



The Flaming Chalice

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

Worship Services Sundays at 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.

September 2012

September 2nd

Your Favorite Book as a Child

David Rand

Please bring in your favorite book from your childhood or today and share a thought or passage with us. David Rand will talk about children's books and why we love them and how reading is a life-long joy.

Return to two services 9:15 and 11:00

September 9th

In-Gathering Sunday

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Rev. Carol Strecker

It is an annual tradition at UUCC to return from our summer sojourns with a small vessel of water, the source of life. In community made sacred by your presence, we gather to collect the individual waters into a communal vessel. This annual ritual symbolizes our unity amid our diversity. This year's ritual will explore themes of drought as metaphor for spiritual thirst for the holy as we know it.

**Please bring a vial of water from your summer sojourn to add to our communal bowl. Your water is intended to signify a moment that which was spiritually significant for you over the summer.

September 16th

"The Judd and Drew Houses"

Rev. Carie Johnsen

This past June the congregation voted to name the Annex and Office building. This service will explore the ministries of Rev. Sylvester Judd and Rev. William Drew, thus helping us to make meaning of our buildings.

*** A blessing of the newly named buildings will take place between the two services at 10:30.

September 23rd

"Love and Destruction"

Rev. Carie Johnsen

We live in a world where beauty, goodness and generosity abound; and, we live in a world where violence breaks our hearts and reminds us of humanities dark side. Let us gather in prayer for humanities sack.

September 30th

"Spirit of Life"

Rev. Carie Johnsen

"Spirit of Life" a UU hymn favorite. What does this hymn mean to you? Has it become rote and meaningless or have the lyrics and melody found a home in your heart? Are you like some UU's who use this hymn to find a spiritual center in a anxious, busy and chaotic world? It is like coming home to your spiritual safe place?

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

Wow, can this really be the beginning of our fourth year of ministry together? Truly it seems like just yesterday when I was your candidate and we were discerning whether we were the right minister and congregation match. These last three years of getting to know each other has been rich and deepening. Each year affirms my knowing I am in the right place, engaged in the right ministry with the right people.

As I enter this new year I am so excited about continuing this ministry together. The summer has been a flurry of faith in action with Jenny McKendry leading the work to organize UUCC's commitment to the free public suppers on the third Saturday in June, July and August. It is not easy to serve more than 100 meals in an hour.

The Immigration Work Group has organized the second annual Migrant Farmworker Welcome where the gathered community of Haitian blueberry pickers and UUCC members of all ages enjoyed a picnic and some soccer at Mill Park. Welcome bags were delivered to a farmworker health clinic held at the annex. Jill and Allan Watson worked to recognize the just work practices of a local farm recommended by the Maine Migrant Health Program.

And UUCC remains a leader in LGBTQ justice in the Kennebec Valley. Many members and friends are already engaged with the work to secure a yes vote on same sex marriage in November. I join Maggie Ricker in leading a group of religious leaders in the greater Augusta community as we plan several interfaith events. Stay tuned for more information on an interfaith worship service at Capital Park on Sunday afternoon, October 14th.

As anyone who supported, led or attended a summer worship will tell you the lay leaders of this congregation know how to deliver quality services with a diversity of themes and leaders. The services, including the summer children's program, as well as the above summer faith in action programs, are just one more reminder this is a twelve month congregation.

As we begin to prepare for a new church year, the calendars are filling up quickly with board training, leadership retreat, DRE startup, worship arts retreat and by the end of all this, the holidays will be on our doorstep.

By the time you read this, Rev. Carol Strecker will be settled into her office as our full-time Director of Religious Exploration. After recognizing the need for expanding the religious educator position to full-time for well over a decade, the time has come to make the leap forward. Strong vibrant visionary religious educator leadership is such a vital element in nurturing and sustaining Unitarian Universalist families and communities in the twenty-first century.

Over the summer the Music Search Committee has been busy receiving applications and conducting interviews with the hopes of making a recommendation to the Board at the September meeting. As some of you know the plan is to hire a Music Director who will take up the work of directing the choir with a vision of building upon the music program as resources allow.

Yes, my summer vacation was relaxing and revitalizing; and I am ready to be back in the fold of beloved community. As we embark on this new church year, may we be gifted with opportunity to grow in deeper relationship with each other, with greater Augusta and global community and the interdependent web of which we are a part.

In Faith, Rev. Carie

Director of Religious Exploration ...



Welcome
Director of Religious Exploration
Rev. Carol Strecker!

Feel free to drop by the office to welcome Carol and say "hello"!
or send her an email at:
dre@augustauu.org.

Carol can also be reach at:
622-3232 ext 12.

Office Hours:
Tuesday: 9-5
Wednesday 9-5
Thursday 9-5

Or call for an appointment!



From the Board President ...

Growing Together

For the past five years, church leadership has emphasized the ideal of having trained lay leaders. Over that period, board members have attended many workshops, conferences and training sessions to help make this idea a reality in our congregation.

In late August, members of the board and our minister, Carie Johnsen, participated in an all-day training at the Allen Avenue UU Church in Portland. At the invitation of the new District Executive for Maine, New Hampshire and Vermont, Joe Sullivan, Allen Avenue hosted a meeting of seven southern Maine boards and their ministers.

One of the important aspects of the day was to compare notes on how our congregations are faring. For me, it was eye-opening. Many of our peer congregations have had to face enormous challenges since the onset of the recession in 2008. As most of you know, the Brunswick congregation lost their church to a fire last year, and are just now opening bids on a contract to rebuild on the same site.

But many other congregations have also struggled. Some have had to dip deeply into their endowments, and are now facing difficult decisions for the years ahead. Others have cut back on staff hours and even eliminated positions.

As I reflected on the day, I realized again how fortunate we have been at UUC. Despite the challenges we have also faced, we have managed to restore our three buildings, which are now in the best shape they've been in years. In August, we welcomed our first full-time Religious Exploration director Carol Strecker, who will bring new energy and excellence to one of our most important programs. And we've been able to maintain and even increase the financial support from our members and friends.

This is not a time to rest, of course. We have many goals still before us. But it's also good to stop for a moment and reflect on what a growing and thriving church it is we are building together.

Doug Rooks, President

Goddess Continuing...

Over a dozen women have been involved or expressed interest in Goddess Continuing/Earth-based Spirituality. Please join us in the activities that we are planning for this year. **Please note the multigenerational event on October 7.**

Saturday, September 8, 11:30am-2pm, Fellowship Hall/picnic table. Goddess Reconnecting Picnic. Bring your own lunch and, if you wish, something to share. Coffee, tea, and cold beverage will be available. This will be informal sharing of our spiritual practices from the summer.

Sunday, September 16, 12:15-2pm Gathering, sharing, planning for October 7 event.

Sunday, October 7, 12:15-2pm Fellowship Hall "Celebrating Female Spirituality: The Cycles of Our Lives." This exploration of the Maiden, the Mother (Creator, Nurturer), the Wise Woman, and Wisdom Years engages all ages in the meaning and gifts of each age group and celebrates the continuum of all ages. There will be time with all ages together, and time for separate ages. Look for more information mid-September. *Mark your calendars now and participate.*

Sunday, October 14, 12:15-2pm Gathering, sharing and planning for Samhain celebration. Samhain is the tradition on which Halloween is based.

Sunday, October 28, 4-6pm Fellowship Hall Samhain Celebration. Everyone is invited. Join us for fun and understanding of this critical celebration of the end of harvest and preparation for winter.

Sunday, November 4, 12:15-2pm. Gathering, planning Croning Ceremony for Nov. 18 Five women in the congregation have been croned and at least 3 others have expressed interest in having the ceremony.

Sunday, November 18 12:15-2pm Fellowship Hall Light lunch and Croning (Recognizing Women of Wisdom) celebration.

For more information regarding Goddess Continuing please contact Mary Shifman at 549-7719 or shifmanmary@aol.com

Faith in Action...

Thanks go to the following people who helped make the St. Mark's supper possible in July! It was a long hot day when Nancee Campbell, Monique McAuliffe, Shannon McAuliffe, Kathryn Wright, Ruslan Reiter, Annie Reiter, Michael Conley, Cale Mendall, Sophia Oliveri, Lucien Oliveri, George Spahn, Pam Lombard and Liam Walp volunteered.

In July, Abby Perry, director of The Augusta Food Bank, donated food for the supper- 40 lbs. of chicken, cupcakes as well as bread to give out at the end of the meal. She helps us save hundreds of dollars! Thank you to Abby. The Augusta Food Bank has an auction coming up to raise money, which helps numerous people, ourselves included. It will be held on October 26th, at the Calumet club. It'll be the place to be! Last year Carie and I and a few other UU's were there. I got some venison which was donated by Abby's family, my son was thrilled!

Money is needed to buy groceries for St. Mark's/ Angel Food Network supper. The funds from our Share-the-plate on August 5th will go toward this purpose and 50.00 was donated by a church member. We may need more to cover it all. If you can donate please send a check - with a note on it, specifying use for St. Mark's Suppers to Mary Simpson, our treasurer at the church address. Thanks from the hungry people of our county.

St. Mark's and our church share expenses for the meals, we often don't have to buy everything, because they let us use whatever is in storage- paper plates, cups, silver, food etc. If there's any extra money, it will go toward next summer's suppers.

On a quarterly basis or more often when necessary, we try to donate diapers to St. Mark's Essentials Pantry. They need larger sizes-5,6 and adult. There is always a need for toiletries, women's personal care products, shampoo, soap, toothpaste, toothbrushes, and laundry soap.

Thanks,
Jenny McKendry
Faith in Action Chair

Display Case ...

The display case is Available for committees and groups within the congregation to share their activities and interests, and their concerns. We hope that groups will sign up for display space for two weeks to a month. This can be committees, small group ministry, program areas and special activities.

What would you like people to know about your activities?

How can the congregation participate?

While the scheduling of displays is coordinated by Thursday morning Small Group Ministry, the displays themselves are provided by church groups.

Contact Helen Zidowecki (hzmre@hzmre.com or 582-5308 For more information.

History Committee ...

Hosea Ballou, an early prominent Universalist minister, visited the Sunday Service led by Nancee Campbell on August 12. The large print of Hosea had been donated to the History Committee by Don Bell. Thanks to Nancee and Don for introducing us to Hosea. Rev. R.A. Ballou was a minister of the Universalist Congregation 1858-1863, resigning due to ill health. We need to establish his relation to Hosea.

One of the richest resources of our historical moments and personalities is our scrapbooks. Several groups in our historical congregations keep scrapbooks that have been invaluable for research on the people and events behind the names of our spaces and buildings. We are working on cataloging our scrapbooks, while we continue the tradition – capturing our history as we make it. Your contributions of articles and items from newspapers are important for this History Committee activity. Please remember to leave your items in the History Committee tray in the Committee Room. Thanks.

History Committee contact: Krista Zidowecki, kaz@hzmre.com, 582-5308

Religious Education Commitee...

As summer vacation winds down for our children and fall sports start again then it must also be time for Religious Exploration activities to kick off at church! This fall the UUCU community is so excited to welcome Carol Strecker as our new full-time Director of Religious Exploration. During Carol's first week at UUCU the RE Committee has held our first meeting with her to plan for the upcoming year. We want everyone in the church community to have an opportunity to welcome Carol, so please join us if you can for an Ice Cream Social on Tuesday, September 4 from 6:30 to 7:30 in the annex.

It's also time to gather RE teachers and helpers for training before classes begin. We welcome back experienced teachers and we offer a special invitation to those of you who may have considered getting involved in the RE community in this way. If you are interested in volunteering in the RE classrooms and haven't ever done so in the past, please contact me or Carol to let us know. Thank you for this truly-appreciated volunteer effort to provide our children and youth with opportunities to explore the UU principles in a fun way with their peers. The two opportunities you have to join teacher trainings this year will be on Sunday, September 9 from 3:00 to 5:00 pm OR on Wednesday, September 12 from 6:30 to 8:30 pm. Carol would appreciate knowing who will attend which date so please contact her at dre@augustauu.org to let her know!

The RE Committee would like to extend a huge and sincere THANK YOU to Pam Lombard who has been the Chair of the RE Committee over the past two years during a time of transition in our church. In addition to chairing the committee, Pam also chaired both the interim and permanent DRE search committees. Pam has provided very capable leadership and a tremendous commitment of her time to the program with integrity, thoughtfulness and good cheer along the way. Pam will remain on the RE Committee providing support to Susan Caldwell who will serve as the new Chair.

We also welcome additional participation in the RE Committee. Our committee meets once a month and offers support to the DRE in providing the church community with lifespan religious exploration programming. Please contact Susan at 582-8658 or jscaldwell@roadrunner.com if you have questions for the RE Committee or are interested in joining us.
Susan Caldwell, Chair

Buildings and Grounds ...

The August and September workdays (Second Saturdays) are cancelled. The next Second Saturday is scheduled for October 13th. November 10th will be our annual fall raking.

Additionally, most Tuesdays Tom and/or Marilyn work on general maintenance and grounds. If you are available to help please call 512-5382 to check that they are planning to work that day. You can even call on Tuesday, let it ring, and it will forward to Tom's cell if we aren't home. Any help is greatly appreciated!

Social Activities...

SOCIAL ACTIVITIES will be active again soon. If any one has any suggestions or requests for activities please contact Cheryl Clukey.

Mark Your Calendar....

The first Vegan Potluck at UUCS has been rescheduled to Saturday, **September 8**, 2012 at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. We will share a meal, followed by a showing of Forks Over Knives, a documentary that "examines the profound claim that most, if not all, of the degenerative diseases that afflict us can be controlled, or even reversed, by rejecting animal-based and processed foods." For additional information see: <http://www.forksoverknives.com/> .

If you are not vegan or have never cooked a vegan meal, don't let that stop you! All are welcome, children, teens, adults. The only requirement is that you bring a vegan (not containing meat, eggs or dairy) dish or salad to share. Please rsvp and direct any questions to Kristin Aiello at 623 9106 or kaiello207@gmail.com. See you there!

Interested in Traveling? This is a reminder to those of your congregation who may be interested that the Unitarian Universalist Society of Martha's Vineyard is having its Bed and Breakfast Weekend over Columbus Day weekend, October 6-8, 2012. Come see us this fall.

Johanna Kobran
UU Society of Martha's Vineyard
238 Main Street PO Box 1236
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508-693-8982 or uu.society.mv@gmail.com
www.uusmv.org

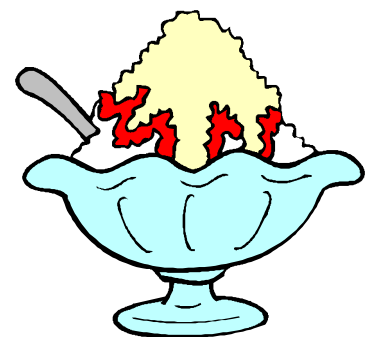
Please join us
to welcome
Carol Strecker!

Ice Cream
Social

Tuesday, Sept. 4

6:30-7:30PM

The Annex



Church News ...



Coming Soon... Recycling! Members of one of our Small Groups have begun a recycling project for material generated at the church.

Diane Moongrove, Krista Zidowecki, Dale McCormick and Kathy Kellison are creating a space in the corner of the Fellowship Hall near the kitchen where a variety of materials will be collected in labeled receptacles. The group will see that everything is disposed of in an environmentally

Cycling Across Europe ~ After a two year break, Kip and Barb DeSerres are off on their next long distance bicycle trip! They will be following the Eurovelo 6 route across France in September. In October they will follow the Danube River through Bavaria, Austria, Slovakia and Hungary. Check out their blog at www.kipandbarb.com. It's a nice way to say 'hi' and keep in touch.

Elder Lunch Calendar

Once again plans are being made for the upcoming season of Elder Lunches. This year a new coordinator or coordinators are needed to ensure that these lunches continue as in the past. Marty Thornton will no longer be the general coordinator, however, she will coordinate several of the lunches. Last year we had several small groups put on lunches and it would be exciting if other small groups would be willing to try their hand at it. There are "how to" notes available for those who need them. (contact Marty).

This church year lunches will be held on the dates listed below:

October 14 -
November 11 - Marty Thornton
December 9 -
January 13, 2013 - Marty Thornton
February 10 -
March 10 -
April - 14 -
May - 12 -

Marty is able to coordinate two lunches only this year. Please step up and join the fun. Elder lunches provide you the opportunity for both cooking something interesting to share with others and to see how much the luncheons are enjoyed by cooks and diners alike.

If you have any questions, please contact Marty at: marty.thornton@gmail.com or 512-2587.

Fundraising...

Hannaford Gift Cards for Sale in Assorted Denominations—Church Gets 5% Bonus. As a member of Judy & Bruce's Fundraising Committee, Hannah Faulkner, or someone on her team-Betty Armstrong, Terry Cookson, Sunshine Perlis and Jill Watson-will sell you, at face value, a Hannaford Gift Card that you can use like cash in any Hannaford store to pay for any purchases. Gift Cards are available following the church service August 26, September 9 and other Sundays. Payment may be made via cash or a check made out to UUCC of Augusta.

In a group order coordinated by her on behalf of UUCC, these cards may be "reloaded" by Hannah Faulkner on most Mondays with additional amounts up to a balance of \$500. The church receives a 5% bonus from Hannaford for a card purchase coordinated through the church totaling \$1,000 or more at one time. UUCC is working on soon having ACH (automatic debit) capability available. So for routine shopping, presents, support of another person or other reason, please plan to use a Gift Card from Church.

Our fledgling UU Hannaford Gift Program that began May 19th is leaving its nurturing nest in the Wayne Community Church, UMC, to try our own wings here in Augusta this autumn. Let's fly!



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

Newsletter articles are due the third Monday of each month. The next newsletter deadline is September 17th. Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Sheila Comerford at: newsletter@augustauu.org. Thank you!

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Doug Rooks
Director of Religious Exploration: Rev. Carol Strecker
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Vacant
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm
Thursday, 4:30 pm- 8:30 pm
Saturday, 8:00 am.– Noon

Office: (207) 622-3232, admin@augustauu.org
Minister's Study: (207) 623-3663 (Office)
(207) 395-8051(Home)
(508) 221-5295 (Cell)
revcariejohnsen@gmail.com
www.augustauu.org

Minister's Office Hours:

Monday 1:00-5:00 pm
Tuesday 12:00-4:00 pm
Wednesday Writing Day
Thursday 4:00-7:00 pm or by appointment
To schedule an appointment please contact Rev. Carie at: 623-3663 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com
Friday Friday is my Sabbath. I do not schedule meetings, attend to emails or respond to messages. If there is a pastoral emergency, leave a message on my home or cell phone and I will return your call promptly.