behalf.

Though it will take some effort to implement these changes, once they are in place, the work of maintaining and periodic updating will be greatly simplified. Some upgrades to our software and eventually our office equipment will likely be needed, but we are estimating costs to be modest and the improvements will allow

Sarah's considerable skills to be used to their greatest effect and will enhance the efficiency of our communications far into the future.

And this is where you come in: if communications is something which energizes you and kindles your imagination, if you've ever wanted to get involved as a volunteer at the church but the idea of meetings and serving on a committee doesn't appeal, perhaps there is a "bite-sized" task just right for you in this wide assortment of communication opportunities.

Computer technology skills, writing, editing, photography, marketing and publicity, all these skills and more will be welcomed and needed to help our new communications wheel roll us into the future!

Contact Sarah Hewitt and she can help you find a role that suits your talents and interests. You may find your perfect niche and the Communications group would love to welcome you to their team as they embark on this exciting new chapter in UUCB history.

Keep in touch!

With gratitude,

Karen Wigglesworth

President

Walk With Me

*A documentary film showing
February 22*

The Collaborative Ministry Team invites you to join us Thursday, February 22 at 7:30 PM at the historic Alamo theater in Bucksport for a screening of the award winning documentary film *Walk With Me*, a journey into mindfulness, featuring Thich Nhat Hanh and narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch.

With unprecedented access, *WALK WITH ME* goes deep inside a Zen Buddhist community who have given up all their possessions and signed up to a life of chastity for one common purpose – to transform their suffering, and practice the art of mindfulness with the world-famous teacher Thich Nhat Hanh.

Filmed over three years, in their monastery in rural France and on the road in the USA, this visceral film is a meditation on a community grappling with existential questions and the everyday routine of monastic life.

As the seasons come and go, the monastics' pursuit for a deeper connection to themselves and the world around them is amplified by insights from Thich Nhat Hanh's early journals, narrated by Benedict Cumberbatch.

To screen this film, which is being shown through Theatrical On Demand, we will need to have 60 tickets, at \$11 each, reserved in advance. Learn more about how this works and reserve your ticket now at this link:

<https://gathr.us/screening/22198>

Don't miss this opportunity to experience this unique and moving film which has played to sold-out audiences worldwide.

Green Sanctuary

Have you resolved to work harder for Mother Earth this year?

Would you like to help the church to reduce its energy costs?

Are you concerned about our church's recycling and composting systems?

Do you want to make sure that we are using as many green paper goods and cleaning supplies as possible?

If any of these sound like you,

please join the UUCB Green Sanctuary Committee at our next meeting. We will gather in the Belfast Co-op cafe at 8:30 AM on Sunday, Feb. 11 and you'll have plenty of time to make it to church before 10:00. We look forward to seeing you!

Please contact Jasmine Fowler (jazzpf@gmail.com) or Corliss Davis (cdavis5468@roadrunner.com) with any questions.

Corliss C. Davis

Your friends at Congo Life

February Fourth Sunday Potluck
CANCELLED

Because Eva Thompson’s memorial service will be held on the fourth Sunday in February, the potluck for February has been cancelled. We will resume in March, and look forward to seeing you all then!

CongoLife has the following planned for February:

Please join CongoLife on Saturday, February 10th at 9:00 AM in the Sanctuary. We’ll be icing Valentine cookies and making Valentine cards. The cookies will be used for Hospitality on February 11th.

Your CongoLife Committee
Cheryl Richardson
342.4649 Home 213.7334 Cell

RE Food Drive a Success!

Many hands make light work and food! On January 21, 2018, several RE families put their faith in action

February Sunday Services

All services start at 10:00 AM at our church! Please call 338-4482 for more information. Children, infants and new faces are always welcome. Please join us!

Our church-wide theme for January is “Perseverance.” Our shared plate will be The Game Loft!

FEB 4 **Jen Gunderman**
will be telling us about her involvement with refugees, both her in the US, and in Europe.

FEB 11 **Jessica Falconer**
will share the trials and blessings in facing serious adversity.

FEB 18 **Rev. Deane Perkins**
will be back from his vacation!

FEB 25 **Amy Fiorilli**
our ministerial intern, will give another of her thoughtful, inspiring services.

by helping carry and deliver all of the food they had collected during their RE December food drive.

The participants got to see, first hand, where the food was going. Our

thanks to all of them for their hard work!

MARCH WORKSHOP on the Future of Faith Formation.

WHO’S WHO AND WHO TO CALL

Minister

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Administrative Assistant

Sarah Hewitt 338-4482
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[To change address and contact information or manage subscriptions to UUBB, UU News, UU Caring Circle.]

Church Council

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Collaborative Ministry Intern

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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



The RE workers at the December food drive.

Curious about the future of faith formation? Ever wonder what chil-

dren's programs will look like 5-10 years from now?

From your intern:

Hello All,

January has been a brutal month. It started with a trip to Chicago for me, while you all dealt with snow and wind. My classes were great and it was hard to be away. I am in year three of my seminary education, most of the students that I entered with are graduating this May. I have one more year to go. I wish I didn't.

It is getting more and more difficult to leave. Travel is fun, and the adventure is exciting...until it isn't. I have four more trips to make before I receive my degree. I am walking a very fine line between not wishing the moments of my life away, and living in eager anticipation of the day I walk across that stage.

In January, I also learned that I will go before the Ministerial Fellowship Committee of the UUA in Boston at the end of November. I have nine months to put together my packet of writings, readings, recommendations etc. so that the committee can review them, then interview me and decide if I am ready to enter into prelimi-

nary fellowship with the UUA, meaning I am given permission to be ordained as a minister in this faith I love.

The prospect is daunting and thrilling, too. Having that date makes it all real in a way that is new. This truly might happen. I really may become an actual minister. I have now learned, deep in my bones: Life is strange and wonderful, and it is never too late to do the thing that calls your heart forward.

There is no idea too strange, too far-fetched, too difficult to explore and move toward. If you feel it, think it, know it. If it is in you, find a way to let it be born. This life is precious and short. Make room for joy.

Recently, my daughter Lilliana, has started using a phrase to describe big joyful feelings. When she's dancing really fast, or when she finally did a cartwheel correctly, or when she jumped off of the cliff jump at Playland adventures she said, "I just feel so alive mom, I can't describe it I'm just so alive!!!" I don't know

Times are changing. Families are busy, teachers harder to come by. Is the RE program we currently run the best model? Are we meeting families needs?

We invite you to join in the conversation. We're looking for parents, leaders, guides, and anyone passionate about the future of faith formation. The workshop will be on March 24 from 10:00-3:00 in Bangor. Registration information can be found here:

<http://bit.ly/FaithFormationSignUp> or let Danielle know at dre@uubelfast.org that you're interested!

where she heard that or how it became her phrase but I love it. I want it for everyone.

Let yourself feel alive, in whatever way that works for you. I know I feel it sometimes, even when I'm alone and reading a book that just blows my mind, or resonates with everything I ever thought was true.

Sometimes it happens when I'm leading a service and the energy coming back to me from all of you is palpable and sacred.

Sometimes it happens in a small group when someone is vulnerable and real, and the whole group takes a breath together to hold and witness. I say, it is important to actively search for that feeling...to say yes to what kindles it and to honor the path of your heart.

You all inspire me. I am honored to be your intern. Thank you for helping me find my aliveness.

Yours,
Amy Fiorilli
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