

The Flaming Chalice

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



Interim Minister: Rev. Lee Devoe

President: *George Lapointe*

Director of Religious Exploration : *Karen Fisk*

Administrative Assistant: *Margaret Goodale*

Ministerial Associates: *Susan Burnett, Janet House, Marty Soule, and Helen Wing*

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June 10-17, 2007

Nursery care is available during Sunday Services.

On Sunday:

June 10 *Flower Communion Service and Child Dedication* **10:00 AM**

Please bring a flower to church this morning. The bouquet we create will be a symbol of our community. Our service will include a child dedication – where we welcome the new life among us and dedicate ourselves to the spiritual nurture of the families.

June 17 *In Honor of the Fathers* **10:00 AM**

Please join us for a service to honor fathers and to explore the experience of fathering, led by members of the congregation.

June 24 *Dance Movement As Spiritual Experience* **10:00 AM**

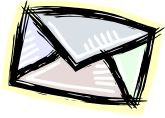
This service of embodied spirituality will be presented by congregational members Christine Little, Jenny McKendry and Barbara Oesterlin-Heath.

July 1 *The Wisdom of the Prophet* **10:00 AM**

Congregation member Joe LaFerriere will offer perspectives on the practice of Islam, and some current challenges, from his experience of living in Indonesia.

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

Next newsletter deadline is 6/18/07 Please submit all newsletter articles as WORD documents if possible.



A letter from Lee

By Rev. Lee Devoe

Like ghosts from the past, I still remember where they stood – though it has been forty years since they were whisked away. The outlines, etched in memory, are not easily erased. It was a glorious day – season, actually – when billboards were banished from the landscape of Vermont, my home state. Once again the sparkling of snow and the greening of spring were the most potent advertisements. The land offers eloquence beyond any posted words about who we are, what we value, what we want you – the guest among us – to know.

Maine, also, has a healthy regard for the need to minimize visual pollution and has provisions to limit signage in landscape and neighborhoods. Given this aesthetic and ethic, a healthy conversation ensued as your Board of Trustees considered - and provisionally approved - a Wayside Pulpit to be placed in front of the church. What would the neighbors think? Are signs inherently vulgar, detracting from the architectural lines of the neighborhood? What would it actually say, and who would decide?

The Wayside Pulpit is a construction familiar to most Unitarian Universalist Congregations: a weekly message posted in front of the church, readable from the street and designed to make people stop, read, and reflect on life. The Wayside Pulpit offers thought-provoking messages that capture universal truths. These messages are now offered in collections, ready-to-use by the UUA (our association of congregations) – and you have owned some of these sets for some time. Directions and dimensions for constructing a Wayside Pulpit are available on-line at www.uua.org.

I have long been familiar with Wayside Pulpits yet our conversation surprised me. As we discussed this “sign” – the where, what, and how of the sign – and as I reflected on the dissonance I experienced during this conversation, I realized that I had never thought of the Wayside Pulpit as a “sign” - that word had never occurred to me! At the risk of sounding like a purist preacher, it’s a pulpit!

The Wayside Pulpit holds up a message of hope. It is like any other pulpit except that it shares its word of hope in written form rather than spoken. If you are a guest to our city, wondering perhaps what kind of people live here, the Wayside Pulpit lifts up some of our thoughts and wonderings. And, guest or resident, if you drive through town accompanied by loneliness or some new sadness or an old anxiety, the Wayside Pulpit reaches out to you. It reminds you of our common humanity. It offers a bigger perspective. The first Wayside Pulpit in England was posted in Manchester in 1920 and offered a new saying every week for the next fifty years. After Britain was blitzed during World War II, Cross Street Chapel had no roof yet a new message appeared each week – messages of courage and conscience, faith and forgiveness.

I know that Wayside Pulpits are smart. They are effective advertising. They offer a lot of bang for the buck. Yet for me, these practical reasons are subsumed by sacred purpose: the many people who are spiritually hungry, who thirst for a community like this congregation, who might be reminded of an idea whose time needs to come.

In faith,

Lee

Educators and essayists, poets and politicians, philosophers and peacemakers, scientists and naturalists, artists and musicians, the great prophets of the Unitarian Universalist movement and of humanity: these are the sources for the sayings of the Wayside Pulpit, preprinted in poster size by our association of congregations. Here is a sampling of sayings.

Sayings from the Wayside Pulpit

The art of living lies in a fine mingling of letting go and holding on.
- Havelock Ellis

I'm not afraid of storms, for I'm learning how to sail my ship.
- Louisa May Alcott

There is more to life than increasing its speed. - Mohandas Gandhi

Faith has nothing to fear from thinking. - Albert Schweitzer

Science without religion is lame; religion without science is blind.
- Albert Einstein

A community without dissent is well on the way to becoming an ant heap.
- Fred Hoyle

May your life preach more loudly than your lips.
- William Ellery Channing

Every status quo is a prison to the human spirit.
- Henry Nelson Wieman

Resistance to tyranny is obedience to God. - Susan B. Anthony

The war to end war will not be fought with guns. - Lowell H. Coate

The point is not to make war humane; the point is to make it impossible.
- anonymous

All that is necessary for the triumph of evil is that good men do nothing.
- Edmund Burke

I am determined that no man shall drag me down by making me hate him.
- Booker T. Washington

What is the use of a house if you haven't got a tolerable planet to put it on?
- Henry David Thoreau

Spring has returned. The earth is like a child that knows poems.
• Rainer Maria Rilke
•

Your children need your presence more than your presents.
- Jesse Jackson

President's Column

It's nearing the end of our regular church year and it's worth reflecting on where we've been in the last year in our religious community.

Last June, we were saying good bye to Calvin Dame, our minister of twenty years, and to Peter Friedrichs, our past ministerial intern. We were just meeting for the first time Lee Devoe, our Interim Minister. Her compassion, sense of humanity, and humor has helped us all. Lee has been a great presence in our church through her thought provoking services and homilies, and through her overall ministry which has helped, and will continue to help, our church search for and find the best settled minister possible. The community meetings that she's held have helped church members focus on what's most important to them in our congregation. This information is critical to making the best choice as we move through the search process. I am thankful for all of Lee's contributions to our church.

In the last year, our Building Committee has made great strides in our quest for new church facilities. Under their leadership, we have acquired the building at 71 Winthrop Street which will help us meet our current and future building needs. The Building Committee has continued to work on plans for the two phases of renovations to our church which will provide our community a modern, safe, and

welcoming facility for all who enter. They, along with many Congregation members, have begun the renovation work on 71 Winthrop to make our new facilities affordable and to provide new space for staff and other church functions. I want to thank the Building Committee and all the fine volunteers who've begun making our dreams of a new facility into a reality.

Our Religious Exploration program has continued to flourish over the past year. Our regular RE classes are full of great kids being led by a cadre of volunteer teachers. The Coming of Age program was new in the last year and has provided our junior and senior youth with an avenue of religious and spiritual teaching that we've never had before. It is awesome to see the vibrancy of the RE program and I want to thank Karen Fisk, our RE Director, the RE Committee, and all the RE teachers and volunteers for taking our kids under their wings and giving them the building blocks for a good, spiritual life.

Folks within our church community have worked on how we become a Welcoming Congregation, being a Safe Congregation, and many social concerns issues that reflect the spiritual and ethical foundations of our members and our religious community.

I know that I've left out

mention of many good things that folks in our church are doing with maintenance, fundraising, caring, and many other critical church functions. Our church is held together with a community bond to which you all contribute. For sure, we struggle with issues of finances, buildings, and growth management. But ... what a great community to work and struggle with!

I am awed to be a member of this church and thank each one of you for your spiritual leadership, teaching, and friendship.

I look forward to another great year!

See you in church,

George Lapointe

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

"Do not leave your cares at the door. Do not leave there your pain, your sorrow or your joys. Bring them with you into this place of acceptance and forgiveness... Come, and offer yourself to potential transformation by the creative process that flows through you and all life."

These words by Norman V. Naylor sum up quite quickly the depth of possibility in Small Group Ministry. Our congregation offers you a place to bring your life to share with others so that you can be known and so you can share what truly matters in

your life. It is when we take the risk to be known that we open ourselves to the possibility of growth and transformation. The challenge of new perspectives offered with love can open a mind and heart and leave you changed in deep and mysterious ways.

Some of you may think this vision is too idealistic to be true. I respectfully disagree because I have seen transformation happen in our church and I have heard the stories of people who have had very profound experiences in their Ministry Groups.

I invite those of you who have been considering joining a Group to speak with me so that we can make the connection. I would be pleased to schedule a Group this summer for any of you looking for an opportunity to experience our Group process. And, knowing that summer is filled with many competing activities, I invite you to wait and speak with me when the days shorten and chill again. The warmth of Group is a great way to embrace winter!

For more information about Small Group Ministry feel free to speak with me at church, email me or call. My contact information is in the Directory.

Kathy Kellison



SUMMER RE RETREAT AUGUST 10-11

To everyone interested in the growth and development of our church's Religious Exploration Program: we are planning a retreat on Friday evening, August 10, and all day Saturday, August 11, to share ideas and enthusiasm for the upcoming RE year.

All are invited, and teachers are particularly encouraged to participate. Activities will focus on our Unitarian Universalist Identity and will leave you energized and prepared for the start of RE programs in September.

The waterfront location we had hoped to use is unavailable, so we are seeking a location for the retreat with summertime amenities. Does anyone have, or know of, a camp we could rent August 10-11 (or all weekend)? If we are unable to find local lakeshore space in August we will still meet in a central location. We hope that many teachers will be able to come and learn new tools that will make teaching our RE classes easier.

Please sign up with DRE Karen Fisk or RE Chair Hilary Neckles by **July 13**. If this date does not work for a majority of teachers we will reschedule for early September.

Hilary Neckles



Low-Cost Energy Efficient Light Bulbs

The Social Concerns and Fundraising Committees are continuing to sell low-cost energy-efficient fluorescent bulbs. The bulbs cost \$2.07 each, of which \$1.50 goes to the church. We now have available 100W, 75W and 60W bulbs that will fit into your regular light sockets. If you want some of these during June, July or August, please E-mail Hannah Faulkner at hannahuu3@fairpoint.net or phone her at (207) 293-9377.

Singing the Journey

The Music Committee has copies of our hymnal supplement, *Singing the Journey*, still available to purchase and dedicate in honor or memory of loved ones. If you are interested, see Stefanie Barley, Priscilla Jenkins, Cheryl Clukey or Hannah Faulkner.



Dear UU Friends,

We are grateful to you for your cards and caring about us after the death of our sister (in law) and aunt, Abby Holman.

It is a deep comfort to us to be part of this community.

Thank you!

Rebecca Dorr,
Dan, Zack, and Claire
Holman

SOCIAL CONCERNS

Next October 20 we will hold a fair, open to the Augusta community to focus on all the groups doing peace, justice and environmental work in the broadest senses. We are calling it our "Change the World" fair.

We all have our favorite organizations, some of us work for them and nearly all of us give to them in some way. We are compiling a list of invitees and would ask that you tell us who you would like to have there. Being "there" means—minimally—supplying us with written/printed material and—maximally—presenting a workshop or film or lecture and anything in between. Put your imaginations to work and let us know who/what you would like to see. If you have a direct contact, that will help us, so let us know.

Want to help? Let us know – call Margaret at the church office or Priscilla Jenkins at 377-9011 or 446-9110 or anyone you know associated with the Social Concerns Committee.

Tell us your favorite organizations for our Fall Change the World Festival:

Organization Name	Phone Number	Email Address	Address	Contact Name

POW-wow this summer
Buy green energy
Use local farms



JUNE FUNDRAISING EVENT

Dessert Theater

Saturday, June 23rd

Dessert in the Fellowship Hall at 6:30

Followed by "Lucky Stiff" (A Musical Farce) at the Gaslight Theater in Hallowell at 8:00

Reservations Required

Adults \$15.00

Students and Seniors \$13.00

Price includes Home Made Dessert, Coffee or Tea, and Theater Ticket

Your Choice of

Lemon Meringue Pie

Pumpkin Cheesecake

Hershey's Chocolate Cake with Vanilla Ice Cream

Reservations can be made with

Judy McCown, Bruce Bierce, Marty Thornton, Hannah Faulkner



LISTENING AND SUPPORT - MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATES

Ministerial Associates are available to meet with members of the congregation who need empathetic support during a time of difficulty such as illness, loss, grief or major life changes. Please call or email us, if we can help.

During the summer we will take turns coordinating support:

July 1-13 Marty Soule 685-9270 martysoule@verizon.net
July 14-Aug. 1 Helen Wing 685-3804 hcranewing@peoplepc.com
Aug.2-Sept.1 Susan Burnett 377-3969 burnett@fairpoint.net

A minister will be available for funerals when Lee takes her vacation.

In the fall there will a training session for new empathetic listeners (Ministerial Associates). If you are interested speak with Rev. Lee Devoe.



MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY

I'd like to introduce myself. My name is Liza Gottlieb and I joined the church last March along with my husband Noah. We have two girls, Cricket (5) and Lucy (4). I'd like to open a conversation about the Ministry of Hospitality and Coffee Hour.

There's a lot to be said about the Ministry of Hospitality – there's even an article in this month's *UU World magazine*. I never experienced coffee hour before coming to New England. It's nice but a little scary, especially for shy people -- and that includes people who are visiting our church. There's a lot going on during this time: discussion of the service, catching up with friends, getting a bite to eat and drink, transitioning between the two services. It's easy to subtly miss speaking to someone new. And I knew it's not for everyone; I myself have never used a red mug because I was too shy.

A few weeks ago I served coffee between services and I LOVED it! I also saw that it was a lot of work and that there was no one individual who was consistently aware of what was going on in the kitchen. (For example, I'm pretty sure the Regular coffee percolator's heating element is on the blink. *That's* why the coffee was so weak for so long.) Then one Sunday Cheryl Ring desperately waved the sign up sheet in a service and it was like a light from heaven was shining on her and that list. I should point out that I grew up in North Carolina going to Methodist churches that had not only one kitchen matriarch, but a whole kitchen administration. There are apparently no ranks to break into here! After church I tracked her down and said, I'll do it... no, I mean all of it!! After hugging me, I could see the doubt begin to creep in, but I am serious. My graduate thesis was on the art of hospitality (it was for a Master's in Art Education... very liberal instructors...). Before having children I worked in a bakery in Bar Harbor for five years. Since moving to Whitefield I've been praying /meditating /wondering how to exercise my inclination. I phoned Lee and we talked about the importance of hospitality as a Ministry – and now I want to open that conversation to everyone.

What is hospitality? A warm greeting, smiles, introductions. An open stance of love and acceptance as indicated by the banner hanging out front. Beautiful flowers and grounds around the church, delicious and healthy food and drink... there are ripples of hospitality that extend all the way out to the coffee farmers we support by using Fair Trade beans.

Organizing coffee hour is self-serving because I find joy in the kitchen, but it's also Service to our community. I am going to continue serving coffee through the summer as a continuation of our lay ministry. If anyone wants to help, I'd love it! Just bringing a plate of something nice to eat would be plenty. I'll be there brewing coffee!

Warmly, Liza Gottlieb

Welcoming Congregation Workshop
By PJ Mears
Wednesday, June 6, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.

Do you realize a person can be transgendered *and* gay? Or straight? Or bisexual? No?

Do you understand that being transgendered is not the same as being a cross dresser?

Confused? Come to the workshop.

The WelCong will finish up its busy year with a provocative workshop on the life and issues encountered by people who are transgendered. This workshop, *Gender and Sexual Orientation: The Reality of Being Human*, conducted by PJ Mears, is intended to answer some questions and to raise others in an effort to bring us closer to understanding what life is like for someone looking out at the world from two genders.

The work of the WelCong is guided by a book from the UUA called, *The Welcoming Congregation Handbook, Resources for Affirming Bisexual, Gay, Lesbian and/or Transgender People*. Recently we reviewed the guiding principles in that 'Purple Bible' to assess which ones we have accomplished this past year and which ones remain to be done next year. Over the summer we'll meet to plan our events for next year. The 'to do list' contains a Sunday worship service and a series of evening educational sessions.

Next June, 2008, at the UUC Congregational Meeting, we hope to hold a vote on whether to become officially designated as a Welcoming Congregation. Naturally we want the congregation to be as informed as possible before casting their vote, so we ask people to make a point of attending one of the educational events next year (one at the very least) so they will feel comfortable they are voting for something they understand.

See you on the 6th!

Maggie Ricker

Demolition Derby Work Day #3
June 9th, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.



June 9th the Building Committee will hold another work day that will continue (and hopefully finish) the preparation of 71 Winthrop Street for renovation. There is a sign-up sheet and a detailed work list posted in the Fellowship Hall.

We will need around 15 work volunteers and naturally enough food to keep them steaming! Please contact Wayne Ladner for work information 737-4995 (waladner@gwi.net) and Maggie Ricker 623-9943 (Maggiesway@aol.com) to volunteer to bring food (or sign up in the Fellowship Hall).

We really need and appreciate your help with this important project.

Maggie Ricker

**TEN GOOD REASONS
FOR JOINING A
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
CONGREGATION**

- Because here we join with open hearts and minds to worship together, seeking what is sacred among us.
- Because here we are part of a long, liberal tradition of reason and tolerance, of hope and liberation.
- Because here we honor our Jewish and Christian roots, and also reach out to know the great truths found in other religious expression.
- Because here we acknowledge that revelation is never sealed and empower ourselves to search for new truths.
- Because here we nurture our children's enthusiasms and encourage their questions.
- Because here we welcome diverse people and views.
- Because here we join our strength with others to create a more just society.
- Because here we respect the whole self—mind, body, and spirit working together.
- Because here we encourage each other to be true to ourselves.
- Because here we build a supportive community that eases our loneliness and opens our hearts.

by Bill and Barbara
Hamilton-Holway
and Mark Harris

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