

The Flaming Chalice

The newsletter of
The Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop Street
Augusta, Maine 04330



Interim Minister: Rev. Lee Devoe
President: *Debbie Mattson*
Director of Religious Exploration : *Karen Fisk*
Administrative Assistant: *Margaret Goodale*
Ministerial Associates: *Susan Burnett, Marty Soule, and Helen Wing*

Church office is open 8:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Tues.-Fri.
Office: (207)622-3232
Minister's study: (207)623-3663, leedevoe@aol.com
Email: uuccaug@gwi.net
Website: <http://www.uuccaugustame.com>

June 16 through August 2008

**WORSHIP SERVICES will be held at 11 King Street at 10:00 AM
from June 22—August 31 during the building renovation.**

**The Administrative Office at 6 Summer Street will be open on
Tuesdays and Fridays from 8:30 am—12:30 pm.**

The week of the 4th of July,
the office will be open on Thursday, July 3, and closed on Friday, July 4.

If you know of someone who needs help this summer, please call:

The co-chairs of the Caring Committee—

Hannah Faulkner: 293-9377

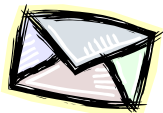
Marty Thornton: 512-2587

The President of the Congregation—

Debbie Mattson: 622-1429

Our thanks to Hannah Faulkner, Elva Ingraham,, Mary Perkins, Mildred Stengel and Cally Stevens for helping to get this newsletter out on time.

Next newsletter deadline is 9/2/08 Please submit all newsletter articles as WORD documents if possible.



A Letter from Lee

by Rev. Lee Devoe

It came in the mail last week: bright, shiny, and beckoning. The catalogue for GA (General Assembly) the annual national meeting of our association of congregations is a thing to behold and a welcome sight to me. From front to back, it holds out opportunities for deepening relationship with my faith and my tribe. It invites me to find out what's going on in other congregations and in other countries. It urges me to take a more honest look at the world around me. It asks me to engage at many levels. There will be workshops and worship and advocacy training. They will ask the most basic questions, like: How can our congregations be responsible employers? They ask exotic questions: What is the virtual world of a congregation in cyberspace? GA will invite us to see how our faith is lived in the struggles for human rights in India, in Iraq, in New Orleans. GA will invite us to see how our faith is lived in the governing boards and stewardship programs, the care committees and music ministries, the outreach and interfaith initiatives of congregations of all sizes all over this country.

There will, of course, be presidential politics as we consider how to have a faithful democracy for this country in addition to preparing for the shift in the leadership of our association. We will elect a new president of the UUA at next year's GA. The candidates for president of the UUA, Rev. Laurel Hallman and Rev. Peter Morales, will be speaking and campaigning at GA. You can check out the schedule for GA, receive updates as things happen, consider who you would like to support for President at the web-site: www.uua.org. All of the events are recorded and you can purchase these recordings.

In the last four years, I have attended our General Assembly only once. I am pleased to be able to attend this year. I appreciate the support of the congregation both through allowing the time to attend and in offering financial support (through the professional expenses included in the ministers compensation package). General Assembly is being held this year in Ft. Lauderdale. My time will begin with my colleagues at Ministry Days, a program of continuing education for ministers as well as the annual meeting of our national ministers association. The Assembly is then held from June 25 – 29. I look forward to seeing Helen Zidowecki in Florida. Helen is the only other person attending from the Augusta congregation this year. I hope you will consider attending a General Assembly. GA is always held at the end of June. Next year it will be held in Salt Lake City – a great site for a conference. The city is easy to get around in and the wilderness is close by, if you want to combine the conference with a family or personal adventure.

I will be taking vacation time this summer. My agreement with the congregation allows for two months vacation each year. I have found, however, that summers here at UUCG have a lot going on. With the renovations of the church building and 71 Winthrop Street, as well as the changes in leadership, there are still conversations to have, decisions to be made, and work to be done to be ready for the fall start-up. I will end up taking part of my time this summer and part of it in the fall. This summer I am looking forward to time outdoors and with my family. I hope you have a refreshing summer.

In faith,

Lee

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

A new word has entered the SGM vocabulary. We now have 'Links'. Let me explain.

When we developed our version of Small Group Ministry, we envisioned each group having a Facilitator. This was a role with myriad responsibilities. The Facilitator served as discussion leader at each meeting, keeping the group focussed and on topic. The Facilitator reached out to members who missed a meeting. Group members called the Facilitator if they needed to be absent. Facilitators were expected to attend monthly meetings with each other and the minister. They found solutions to problems of group dynamics and conveyed concerns to the minister if members needed clergy assistance. When there was a possibility of a new member for a group, I called the Facilitator. In short, they carried significant responsibility for their groups. Had we thought of it, we might have called them the Indispensables.

Over the years, the groups have come to share the responsibilities of the Facilitators among several members. Meeting leadership rotates among members. Different people volunteer to check in with missing members. Often someone has evolved into the role of group hub; everyone checks in with that person if there is news to share. As group settled into a routine, we have had fewer and fewer Facilitator meetings, so attending those ceased to be a regu-

lar expectation. However, I still needed a person to speak with about new members joining the Group. In my rigid way, I have continued to call this person the Facilitator even though most of them kept telling me that the title no longer fit.

As we were planning our end of the year celebration, I finally heard that the term I have been using no longer fits. At all. Groups no longer have an overseer who is 'in charge' of the Group. It is a rare Group which can identify one person in a leadership capacity. Groups function by consensus with significant role sharing. Since it works so well, I decided it was time to find a new word to identify the person I call in each Group about having new members join. And so we have Links. These are the members of each Group who serve as Links between me and each Group, as well as being the people that Steering Committee members will speak with to see how things are going. I will now practice saying Link over the summer so I can get it right come fall when Small Group Ministry resumes its full functioning. Thank you to all of the Links who, over the years, have been so responsive to my queries!

Please note:

We will not be running the Open Group on Sunday over the summer. Look for us to return in September.

Have a great summer!!

Kathy Kellison

AUGUSTA FOOD BANK UPDATE

By Sarah Schultz-Nielsen

The Augusta Food bank is in dire need of both powdered and canned milk for their clients. They could also use gallon size Ziploc type bags for bread and other baked goods that are broken down into family sized distributions, tooth brushes, toothpaste, soap and other hygiene products.

I am also collecting Shaw's receipts on behalf of the Food Bank. They will receive a percentage of the total amount of the receipts collected.

I will now be delivering our donations monthly to the food bank. I'd like to thank Karen Fisk, who had been generously doing so. Our donations add up and are greatly received and needed

Welcome to New Members . . .

**Janine Louise Bonk
Douglas J. Rooks
Roland S. Coryell
Rachel Roman
Claire Curole
Rev. William A. DeWolfe
Barbara L. DeWolfe
Vendean V. Vafiades
Janet E. Caldwell**

Who signed the Membership Book of UCC in December, January, March, May and June.

FREE MESSAGE!

It's not just for relaxation anymore! As part of my training as a massage therapist, I need tired, stiff, sore and stressed bodies to work on! If you'd be interested in helping me with my studies, please contact Keith at 549-3239.

FUTURE FACILITIES ACCOUNT

During the past fiscal year, which ended May 31, 2008, the following amounts were expended from the church's Future Facilities Account. This account consists of funds that have been given by members and friends in a past capital campaign.

**Renovations at
71 Winthrop Street
\$49,949.50**

**Architect Fees
\$45,925.00**

**Engineering Fees for
Summer Renovations
\$ 4,154.59**

**TOTAL EXPENDITURES
\$100,029.09**

**Balance in Future Facilities
Account As of May 30, 2008
\$232,138.12**

Nancy E. Fritz,
Church Treasurer

OUTREACH SUPPORT FOR 2008/2009

During the past fiscal year, June 1, 2007 through May 31, 2008, our church collected and distributed \$3,067.62 as part of our commitment to reaching out beyond our doors and supporting community activities and causes.

Here is a list of the money collected and where it was distributed:

- Mercy Corps \$62.86
- Benefit for A Church Family \$1,292.31
- UUA Association Sunday \$393.66
- Maine Aids Alliance \$460.52
- Augusta Food Bank \$582.27
- Guest At Your Table \$276.00

TOTAL \$3,067.62

Nancy E. Fritz,
Church Treasurer



BILL GOLDBERG REMEMBERED

William Goldberg, a dearly loved member of our congregation and musician without peer, died on Saturday, June 7, at the age of 91. He is survived by a son, Mark, of Hallowell. His wife, Jeanne, predeceased him. A service to celebrate Bill's life will be held on Saturday, June 28, at 1:00 p.m. at 11 King Street, Augusta.

Bill was born on January 24, 1917, in New York City. He received his education in music at Juilliard School of Music and the New York College of Music, and later studied electronic music at SUNY Stony Brook. He first became associated with our denomination in the 1950s, when he played the piano for the Unitarian Fellowship on

Long Island (New York). He won first place at the Georgia State Brass symposium in 1972 for his piece "Tenebrae," and wrote a number of works on commission. University of Maine Professor Nancy Ogle praised his songs, saying, "Goldberg has written so many fine settings of New England poets. . . . Listen to the interplay of harmony, melody, and silence."

After a long and successful career as a private music teacher, pianist, and composer, Bill retired to Hallowell in 1984. He became one of the regular pianists at All Souls UU Church on King Street, and he continued to serve the consolidated congregation after we settled at Winthrop Street. Some of us still recall with awe the day Bill performed, from memory, J. S. Bach's entire (and serendipitously named) Goldberg Variations. He also played for the church on Great Cranberry Island, where he maintained a summer home since 1972.

Bill retired from his post as a pianist in 2005, but he continued to grace our congregation with his gentle presence and occasional special music. He was a cherished member of his ministry group. We will remember him not only for his amazing music, but for his kindness, his ready smile, his playful sense of humor, and his humility. While we will deeply miss him, we can only celebrate his life and the gifts he so readily shared.

Mindfulness Meditation - Peaceful Heart Sangha

Meditation is from 6:30 - 8 PM on Sunday evenings. Join us any time. Beginners are welcome. During the church renovations from June 22 – August 31, we will gather in the home of Vendeau Vafiades at 50 Academy Street in Hallowell. When the weather is conducive, we will enjoy outdoor walking meditation. Wear comfortable clothing appropriate for the weather. Chairs available or bring a cushion. May we all be fed by the rain and the warmth of the sun,

Marty (685-9270, martysoule@verizon.net)

Directions:

From the Church turn right onto State Street – go through the traffic rotary south toward Gardiner (second exit on the rotary) toward Hallowell to Water Street (runs along the river) –

Drive through Hallowell and past Slate's Restaurant on your right, Next Street on your right is Academy (1.9 miles from the exit of the rotary) and turn right just before large brick building –

Go up the street ½ mile and 50 on left – big grey house with white trim – park in the driveway or on the house side of the street heading on right side down hill –

When facing the house, enter the door on your left –

Home phone – 621-1179, if you get lost



CHURCH DIRECTORY UPDATES

Email Changes/Additions:

| | <u>Add to Directory:</u> | <u>Add to Directory:</u> (cont'd.) |
|--|---|--|
| Bonk, JANINE & Rooks, DOUGLAS J.bonk@tds.net | Brown, Katie 11 Lincoln Street #4 Hallowell, ME 04347 649-4094 | Maddi, Debbie & Dennis 108 Metcalf Road Winthrop, ME 04364 377-8662 roslem108@aol.com |
| Bridges, Richard Auglaw@cs.com | Caldwell, JANET E. 707 Maine Avenue Farmingdale, ME 04344 623-5949 | Olsen, Scott & Samantha Horn 46 P. Ridge Road Readfield, ME 04355 685-9927 |
| Cleven, CHARLENE charlene@mailbug.com | Conley, Kevin & Kay Theberge P. O. Box 3115 Augusta, ME 04330 592-2791 | Vafiades, VENDEAN V. 50 Academy Street Hallowell, ME 04347 621-1179 |
| McGillicuddy, Charles J. cemcgill@msn.com | Erdman, Catherine 6 Melville Street Augusta, ME 04330 622-48819 | |