



The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of The Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop Street ~ PO Box 8 ~ Augusta, ME 04332-0008

July 2014

July

July 6	Native American Theme	Phyllis Cudmore
July 13	TBA	Kathy Kellison
July 20	TBA	Michael Conley
July 27	TBA	Nancee Campbell

Monthly Themes for 2014/15

The worship committee set the monthly themes for 2014/15. Over 65 people participated in the process of bringing forward the themes either through attendance the spring meeting or through the voting process. Nine of the top 10 themes were chosen. The May and summer theme was within the top 14 themes options. Thank you to all who participated in bringing forward the themes. It is helpful to know what is on the hearts and minds of the people in the pews.

September Inclusive Community
October Aging
November Classism
December Mystery
January Transformation
February Loss-grief-acceptance
March Play & Laughter
April Sustaining Earth
May Arts and Spirituality
Summer Personal Spirituality

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

A Faith Journey...

Bringing June to a close has been a time of making plans for our new church year. The summer worship schedule is now filled with worship leaders and associates ready to bring a variety of topics to help those gathered contemplate that which matters most. A dedicated group of teen workers and adult volunteers are well prepared to care for our children and provide faith formation during the summer months.

Bringing June to a close has meant a time of planning for the 2014/15 church year. You will find in this newsletter a list of themes for next year. As you may recall, at one time we had planned to approach next year with four themes: identity, engagement, sustainability and inspiration. Yes, the familiar topics that capture the essence of UUCC's adaptive challenge. As the process of bringing forward the themes unfolded and the Leap of Faith teams that recommended three-year congregational goals, it became clear the four theme model for next year was not what was on the hearts and minds of the people in the pews. The final themes emerged as the top 12 from a list of 63 options.

We have also begun gathering up the survey information regarding potential adult enrichment classes for next year. The following is a list of the top seven areas of interest:

15 **Conversations with Emerson and Thoreau:** A time of reflection and discussion on the writings of two Unitarian Transcendentalists.

13 **The Way of the Naturalist:** Do you find peace and serenity in the Maine wood and shores? Would you like to spend time deepening your experience of the woods, the flower and fauna, the birds and critters with other naturalists?

10 **I'm a Unitarian Universalist:** UU Identity and Formation. Discussions and exploration of what it means to be a UU.

10 **Theological discussion group using the book "A People So Bold: Theology and Ministry for Unitarian Universalists"** edited by John Millspaugh.

10 **Matters of Faith: Yours, Mine, and Theirs:** Exploring a diversity of faith traditions through spiritual memoirs.

7 **UUs Praying:** Join other UUs interested in exploring and cultivating a prayer life.

7 **Writing the Sacred Journey: The art and practice of spiritual memoir:** A group to support and encourage the writing of personal stories, experiences and memoirs.

If you have additional ideas or want to consider co-leading one of the groups above, please be in touch with Rev. Carie. A meeting to begin planning adult programming will take place on July 15th from 5:15 - 6:45 p.m. All are welcome to join. Bring additional ideas. Come help shape the opportunities for faith formation and think creatively about doing church differently.

Innovation and relevance is the doorway to strong liberal religious congregations in the twenty-first century. How shall we lead and share this amazing faith with those we meet along the way? Ponder this question over the summer. Then bring your wisdom into the conversation. May ours be a love that reaches out into an ever widening circle of people whose lives we touch.

In faith,
Rev. Carie

President's Corner...

By: Gary Chapin

I came back to the church three years ago when Emma, said, "You should come back, Dad, everyone asks about you!" I said, "Okay, but *no committees!*" I remembered my years here before. I was very active both on committees and in the pulpit. Every individual activity was wonderful, but as a bunch they wore me out. So, that was me drawing healthy boundaries: "*No committees!*" I was going to take it slow and just be in my community.

And then Annie Voorhees asked if I'd be interested in joining the board. *What? Really? Well ...* And then Rev. Carie asked if I would serve on the Leap of Faith Travel Team. *Er?* Then Jill Watson resigned from the board, and Doug Rooks asked if I'd step in as vice president. *Hey! What? Are you sure?* And now ... president?

I am honored to have been asked, and pleased to be in a position to say, "Yes." But what about, "*No committees?*"

The hymn says, "From you I receive, to you I give." I don't think I understood that. Back in the day, I would serve on a committee or sign up for an event or preach on a Sunday and it would feel like I was giving my time, talent, and energy to the church. Then, as a sort of *quid pro quo*, I would access to the church community, pastoral care, spiritual growth, esteem, etc.

Now, though, I hear the hymn—"from you I receive, to you I give—as two sides of a single act."

Now, though, I hear the hymn – "From you I receive, to you I give" – as two sides of a single act. It has become, for me, a fact and not a transaction. I don't know how to express it without becoming maudlin – and this is only my first column! – but I am grateful for the opportunity to serve, because the service itself, I have come to discover, nourishes me.

Why the change? I don't know. I haven't "done work" on it. I didn't plan it. I only just recently discovered it, and I have determined to enjoy it. I still think the "*No committees*" position is a valid one – and I'll support you if you've taken it – but I find myself in a different place. I am grateful.

Thanks, Gary Chapin

Rev. Carie's July Schedule

June 30th to July 13th Rev. Carie will be on vacation

For pastoral emergencies, contact Nancee Campbell at 621-7727

For general UUCC business, contact Steve Moore, Office Administrator at 622-3232

For general church emergencies, contact Gary Chapin, Board President at 458-1726

July 14th to July 24th Office Hours

Monday - Thursday 12:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

Plan ahead for our IN-GATHERING service on September 7th. UUCC has a long-standing tradition in which members and friends return from their summer sojourns with a vessel of water from their travels. The water communion ritual is an annual event in which our individual water is collected in one large vessel to symbolize our unity amid our diversity.

This year I am asking members and friends of the congregation to bring in water from local sources. Waters gathered while partaking in the age old ritual of community building with nature, friends, family, committees, small groups.

In addition to bringing the water, we are also asking members and friends to bring in a photo from one summer adventure. The picture may or may not be the adventure wherein you gathered your water. The only requirement is that it is taken in a community that inspires or transforms, celebrates or memorializes, brings a sense of peace or stirs up anticipation and excitement.

Worship and Rites of Passage

The worship committee set the monthly themes for 2014/15. Over 65 people participated in the process of bringing forward the themes either through attendance the spring meeting or through the voting process. Nine of the top 10 themes were chosen. The May and summer theme was within the top 14 themes options.

September -- Inclusive community	February -- Loss/Grief/Acceptance
October -- Aging	March -- Play & Laughter
November -- Classism	April -- Sustaining Earth
December -- Mystery	May -- Arts & Spirituality
January -- Transformation	Summer -- Personal Spirituality

Adult Enrichment Classes: This past year there have been a number of requests for more opportunities for adult classes at UUCC. As we begin to think forward to the 2014/15 church year, I have created a survey to better understand the interests of the community. You will find a copy of the survey and some potential books to use with these options in the display case at the church. All options below are dependent upon interest level and available facilitators. Please indicate which ones you think you would be interested in participating in and/or facilitating. You may leave the completed survey in the basket in the display case.

Neighbor to Neighbor: Throughout the summer UUCC takes up the work of leading the planning, preparing and serving a monthly free public supper at St. Marks. The dates and lead organizers are as follows:

July 5th Nancee Campbell 621-7727 or nancee1944@gmail.com

August 2nd Liz Johnsen and Family 626-0250

Your help is needed to prepare, set-up, serve and clean-up. Please join us as we share in the work of caring for our community. You can sign up in the fellowship hall at church or contact the lead organizer for the month you are available to assist.

Fundraising...

Many thanks to all of you who worked so hard on our 2013-2014 fundraising activities, and to those of you who supported them. We not only had fun — we helped the church pay its bills. Our fundraising programs gained **\$12,714** for the church, and the Hannaford Cash Card program, a separate line item in the budget, brought in an additional **\$3,517** for the year.

CLYNK program \$600
Cookbook \$60
Charlene's Cards more than \$200
Tom & Marilyn On Line \$185
November 2013 Jumble Sale \$566
November 2013 Dessert Theatre \$85
November 2013 Pie Sale \$525
December Apple Valley Books \$100
February Ski & Snowshoe Outing \$55
February French Dance \$359
March NNED Luncheon \$494
May 9th Auction \$7,357
May 25th Plant Sale \$212
May 31st Yard Sale \$1,490
June 8th Concert \$426

Sincerely,
Terry and Hannah

Immigration/Migrant Group..

Once again, the Immigration/Migrant Work group is asking for food and clothing donations to go to migrant workers here in Maine.

The Maine Migrant Health Program collects canned goods and other non-perishables and clothing for men, women and children and distributes them in the Ellsworth area.

There will be a collection box (or boxes!) in the Fellowship Hall for you to place your donated items starting Sunday, July 20. The collection will run through the first Sunday in Aug. If you have questions about this please contact Steph Ralph.

Thank you in advance for any contributions.

Buildings and Grounds...

Building and Grounds Needs Your Help

Saturday, July 5th, 12th, and 26th are workdays.

Tom and I will be at the church three Saturdays in July and we need help. We are falling behind on maintenance. The main project will be rehabbing the garage. Some carpentry will be done, but mostly scrapping, sanding, priming and painting. In addition, the usual maintenance tasks (such as weeding, straightening up the kitchen, and sorting out the basements) all still need to be done. There will be no work day in August.

We are looking for members to form the Building and Grounds Committee. We guarantee your time will not be taken up in meetings. We would expect you to attend the monthly second Saturday work days when possible, and to take responsibility for minor assigned repairs and maintenance that come up during the month if Tom is unavailable. We will meet bi-annually to prioritize big projects, and the rest of the year we will communicate by email. Please call **512-5382** if you would like to be a committee member.

Goddess Continuing/ Earth Circles...

We will connect several times over the summer: Watch for more specific announcements. Please note the Native American Service led by Phyllis Cudmore on July 6.

We will be connecting as the summer progresses, including August 3 for Teltane readings and reflections. To the degree possible, we will meet around the picnic table in the church yard.

In addition, we will consider options for next year. These include;

- Cakes for the Queen of Heaven, Volume 2 Thresholds. This considers ongoing religious influence in issues for women. (4-6 sessions)
- Have a session on Women of Wisdom and a Croning Ceremony (Previous Croning Ceremony was in Fall of 2012.)
- Continue Earth based celebrations
- Continuing to focus on goddesses and gods

UUCC Web... www.augustauu.org

We are planning to have the Summer Services on the Website Home Page. Please check this frequently, as details are added.

Have you checked the website lately? Are there changes that you would like to have?

Comments on the website are welcome. To assist regularly or on special projects, contact Helen Zidowecki, Website Committee Chair: 582-5308 or website@augustauu.org.

Social Activities...

POND TOWN POETS

What better way to start the church year than with an afternoon featuring the POND TOWN POETS? Our own Alice Gifford and Susan Parks will be joining them to share their poetry. You're invited to come join our poets and bring your own poem to share,

Sunday September 14th, 1:00p.m.
FMI: cherylclukey5@yahoo.com

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

We are soliciting new suggestions for Social Activities. We had many very interesting activities last year and are looking forward to offer you a new variety this year. Please offer your suggestions. cherylclukey5@yahoo.com



Where We Live...

About a dozen people participated in "Where We Live: A Year Later" on June 15. This was a follow-up to the 3-part small group ministry sessions that were held last Spring, 2013. We also welcomed participants who had not participated previously. This provided an opportunity to share the changes that ranged from settling into new space, to having made radical changes, to facing impending decisions, to still contemplating and moving slower toward change. Some very brief tidbits:

- Things take longer than anticipated OR sometimes deadlines speed the need to change, and we do it differently than we might otherwise.

Sorting tips:

(Ask) Have you used it in the last few months, year?

(Ask) Are you likely to use it?

(Ask) Does it bring you happiness?

When items draw more energy than reward, time to part.

Disposition of items to shelters, yard sales (including at church), Goodwill

- Give to family and friends, or designate who would like what items
- Photos – disperse to family

Feelings: Some grief at change, mixed with relief and welcome of a simpler life style.

Resources: We plan on having a notebook in the Committee Room for pertinent articles that have been found and resource information. This will also include space for notes on transitions. Look for it during the summer.

And we will be meeting IN SIX MONTHS – a year is too long to wait. So we are targeting for **December 7, following Second Service, 12:30 - 2:00 pm.**

Contact: Helen Zidowecki

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
P. O. Box 8
Augusta, Maine 04332-0008

Newsletter Submissions

Please submit all articles in a Word document using Arial, font size 11. Don't forget to give it a title and sign it, and send it as an email to newsletter@augustauu.org with the article as an attachment. Photos of church activities welcome!

Next edition submissions due August 18.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Gary Chapin

Director of Religious Exploration:

Administrator: Steve Moore

admin@augustauu.org

UU Office hours: Monday and Tuesday 8a.m.-4p.m.

Thursday-noon-8pm

Choir Director: Joelle Morris

Office Hours Tuesday and Thursday-10:30a.m.-3:30p.m.
or by appointment

Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office: (207) 622-3232

Minister's Office Hours:

Monday 12:00 - 5:00

Tuesday 12:00 - 6:00

Thursday 4:00 - 6:00

Friday is my Sabbath. I do not attend to emails, phone calls or meetings. For pastoral emergencies please call my cell phone (508-221-5295) and I will return your call at soon as possible.

Minister's Study:(207) 623-3663 (Office)
(207) 395-8051(Home)
(508) 221-5295 (Cell)
revcariejohansen@gmail.com