

The Flaming Chalice

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



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

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*

September 23-October 7, 2007

Unless otherwise stated, Sunday Services and Religious Exploration are at **9:15 & 11:00 AM**.
Nursery care is available from 9:00 AM to 12:00 Noon.

On Sunday:

September 23 *The Unitarians and Universalists of Kennebec County*

Rev. Peter Richardson

The story begins in 1784 in Hallowell and continues vital today. In 1893 there were 232 Unitarian and 1332 Universalist families in Kennebec County. Urban and rural, governors and pig farmers, the designer of the Maine State Seal, a minister paid by a town not to preach; the story continues to stir in Maine's central county.

Peter T. Richardson served the UU congregation in Kennebunk for 16 years (1976-1992) in addition to serving churches in Ohio, Texas, and Massachusetts. He is author of seven books, the latest, *Archetype of the Spirit*, released in July. He and his wife, Eleanor, live in Rockland. He is also president of the Maine Association of Psychological Type.

September 30 *Curiosity & Compassion*

Rev. Glenn Turner, former District Minister in Maine

A service inspired by the life and writings of George Eliot. How to live with equanimity in an age of orthodoxy. How to hold your truth without putting others down.

October 7

The Common Elements of Oppression: One Size Fits All

Members of the Welcoming Congregation Task Force will guide us as we explore the idea that oppression is a process which harms everyone, not just the 'victims'. The WCTF will illustrate the commonalities between various oppressions and the negative culture it creates. How does it impact us spiritually? Could it have somehow contributed to the recent UUCC cloak of silence around inappropriate behavior?

October 14

Worship Service with "Healthy Congregations" Consultant Connie Goodbread and Rev. Lee Devoe. See "A Letter from Lee" for information.

October 21

Reflections from Turkey

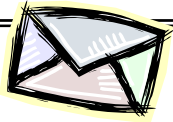
Rev. Lee Devoe

I will create our service from my pilgrimage in Turkey.

This is a change in date from what was originally announced to accommodate our work in congregational systems, Oct. 12-14.

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 10/1/07 Please submit all newsletter articles as WORD documents if possible.



A Letter from Lee

By Rev. Lee Devoe

Do you ever act in ways that surprise you? Out of your comfort zone, your value system, your normal range of response? Does other people's behavior seem erratic and inexplicable on occasion, not in keeping with how you can imagine reacting to a given situation?

Moments when we gain insight into our own and others' behaviors: what a gift! It is practically useful. Metaphorically, it's like adding a few new pieces to this jigsaw puzzle of life. A bigger picture comes into view. We can feel more at home in the world.

Systems Thinking changes how a person understands the dynamics of their relationships – at home, at work, and at church. It allows a person to create more of what they want in all their relationships. Once you see with a systems perspective in one arena of life, you carry that perspective into all arenas. It's revolutionary!

We have an opportunity to use the lens of Systems Thinking to see UUCC. We have invited facilitator Connie Goodbread to spend the weekend of October 12-14 with us. **This is a big piece of understanding the congregational culture that will prepare you for the Search process.** Your leadership has identified this work as the priority for this year. I hope you will make it a priority to participate. We are providing food and childcare!!!

Thank you Janet Sawyer and Karen Fisk for your help in organizing this weekend.

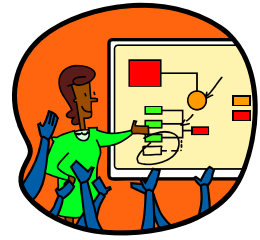
This will be a fun and revelatory time to spend together!

In faith,
Lee

Our facilitator will be Connie Goodbread, currently Lifespan Program Consultant in Florida. I've heard she has a good sense of humor and an engaging, participatory approach. Connie comes highly recommended by District Executive Rev. Mary Higgins. She has had eleven years of training with Dr. Peter Steinke and is a consultant and a trainer of trainers in Dr. Steinke's *Healthy Congregations* program. Connie has written a Unitarian Universalist Supplement to this program called *The Smart Church*. She has led workshops, retreats, trainings, and consultations all over the United States.

The whole congregation is invited to:

Dinner and Workshop
With consultant Connie Goodbread



Friday, October 12, 6 pm – 9 pm

In Fellowship Hall, Call 622-3232 to register
We'll feed you! We'll play with your children!

Let's all learn the language of Systems Thinking
to launch the new direction of UUCC.

On Sunday, October 14,

consultant Connie Goodbread will participate in our worship service,
adding new dimensions to our understanding of congregational life.

On Saturday, October 13,

Ms. Goodbread will work with congregational leadership.

Consultant Connie Goodbread writes:

"Systems Thinking is inclusive and empowering. To think systems is to understand that the system has a very great effect on the parts and that the parts can affect the whole in a very positive way. Systems Thinking is an organic, living way to see our communities and ourselves.

Together we will be looking at the congregation as a system. Part of our work is an educational piece that will help everyone to understand the terminology of Systems Thinking. We will look at how the system supports leaders and empowers them to lead. We will look at things that need to be in place so that leaders can do their very best for the well being of the congregation. We will explore how to move forward deliberately and responsibly."

Listening Skills
A Workshop with Kathy Kellison
An Exercise in the art of Holy Hearing

Saturday, November 3
10 am – 12 noon
Fellowship Hall

Have you ever considered listening as a spiritual practice?
Do you know the difference between listening and hearing?

We will explore the difference between listening - knowing what was said, and hearing - knowing what was meant. Often a person can only move through difficult emotions when they have been truly heard, when their experience has been validated by another person. We will explore and practice hearing.

This workshop will launch the training process for ministerial associates, members who offer pastoral care in the congregation. **It is open to all members of the congregation**, whether or not you want to join this ministry. I will share information about the process of becoming a ministerial associate at this workshop and in future newsletters. – Rev. Lee Devoe

Letter from Lee, Continued:

If you need help, while I am away . . .

I will be on a pilgrimage to Turkey from 9/19-10/10.

Rev. Helen Zidowecki, member of UCC, and **Rev. Margaret Beckman**, First Universalist Church in Pittsfield, are available for pastoral care and other services, if needed. Contact Rev. Zidowecki at 582-5308 or HZMRE@hzmre.com or Rev. Beckman at 843-7576 (home) or 487-5861 (church) or 299-5520 (cell) or mabme@aol.com. Thank you Helen and Margaret!

If you are going through a time of transition or difficulty and need someone to talk to, please call one of our Ministerial Associates.

Ministerial Associates

Susan Burnett: 377-3969, burnett@fairpoint.net

Marty Soule: 685-9270, martysoule@verizon.net

Helen Wing: 685-3804, hcranewing@peoplepc.com

If you have a concern or suggestion for the congregation's ministry, please speak to a member of the Committee on Ministry.

Committee on Ministry

Jane Gilbert: 621-9743, janegilbert@adelphia.net

John Pelletier: mjpell14@adelphia.net

Janet Sawyer: 623-4971, jhps@me.acadia.net

Jim Spicer: 495-2331, spicej@gwi.net

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Take a look at the display case of our church where there are some plaques which have been displayed at various times in previous Universalist buildings in Augusta. These plaques remember the many people who have made contributions to their church over the generations, and we would like to know more about these folks and their involvement with the church. If these plaques stir up memories which you can share with us about these folks and how they were related to the church, please contact the church office or a member of the History Committee.

While you're at it, take a look at some of the other plaques in our present building, and check out the names and inscriptions. Much of our history is right before our eyes if we take the time to look. The stories behind our plaques comprise just a tiny bit of the history that the History Committee is trying to document.

This committee usually meets the fourth Monday morning of the month, with our next meeting being on Sept. 24th at 10 AM. Please join us at any time. We welcome your input! The committee members are Nancy Greenier, Ron LeBlanc, Helen McKendry, Heide Munro, Bob Rand, Barbara Thurlow, Helen Zidowecki, and **YOU**, anytime that you choose to join us.



UUCC SOCIAL ACTIVITIES

Getting to know each other better,
Having fun together,
Celebrating our joys,
Sharing our challenges -

- **Intergenerational Fun Activities at 11 AM on Sundays**—walks, skating, etc.,
Coordinated by Rebecca Dorr Holman

- **Circle Suppers in October**
If you are willing to open your home for dinner one night in October, please let us know and we will post a sign up list in the Fellowship Hall. You set the date and time, decide how many people you would like to have. Do you want to have children included? You provide the main dish, everyone else brings salad, dessert, and whatever else you need for the meal.

- **Grateful Harvest Supper—Friday, November 2**
This year instead of having our pot luck Thanksgiving celebration the same week as the official holiday, we will move to an earlier date in the month. The meal will be coordinated by Faith Madore's Small Group Ministry.

Do you have other ideas for Social Activities? Please let us know: Marty Soule 685-9270, marty-soule@verizon.net and Michael Conley 622-2945, esther-pearl@rcn.com



Let's HIKE, PLAY, SKATE together. We invite UUAA folks of all ages to enjoy outdoors together. Meet rain, snow, or shine, any/every Sunday, starting September 16, at 10:55 in back hall by men's bathroom/classrooms.

Group will decide on activity each week: Rail Trail, Augusta Nature Trails, Vaughn Woods, outdoor games, iceskating/sledding.

Come for just an hour or two. Bring your own snacks. We can start 11-12 PM on 9/16 and return in time for the Congregational Meeting.

Questions: Call Rebecca Dorr Holman at 685-7337.

If you want to reach Liza, Hospitality Goddess....

Correction from the article in the last newsletter, my email is: lizarosegottlieb@yahoo.com
Liza Gottlieb



Auction Work Group

We could use another 1-2 persons for our work group that was auctioned at the Service Auction. We will be helping the successful bidder, Dan Sorensen, with some outside projects on Saturday, September 22, from 9-4:30. Lunch will be served. If you can help, please contact Brenda Sawyer at nicaphile@hotmail.com or 582-5816.

SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

I've been thinking about how I might advertise Small Group Ministry.

Are You Tired of Talking about the Weather? Do You Long for Real Conversation with People Who Care Who You Are? Consider Small Group Ministry.

Do You Wish There Were People Who Make Promises to One Another and Work to Follow Through? Small Group Ministry Might be for You.

Do You Have a Desire to Contribute Time and Energy to a Worthy Cause? Want to Make a Difference in Your World? Consider Small Group Ministry.

In our congregation, we have nine groups which make a sustained effort to live up to these expectations. Currently, about 80 people meet in small groups on a regular basis to stay connected to each other's lives, to discuss topics of a spiritual nature and provide service to our church and the wider community. People join the group which fits their schedule, so members find themselves meeting others from church whom they have not known well. Thus the connections in our church deepen and broaden.

The emphasis in group is on listening to one another and knowing one another deeply. We do not encourage debate, or deep sharing of personal problems. Rather we support sharing news flashes from daily life and then spending time on questions provided and designed to promote personal discovery and sharing. I am eager to speak with anyone

who would like more information about making the commitment to joining a group.

In addition, there is a drop in group every month. Anyone who would like to spend about an hour experiencing a Small Group Session and becoming a bit better acquainted with others at church is invited to attend. These sessions will be scheduled to fit around other events at church and will be announced on Sunday mornings, and in the newsletter. We will meet in the Annex, next door to the church, on Summer Street at 9:30 on Sunday morning and finish in time for the second service.

The first drop in group will be on Sunday morning September 30. Again, I invite anyone who is interested to come by. If you have questions about dropping in or any other aspect of Small Group Ministry, please let me know.

Thanks!

Kathy Kellison



COMMITTEE ON MINISTRY

September has arrived quickly and a number of committees are getting back in to the swing of things. The Committee on Ministry has continued to meet during the summer and we'd like to provide a little update and a few thoughts regarding our approach to the coming year.

The role of the Committee on Ministry continues to be that

of a sounding board and facilitator. We want you to know that for you as an individual or as part of a group, we are here to listen to your concerns, questions, words of encouragement and thoughts. We continue to hold what is best for the congregation as a whole as the centering point of our work. We want you to feel comfortable approaching us as a committee or any one of us as a representative of our committee.

We are continuing to deal with what it means to be a "Safe Congregation". We will be holding workshops (see article elsewhere in newsletter) to help us all process this and we are working on developing a policy that will clearly spell out who and what we want the UCC to be in terms of a Safe Congregation.

We want to encourage everyone to be aware that people will process events in different ways. Some of us are ready to *move on*, some to *heal*, some to *forget*, some to *grieve*, some to express *anger* and any other of a number of emotions. Let us treat each other kindly, with understanding. Let us ask each other questions, and thoughtfully listen to the answers. Let us practice our principles. We believe that as we move forward, we will struggle and we will grow to be who we truly want to be.

Please feel free to contact any of us: Jane Gilbert, John Pelletier (chair), Janet Sawyer and Jim Spicer.

Legacy of Giving: Make a Planned Gift

There are many ways to give

As in the Unitarian Universalist search for truth and meaning, there are many pathways to generosity. Many ways to strengthen hope and reason. Many avenues in which to use our financial resources to bend the world closer to the principles of freedom, tolerance, justice, love, and respect. We Unitarian Universalists want to be effective trustees and stewards of our great liberal religious heritage. We want future generations to inherit and enjoy this free faith, and we know financial support is vital to this hope. Still, each of us must find her or his own way to make it a reality.

You need not search alone. The Unitarian Universalist Association has the resources and expertise to help you support the future of Unitarian Universalism. For instance, we can show you how to make a gift today and receive payments for the rest of your life. We can explain how to make a gift from an Individual Retirement Account (IRA). We can help you craft your estate plans to provide a significant, lasting contribution to our common work as Unitarian Universalists.

No matter which ones you want to pursue, please contact Peter Mendall to request more information. I look forward to hearing from you. Your gift will keep the chalice fires burning.



“CHANGE THE WORLD” FAIR

Our Change the World Fair is shaping up well with movies, displays, demos, a play and a couple of workshops. We have environment, peace, social justice, housing organizations represented and other ways you help or can learn how to help.

It is not too late to tell us who you would like to have there. This means have some kind of presence to “give us a clue” as to mission, project(s), what has been done and how someone can get involved. (By the way, do we have any clowns in the congregation? My last church was lucky enough to have one!) Let us know – call Priscilla Jenkins at 377-9011 or 446-9110 or anyone you know associated with the Social Concerns committee.





Fund Raiser Yard Sale

The **Inside-Outside Yard Sale** will be held on Saturday, September 29th, 8:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Set-up is Friday, September 28th, from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. We will also need volunteers after the sale to help with clean up and to transport unsold items to Goodwill. If you can help in any way—for any amount of time—please contact Hannah Faulkner or Judy McCown or sign up on the sheet in the Fellowship Hall. Donations can be placed in the garage. Thank you.
Judy McCown, jsmbierce@verizon.net

3rd Annual Joint Fall Conference of the NED/NH/VT Districts
'Growth and Social Consciousness'
~Pooling resources for progress~
Friday, October 5—Saturday, October 6, 2007
University of New England, Portland, Maine

Join Unitarian Universalists from across the three states in an historic setting!

Keynote: Rev. Gail Geisenhainer
Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, Vero Beach, Florida
Sunday Worship Leader, General Assembly 2006

Registration Forms on Bulletin Board in Fellowship Hall.
Check it out at www.ned-uua.org

The Red Cross Needs Volunteers



Are you looking for a way to be helpful to people in times of crisis? The United Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross will be conducting Disaster Volunteer Classes in late September-early October. Trained Volunteers offer assistance to people experiencing fires and other disasters and can volunteer for national disasters, as well. Volunteers are urgently needed for Southern Kennebec County. For more information, please contact the United Valley Chapter of the American Red Cross at 795-4004 or Brenda Sawyer at 582-5816 or email: nicap-hile@hotmail.com

NEWCOMER DINNER **Sunday, November 4, 5-8 PM** **in Fellowship Hall**

If you are new to the congregation, please join us for this evening of conversation and exploration. You will have an opportunity to meet new people, learn about the Unitarian Universalist movement and share stories of your spiritual journey. Please contact Stefanie Barley to reserve your seat at 623-2824. We would love to host a concurrent children's orientation. Let us know if that would be helpful.

The whole earth is alive, all of a piece, one living thing, a creature.

~Lewis Thomas

Each of us is an essential atom in a living, breathing, and changing organism..

~Max DePree

*No animal or plant is self-sustaining. The quest to be alone is indeed a futile
One, never successfully followed in the history of life.*

~George Gaylord Simpson

*From atom to organism to person, the pattern that meets us in nature is that of
connection and contact. In the world of living organisms, isolation is nowhere met.*

~Larry Dossey

A Systems Approach

Systems thinking is basically a way of thinking about life as all of a piece. It is a way of thinking about how the whole is arranged, how its parts interact, and how the relationships between the parts produce something new. A systems approach claims that any person or event stands in relationship to something. You cannot isolate anything and understand it. The parts function as they do because of the presence of the other parts. All parts interface and affect each other. Their behaviors are reciprocal to one another, mutually reinforcing. Thus change in one part produces change in another part, even in the whole. There is a “ripple” through the system.

No problem can be seen in isolation. The problem is in the whole, not the part. The system is the locus of the problem. The problem is in the interaction between the parts. The same is true for solutions and corrections.

~from *Healthy Congregations—a systems approach* by Peter L. Steinke

**Join us for the
Workshop in
Systems
Thinking
on October 12
from 6-9 PM**



September and October Work Days for 71 Winthrop Street.



We need volunteers for both work site work and for provision of food.
If you volunteer to provide physical labor, please bring your own tools
(make certain electrical tools are grounded).



If you're bringing food or helping in the kitchen:

Please have breakfast food there by 8:00 a.m., lunch food by 11:30 a.m. I always need help with the clean up around 2:00 p.m.

September 22

Work Planned:

- Install new Andersen window
- Various plaster repairs throughout
- Install attic venting
- Connect electrical wiring
- Replace siding on East wall
- Install bathroom wall supports for handrails, plumbing vent stack
- Attic insulation
- Enlarge fire door to copier room
- Move and enlarge opening into storage room
- Beef up wall as required
- Remove telephone network
- Break apart bulkhead wall
- Pour concrete for bulkhead
- Install fiberglass insulation under stairs
- Install windows in basement
- Install electrical boxes
- Disconnect radiator



October 13

Work Planned:

- Replace front doors
- Build form & pour new concrete bulkhead wall
- Install sheetrock
- Install lighting fixtures
- Build door frame & install interior door for bulkhead & insulate it
- Sand hardwood floors
- Replace radiators
- Disconnect & remove old furnaces and water heater
- Modify oil tank installation to meet code and re-plumb with steel pipe
- Possible '**Talent Day**' this day or 10/27



October 27

Work Planned:

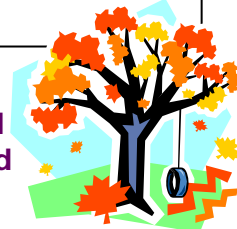
- Install basement insulation
- Install bulkhead cover
- Install heat source in new bathroom & adjacent hall
- Install fire doors
- Install rear door weather stripping
- Re-install radiator
- Level and install hallway sub-floor
- Begin sheetrock taping
- Install door & wall trim throughout
- Do all of the other things we hadn't thought of or which haven't been completed from other days
- Possible '**Talent Day**'



If you have **questions about the skills** required to complete the above tasks or whether you are able to help in a specific fashion, please contact Wayne Ladner, 737-4995 (waladner@gwi.net) or Andy Fisk, 588-0074 (kfisk@gwi.net).

If you want to **sign up to help on a specific day**, either for the physical **labor**; to provide **food** or to **help in the kitchen**, please contact Maggie Ricker, 623-9943 (Maggiesway@aol.com)

If you haven't yet volunteered to help, please consider doing so. You'll be wonderfully surprised at the sense of camaraderie and fun you'll find there. It's very satisfying to realize you personally had a hand in making all this happen.



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