



# The Flaming Chalice

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

September 2013

Beginning September 8th

**Worship Services 9:15 and 11:00 a.m.**

**Children's Religious Exploration classes 9:15 a.m. & Spirit Play 11:00 a.m.**

**Nursery Care available at both services**

## Theme Based Ministry

In September of 2013, UUC of Augusta will begin transitioning to a model of theme-based ministry in worship and programs. This new model is intended to provide members and friends with an opportunity for deeper interaction with worship themes. Instead of moving along from seemingly random topics each week, we will engage the following themes each month:

September	Fluidity & Forgiveness	February	Heritage & Legacy
October	Honor Our Connections With The Universe	March	Loss
November	Radical Hospitality	April	Power of Myth
December	Unitarian Universalist Sources	May	Peace
January	New Beginnings	June	Community

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## Soul Matters: An invitation

A monthly Soul Matters packet will be developed as a tool for members, friends and small groups to use as they explore how the theme is intricately woven into the tapestry of our days.

A Soul Matters packet is your invitation:

- To explore theme-based spiritual practices.
- To encounter the complexity of living a moral life.
- To wrestle with life's many contradictions.
- To practice intentional and guided spiritual and theological reflection.
- To mine the moments of your life for wisdom, courage, hope and love.
- To cultivate conversations that opens the heart and soul to our common humanity.
- To swim beneath the surface of daily life and engage in conversations that matter.
- To meet human longing by cultivating connections and a sense of belonging.

As you explore this month's theme, Forgiveness and Fluidity, I invite you to go as the way opens. Be curious. Allow yourself to be surprised by what you find. Share it with someone you meet along the way. Have fun and keep your spirit dancing with life and all that you encounter along the way.

To request a copy of the Soul Matter's Packet, please contact Mary T. Simpson at 622-3232 or [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

## A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

It is good to be back!!! After a summer vacation, a time of unscheduled life, I returned late July to a faith community in motion. After time at the well, I arrived back replenished, so very ready to be back into the rhythms of ministry with all of you.

A faith community in motion... indeed!

We have said good bye to Julie Pelletier and hello to Mary T. Simpson, our new Office Administrator. In one more week the Student Minister will arrive and we will once again engage the work of being a teaching congregation.

A faith community in motion... relevant and refreshed!

Excited and exhilarated about the shift to theme-based ministry, I have been immersed in planning worship services and small group ministry packets. I am eager to present the new Soul Matters Packet at the In-Gathering service and Rev. Carol Strecker is creatively putting together classroom curriculum for our children and youth. Please join us with curiosity and wonder in this multigenerational approach. Let yourself be surprised by what you find.

A faith community in motion... present and listening!

Your Leap of Faith travel team had an inspiring launch conference weekend and laid the ground work for a partnership with First Parish Milton MA. At the start of the weekend we were asked, "Can one congregation care deeply for another?" We left Bedford on Sunday having experienced the depth of this question, we left empowered knowing one congregation does care deeply about this faith community and our future unfolding.

During this year long program our mentor congregation, First Parish of Milton will walk alongside us in the journey, companioning and partnering with us as we go. They will explore with us the questions of who we want to be and who we are called to be in the world? Your participation in the journey of discovery is absolutely vital in shaping our future. Please join us with curiosity and wonder. As invitations and opportunities present themselves to partake, we hope you will say Yes!

A faith community in motion... growing and becoming!!

In August I attended the second professional development retreat for Beyond the Call - Preaching and Worship Arts. Inspired by the Rev. Dr. Susan Ritchie, I am ready to take some new risks toward the goal of growing as a worship leader. With both curiosity and trepidation, I will venture into extemporaneous preaching through stories. May we be surprised by what I find.

A faith community in motion... flowing and forgiving!!

*Fluidity and forgiveness...* What an apt theme for a faith community in motion. As we seek to grow together in spirit and understanding of our call, may our journey flow wisely, and when it doesn't, may we be forgiving of each other along the way.

In faith, Rev. Carie

## Director of Religious Exploration ...

Rev. Carol Strecker

For me, there's always been something magical about the harbingers of autumn; a subtle change in the light -- cool evening breezes -- a tinge of red in the upper-most branches of the maple trees (yes, already). Summer adventures are great fun and I've had some really good ones this year; a weekend at Maine Fiddle Camp, trips to Missouri and Michigan to visit family and friends, a long weekend in Nova Scotia with Kate for the Folk Harbor Music Festival in Lunenburg and a meditation retreat with Thich Nhat Hanh.

I've had lots of opportunities to stretch my wings -- but these days the earth speaks to me of returning, not to things as they were but to all the possibilities that come with new beginnings.

As I begin to think about beginning my second year as your Director of Life-Span Religious Exploration, I'm thinking about possibilities. Last year at this time I was just arriving on the scene. Everything was new; new names and faces, new programs, new ways of doing things, new traditions. This year, I feel like we're in a position to really begin to start thinking about possibilities together, possibilities for creating a Life-Span Religious Exploration Program that has the power to foster spiritual growth in community for all ages.

One of the ways Rev. Carie and I hope to facilitate this kind of learning and growing community is through "Theme-Based Church". Many of you were actively involved in crafting ten themes that Rev. Carie and the worship team will use to develop the month-long worship series. These themes will provide opportunities for going deeper into things that really matter. Rev. Carie approached me about incorporating themes into the Religious Exploration program. I thought it was a great idea, giving everyone the opportunity to literally "be on the same page" for a month at a time. My biggest challenge now is how we're going to do it.

Right now, children and youth are divided into several age groups. Each group uses a different curriculum that runs anywhere from 8 weeks to the whole church year. In some ways we're talking about changing the way we've done RE for children and youth and creating a program that follows the themes for the church year rather than using theme curricula.

In the spirit of this great experiment, I've agreed to try to design a more theme-based approach for our children and youth this fall by pulling together materials for an 8 week program that will follow the worship theme for October; ***Honoring Our Connections with the Earth*** for all our children and youth. The children and youth will still be divided into age groups but the material they cover will be based on a common theme: Our youngest children talking about the stars as ancestors and our youth talking about the evolution of the human brain.

Some of this material will come from the work of Michael Dowd and Connie Barstow; a minister and a scientist who talk about how the marriage of science and religion can make a difference for good in the world.

A basic premise of their work is that "evolution has encouraged wider affinities of cooperation and care in the world". As social beings, we have evolved from the gathering of the clan, the village and the tribe for survival to the development of social democracies and the United Nations in the name of cooperation and mutual care. In the words of Jon Stewart, "Cooperators will inherit the Earth".

Though it hasn't always been the case, religion (the process of meaning-making) can play an important role in helping to extend this evolutionary ideal of extending our circle of care by lifting up the values of cooperation, inclusion and love. How can we extend our circle of care -- with each other, here at church as well as in our families and communities? How can we become better cooperators? These are the kinds of questions I hope we can explore together related to this important theme.

Just as Rev. Carie is looking for resources from the congregation, I'll need your help in finding meaningful ways to offer these ideas to our children and youth. I also hope that Rev. Carie and I will be able to offer several adult RE opportunities so we can all learn, share and grow together.

It's good to be back, Carol

## Leap in Progress...

Doug Rooks, President

The first official event in our year-long Leap of Faith initiative took place the weekend of Aug. 16-18, when five members of our "travel team" joined with nine other New England congregations for a three-day conference in Bedford, Mass. Attending from UUCC were: Rev. Carie Johnsen; Rev. Carol Strecker, our RE Director; Nancy Fritz, who chairs the Committee on Ministry; Rita Cherubini, who co-chairs the Membership Committee; and myself, as board president.

It was a rewarding, challenging, and affirming weekend as we got to know members of our partner church, First Parish of Milton, Mass., much better. The opening night, and at intervals throughout the weekend, we saw and heard presentations by each of the 10 congregations, which include two each from Maine and New Hampshire, five from Massachusetts, and one from Connecticut. UUCC offered a four-minute video presentation that provided an informative introduction to who we are, and where we're from. Rita coordinated the video, which was filmed by Bruce Bierce. It was impressive that such a short tape included so many voices from the congregation, including Annie Voorhees as narrator.

We got to spend a lot of time with the Milton church, which sent four members to the conference. Their experiences have over the years been quite similar to ours, and it was surprising how easily we entered into deep conversations with them about the most fundamental issues of church life, starting with questions of congregational and UU identity. We are already beginning to see how some of the problems and concerns we experience at our church trace back to basic issues of what membership in a liberal religious denomination really means, how we relate to each other, and how our programs express our identity both to ourselves and to the larger community.

We look forward to our three-day visit to Milton in November, where the five of us, along with board member Gary Chapin, will stay with members of the congregation, observe their Sunday services, and broaden our conversations with many others, but particularly including the friends we made this past weekend.

By the time the Milton team visits us, likely sometimes after the turn of 2014, we will be ready to share the Leap of Faith experience with the entire congregation, with the assistance of our able home team. Concerning the home team – we still could use more members. There are no particular requirements other than a commitment to participate and a willingness to learn. If you're interested, please contact Carie or myself.

I'd also like to thank Claire Curole, who led a stimulating Sunday worship service about Leap of Faith (while the five of us were away) which discussed the concept of "adaptive challenges" – the kind of issues we will need to reckon with if our church is to grow and thrive. She has a script of the service she'd be willing to share if you missed it.

Leap of Faith will be an exercise in growth and stretching for all of us. It is in many ways an experiment in how congregations can renew themselves by examining how we welcome people, what membership means to us, how we express our faith in the work we do together, and how we care for each other in fellowship. I can't think of any better way to begin a new church year.

## Mark Your Calendar....

**Friday, September 13th:** Phyllis Von Herrlich, from the Kennebec Historical Society, will present a talk on Gail Laughlin, 1868-1954. Gail Laughlin, graduate of Portland High School, is one of Maine's women historical figures that has been sadly forgotten. She was the first women to practice law in Maine and served in the Maine Legislature. She was a very early advocate for equality and introduced many bills towards that end, one of which was to make it illegal for women to be placed in mental institutions solely based on their husband's testimony. A potluck supper will be held at 5:30PM prior to her presentation.

**Friday, October 4th:**

The Stratton Elementary School Steel Drum Band will present a long awaited concert. There will be a spaghetti supper prior to the concert.

**Saturday, October 9th: Our first VEGAN supper.**

## UUCC Web...

[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

The Website Committee is looking for people to help with specific projects, such as getting more pictures onto the website, monitoring to make sure that we have the latest information on the website in this ever changing community, and being aware of how the website is and can be used to enhance the life and work of the UUCC and Unitarian Universalism.

We are adding the Sunday Announcements page to the website. With the Newsletter coming out monthly, and the shorter time in which opportunities and events arise, the Sunday Announcements are an additional communication tool. The announcements from January to June are found by clicking on Upcoming Services at the bottom of the Left column on the Home page, then clicking on Sunday Announcements.

To participate on the Website Committee regularly or on special projects, contact Helen Zidowecki, Website Committee Chair at 582-5308 or [website@augustauu.org](mailto:website@augustauu.org) We look forward to your joining us.

## Don't forget your WATER!!!

September 8th is  
In-Gathering Sunday.

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. Our collective water signifies the mingling of the individual amid the communal. The waters blessed by this community will be used to bless the grounds we walk on and the moments along the way.

## Rev. Carie's Office Schedule...

Tuesday 11:00 - 5:00

Thursday 11:00 - 5:00

or by appointment

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.

## Grandparents Day

The Kennebec Valley Organization invites you to celebrate Grandparents Day by participating in a conversation on aging in Maine. This special forum will be held:

**Sunday, September 8th**

**1:30 -- 3:00 PM**

**St. Michael's School**

**56 Sewell Street, Augusta**

This is the time to discuss the important challenges that face Mainers as our state grows more grey. All ages, faiths, backgrounds and points of view are encouraged.

## Administration News...

The hiring committee is pleased to announce

### **Mary T. Simpson**

has accepted the part-time position of Office Administrator. Mary will join the UUCS Staff Team Monday August 12, 2013.

Mary lives in Madison, Maine with her husband Dale. Mary is originally from Pensacola, Florida. Mary's father served in the United States Navy so she was able to explore many different states growing up. She has 10 siblings, six brothers, and 4 sisters. Mary was raised in the Catholic Church. She relocated to Maine in 1987 to raise her two children in one of the most beautiful and safest places within the United States. She enjoys children, reading, crocheting, listening to music, traveling, gardening, and has a new passion to learn American Sign Language, and Baby Signing. Mary and her husband were foster parents for twelve years and had the privilege of caring for a total of 56 children over that period of time. Mary has three grandchildren the youngest born deaf, hence the new passion for learning ASL and Baby Signing. Mary has twelve plus years of experience as an administrative assistant, and really enjoys working in this capacity. She has worked in a variety of office environments, and covered a large area of Maine while working for staffing agencies. Mary is very excited to begin her new journey with Unitarian Universalist Community Church on August 12, 2013. Mary is excited to get to know and work with everyone at UUCS, as well as getting to know many wonderful people!

With this hire the office hours will change to the following:

Monday & Tuesday 8:00 - 4:00  
Thursday 12:00 - 8:00  
Effective August 12, 2013



## Buildings and Grounds...

### **Building and Grounds - Saturday, September Workdays 9-12.**

Second Saturday is customary work day for building and grounds. We only had three volunteers in July and none in August.

Now that summer is over we hope to see more of you on second Saturdays.

## Nonviolent Communications...

The **Nonviolent Communications (also known as Compassionate Communications) Practice Group** is meeting on Friday, September 6 from 10:15 am -- 12:15 pm, in the Robbins Room. The theme will be "*Nonviolence: The Natural State of Compassion.*" We will also be planning the schedule for the year. Helen Zidowecki, facilitating.

The group is open to people who have taken Nonviolent Communication Training programs, or who are/have been in a practice group. Others may attend, but there is an expectation that they will attend a training when one becomes available. Some of the resources that we use may be available through the group. The sessions vary in content and format.

For more information on NVC, the topics, or to attend, contact Helen Wing at 685-3804, [hcranewing@roadrunner.com](mailto:hcranewing@roadrunner.com)

## Display Case...

New Church Year – New Displays!

Share the wonderful things that are being done by UUC members and friends!

Let us know the importance of UUism for YOU! Individuals, Committees, Small Group Ministry, Youth, other church groups have a wealth of wisdom and information to share with the congregation and larger community.

How many people do you think come through the church building in a week? The Display case is a great way to show what UUism is. Contribute.

Sponsored by Thursday morning Small Group Ministry. To schedule YOUR display for 2 weeks to a month, contact Helen Zidowecki (582-5308, [hzmre@hzmre.com](mailto:hzmre@hzmre.com))

## Committee on Ministry...

Feedback on Rev. Carie's Ministry

The Committee on Ministry has developed a process to solicit feedback from our congregation on Rev. Carie's ministry with our congregation. The process will include four focus groups, a staff survey, and Carie's self evaluation that will also offer feedback on the congregation's ministry. Providing regular feedback to our minister is important as a way to celebrate the strengths that she brings to our church, and to offer suggestions for areas of professional growth.

Some of the focus groups will be with established groups within our church such as the Board of Trustees and the Leadership Council. There will also be opportunities for others to participate. If you are interested in participating in a Focus Group in September please get in touch with Nancy Fritz, Committee on Ministry Chair. She can be reached by email at [nfritz@roadrunner.com](mailto:nfritz@roadrunner.com) or by phone at 621-9743.

The Committee on Ministry will select focus group members to ensure we have a broad range of diversity (age, gender, length of time in congregation, folks who know and work with Carie in a variety of ways, experience with her pastoral ministry, etc.)

Please make contact with Nancy no later than September 1st if you are interested in being considered for Focus Group participation.

## Goddess Continuing....

Join us on Sunday, September 15 after Second Service for a Pot Luck Picnic. Share from your Summer Spirituality as we reconnect and plan for the year.

Please see the Flier for Fall Equinox on the table in the hall by the Sanctuary. The Goddess Continuing Flier will also be available after the picnic

For more information, contact Mary Shifman, [shifmanmary@aol.com](mailto:shifmanmary@aol.com), 549-7719



# Policy for Inclusion of Convicted Sex Offenders...

*The Safe Congregation Task Force (SCTF) is a group comprised of Rev. Carie Johnsen, Rev Carol Strecker, Joan Mohlar, Debbie Mattson, Phyllis Cudmore, Nancy Fritz, Daisy Dore, and Abby Lourie. This committee has been working for three years to develop and fine tune the UCC policies and procedures. On Sunday September 29th at noon there will be a forum to present a draft policy about inclusion of sexual offenders at the UCC. There are of course, going to be very specific guidelines for this occurrence in order to assure the safety and comfort of all involved. The policy is attached to the news letter for review, and please come to the meeting and share your input and thoughts about the policy. Thank you - Abby on behalf of the SCTF*

## Policy for Inclusion of Convicted Sex Offenders Draft 8/16/13

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta, Maine, strives to be an inclusive community, affirming our differences in beliefs, opinions, and life experiences. However, concern for the safety and well-being of the congregation as a whole must be given priority over the privileges and inclusion of the individual. This policy anticipates limiting or restricting inclusion of some individuals in our faith community. At the same time, this policy strives to demonstrate the 1<sup>st</sup> UU principle “the inherent worth and dignity of every person.”

**1. Identifying sexual offenders.** A person is only identified as a sex offender if he or she has been convicted of a crime that includes sexually violating another person, is listed on a State Sex Offender Registry or self-identifies. It is expected that congregants will inform the minister of any person with this status.

### **2. Once a person has been identified the following process will be used:**

A. The minister will meet privately with the person when identified by criteria set out in #1 above. The minister will discuss with the individual the concerns that have been raised. Prior to the meeting, the minister will check the Maine Sex Offender Registry.

B. A Response Team will be convened immediately after a person has been identified and will consist of the Minister, the President of the Board of Trustees, the Director of Religious Exploration (as appropriate), a member of the Committee on Ministry, and at least one other member of the congregation appointed by the President. If the complaint involves any member of the Response Team listed above, the Board of Trustees will replace that member with an appropriate person.

C. The response team will determine if the identified person is willing to sign and maintain an agreement to assure the safety of all congregants and church visitors. This agreement limits the person’s inclusion in church functions. (Guidelines for drafting a limited access agreement follow.)

D. The Minister, the Director of Religious Education, and the President of the Board will know that the person has a history of sexual offending and has agreed to limit his/her participation in the church. The Response Team will determine who else needs to know about the person’s history. The Response Team may determine that the entire congregation needs to know.

E. Once a Limited Access Agreement has been signed, the person’s name and requirement to sign a Limited Access Agreement will be posted on the church bulletin board. Any inquiries about the Limited Access Agreement by congregants will be made to the minister and a copy of the Agreement will be made available for purposes of reading only.

F. If the person is unwilling to sign and maintain an agreement that limits inclusion, than the person will be restricted from participating in all church activities, including worship services.

**3. Confidentiality.** Confidentiality and privacy for all involved will be a priority of the Response Team.  
(continued of page 7)



## **Sex Offender Policy** *(contd. from page 6)*

Copies of files, including Limited Access Agreement, will be kept in a secure locked file drawer.

**4. Legal questions.** If and when legal questions arise, the minister and/or Board President should contact a lawyer who can provide information and advice informed by the local and state statutes that apply.

**5. Religious Exploration.** A person who has been convicted of any sexual misconduct (or has a pending court case) will be excluded from all religious exploration and youth group activities.

### **6. Reasons for excluding a person from all church and church-related activities:**

A. Person's refusal to sign a Limited Access Agreement.

B. Person's refusal to comply with the requirements of the Limited Access Agreement.

C. Person's refusal to have name listed on church bulletin board identifying him/her as a sex offender with a Limited Access Agreement available to any congregant for reading purposes upon request to the minister.

**Guidelines for drafting a Limited Access Agreement:** The following guidelines are not meant to be inclusive of all considerations. They are offered only as guidelines to assist the drafting of the Agreement.

1. The Limited Access Agreement will specify which activities of the congregation the person may participate in and provide specific expectations for behavior.

2. If children have been the victim(s):

A. The Limited Access Agreement may ask the person to avoid all contact with children on congregation property or congregation-sponsored events. This includes not talking with children, volunteering or chaperoning children's events, including children's religious education classes, talking with children during worship, and children's activities during intergenerational events.

B. The person may be required to remain in the presence of an adult who knows his/her situation at all times when children are present.

C. The person will not enter the Drew House or Nursery or the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor of the Judd House at any time, even if children are not present.

3. When other identified groups have been the victim(s):

A. Limited Access Agreements will be developed to protect people of the same gender/age/disability of the former victim(s).

4. The person will not have access to keys to the building.

## Small Group Ministry...

Theme based ministry! Leap of Faith! This year begins with excitement about new adventures. Both raise questions about who we are and who we are going to be in the coming years. Its been about 15 years since Small Group Ministry was the new kid on the block raising those questions and the accompanying apprehension and anxiety. We remember that time and know about the blessing of recognizing anxiety and moving forward anyway. Small Group Ministry very much wants to be part of this new endeavor.

We will participate by continuing the groups that have been around a while. There are 11 groups meeting regularly. Many of these groups will use their meeting time to engage the monthly theme and explore the resources and questions in the monthly Soul Matters packets. The packets will be put together to blend easily into the Small Group Ministry process that has been the foundation of our group structure from the beginning. Having these very solid groups using this material from a new source will be a wonderful combination of continuity and change.

In addition, an open group will be available to anyone in the congregation wanting to explore that month's theme. If a particular theme calls to you and you want to investigate it in the company of others, you are invited. On the third Sunday of the month, beginning in October, anyone who wants to attend is invited to a two hour long group in the front room of Drew House. We will follow the SGM format and use material from the month's packet to structure our time together. In addition to theme exploration, these sessions will provide an opportunity for you to experience a Small Group Ministry session and get answers to questions about how the groups work. If you have been considering Small Group Ministry and want a taste before making a commitment, these groups are for you!

The key to engaging the anxiety of change is to stay connected. Small Group Ministry is one way we at UCC have been staying connected for years. In either an ongoing group or the open group there is a chair for you! Come in, settle down and fasten your seat belt. It will be a great ride!

Kathy Kellison  
Small Group Ministry Coordinator

## UCC/St. Mark's Suppers...

Our church leads the first Saturday summer community suppers at St. Mark's Episcopal Church, on Summer St. The St. Mark's Supper is one of several free suppers provided by Augusta churches, Penney Memorial Baptist and Green St. Methodist are two of the other churches involved. In recent months, more children have come and we have served the largest numbers of people ever.

Thanks to the wonderful volunteers who made the summer suppers a reality. Some volunteers come month after month. They learn the routine and are keys to the success of the meals. Thanks to our partners from St. Mark's: Rachel Lenardson and her husband Skip Ernst, who have led the supper for 13+ yrs. A leader of many meals, Gay Patterson, of St. Barnabas Church guided cooking and provided meat. Augusta Food Bank and director Abby Perry donated food every meal! Thank you, Abby. Thanks to Carie Johnsen who bought and delivered all the non-perishables in June.

Thanks also to Nancee Campbell, Ida Gammon-Wilson, Cheryl Clukey, Sophia Oliveri, Lucien Oliveri, Jenny McKendry, Jani, Phyllis, Xinnon and David Clark, Tracey McNaughton, Liz and Corinna Johnson, Louise Nielson, Tonia and Ruslan Reiter, Noah, Cricket and Luci Gottlieb, Jerome Reed, Chris Boisuel, Marilyn Dunn, Michael Conley, Monique McAuliffe, Jerome Reed, Helen Zidowecki, Nancy Fritz, Adam Fullmer, Liam Walp, Brian McNaughton, Claire Curole and her husband. I'm sorry if I've forgotten anyone!

Interested, come on over? Please call :Jenny M c K e n d r y : 4 8 0 - 0 9 8 0

Also, St. Mark's provides two other services/ ministries to the community and the goods are provided free. They run Addie's Attic (clothing bank) and the Essentials Pantry. Members of our congregation are asked to provide diapers. The largest sizes are always needed. We can also donate powder, lotions, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo, deodorant and laundry soap.

Jenny McKendry



## Sharon Piantedosi: Our New Ministerial Intern...

Sharon Piantedosi received her Master of Divinity degree from Bangor Theological Seminary this past June. In addition to her M.Div., she completed a one year residency in chaplain training.

She was a registered nurse for many years and worked in various settings prior to entering seminary. Her nursing career focused on oncology and palliative care. She had a private holistic healing practice in New Hampshire from 1988-2005. There she incorporated various healing techniques including therapeutic massage, Reiki and clinical hypnotherapy with all segments of the population from children to elderly, the acute, chronically and terminally ill.

She has a keen interest in ethics and health care advocacy, especially compassionate care with end of life choices. Sharon's ministry focus is hospital chaplaincy.

As intern minister at UUCB she looks forward to this year of formation, and is excited to have this opportunity.

She lives in Portland with her life partner, Barb, and their two fun loving mutts who enjoy being near and in any body of water. When time permits, she enjoys working with stained glass and tile, riding her bike, reading anything, and spending time with friends.

## Internship Committee...

We would like to extend a warm welcome to our student intern, Sharon Piantedosi, on behalf of her Internship Committee and the church community! We will be meeting with Sharon monthly from September through June. The committee's function is to offer guidance to Sharon in the form of listening, support, advice and feedback in her personal and professional development.

We will also be asked to complete an evaluation of her internship, both midway as well as at the end of her time with us, to be submitted to the UUA Ministerial Credentialing Office.

Please join us on Ingathering Sunday, September 8<sup>th</sup>, during our Fellowship time in between the two services, to "officially" welcome Sharon. A reminder that wearing our name tags would be very helpful for Sharon, as well as any new friends or for those of us who may have forgotten a name over the summer!

Feel free to relay your comments or questions to any of us on the committee throughout the year. Committee members are Mary McKeen, Grace Thomas, Jennifer Johnson and Mel Morrison.

Linda R. Findlay, Chair

## Elder Lunch...

### Elder Lunch Contributions Needed

Could you cook or serve just once for Elder Lunch this year or cook a finger food dessert like cookies, brownies or bars? How about cole slaw or a salad?

Elder lunch is the second Sunday of each month October through May. This event has grown in popularity and 35-40 of our elders enjoy lunch and conversation. Each event requires two large salads, 4 entrees choices, and plates of finger desserts.

Please call Marilyn Dunn to schedule your contribution- 512-5382

**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 16. Please submit newsletter articles by email, to Sheila Comerford at: [newsletter@augustauu.org](mailto:newsletter@augustauu.org). Thank you!***

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

**Office:** (207) 622-3232,  
[admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)  
**Minister's Study:**(207) 623-3663 (Office)  
(207) 395-8051(Home)  
(508) 221-5295 (Cell)  
[revcariejohansen@gmail.com](mailto:revcariejohansen@gmail.com)  
[www.augustauu.org](http://www.augustauu.org)

**Minister's Office Hours:**

Tuesday 11:00 - 5:00  
Thursday 11:00 - 5:00  
or by appointment

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.