

# 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*  
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June 18 through August 2007

## Summer Contact Information

Administrative Assistant Margaret Goodale will be in the office  
on Tuesday and Friday mornings, 8:30 am -12:30 pm

If you need personal help or know someone who does,  
please contact the Ministerial Associates, information below,  
or the Caring Committee through Hannah Faulkner, 293-9377.

Rev. Lee Devoe will be out of the office for the month of July.



## LISTENING AND SUPPORT - MINISTERIAL ASSOCIATES

Ministerial Associates are available to meet with members of the congregation who need empathetic support during a time of change or 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](mailto:martysoule@verizon.net)  
July 14-Aug. 1 Helen Wing 685-3804 [hcranewing@peoplepc.com](mailto:hcranewing@peoplepc.com)  
Aug.2-Sept.1 Susan Burnett 377-3969 [burnett@fairpoint.net](mailto:burnett@fairpoint.net).

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

## Save a spot of water from your summer sojourns

**As a symbol of the wanderings of your spirit**

To share at the Water Communion Service

On Sunday, September 9

*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 8/20/07 Please submit all newsletter articles as WORD documents if possible.*

## **Worship Services**

**On Sunday at 10:00 AM**

### **July 1** *The Wisdom of the Prophet*

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

### **July 8** *An Offering* with guest speaker and musician Alfred Lund And worship coordinator June Zellers

The sounds of our voices, the rhythms of our hands and hearts – these expressions of life energy can reflect and feed our understanding of the divine. Bring rhythm instruments and be open to clap your hands and raise your voices in this experiential worship service.

### **July 15** **Rev. Peter Friedrichs**, former intern minister of this congregation, will lead our service this morning. Rev. Friedrichs currently serves the UU congregation in Media, Pennsylvania. June Zellers will be coordinating and the choir will sing!

### **July 22** Congregation member **Charles McGillicuddy** will lead a service based on the historical record of a visit from a New England minister to New Orleans and the cultural differences he encountered, especially the roles of men and women in society. Faith Madore will be coordinating.

### **July 29** *Collecting as a Spiritual Practice* David Rand & Rev. Helen Zidowecki June Zellers, Worship Coordinator

We all collect and keep things but why can't we part with them? Perhaps there is a spiritual reason or mystical purpose to our possessions? And what happens when we let go of them? Come and help figure out the reasons for the 'stuff' in your life in this interactive service!

### **August 5** *Chanting:* *An Eastern method of Moving Toward the Perception of Wholeness*

**Priyardishi** will speak briefly on chanting in the context of his experience with a traditional Indian meditation master, Acharya Sushil Kumarje Maharag. He will encourage us to join him in an experience of chanting accompanied by the soul drum of Alfred Lund. Rev. Lee Devoe will coordinate this service.

Our First Sunday offering will go to **Mercy Corps**, an organization that provides international humanitarian aid including emergency relief services.

### **August 12, 19, & 26: Worship Services will be led by Rev. Lee Devoe** **The choir will participate in the service on August 19.**



## *A Letter from Lee*

By Rev. Lee Devoe

It has been a busy year! Interim Ministry here in Augusta, Maine has given me a good workout, stretching me in new directions and asking me to develop new skills. After more than a decade in ministry, that's a good thing! And . . . I am looking forward to a restful, rejuvenating summer.

I will spend most of the month of July in Vermont with my family. I hope to spend time outdoors: swimming, exploring the woods, riding my daughter's horses. I have a pile of books to bring with me. I am curious to see which I pick up first: the novels or the church how-to manuals. I am hoping to strike a balance between those things I've planned to do and taking the time and space to see where I am and what I want when I arrive at the threshold of summer break. I am curious to see where my mind wanders and where it rests free from the discipline of Sunday morning.

I hope you have a change of pace this summer also. No matter what form it takes, no matter how small or momentous, a break in routine offers perspective and invites renewed energy.

The congregation, as a whole, will also shift gears for summer – but not necessarily slowing down. The newly-elected Search Committee has begun their work and will continue working through the summer. Thank you Mildred, Lois, Don, Stefanie, Jan, Janet, and Harold!!! There are three workdays scheduled to push through the demolition and move into construction of the new spaces at 71 Winthrop. Thank you Andy, Wayne, Maggie – and all you crowbar junkies! Worship will feature a variety of music, spiritual practice, historical perspectives, and ideas! Thank you Worship Team!

There has been a lot of work this year for the congregation's leadership. It's not always visible or applauded, yet all told it is what makes this community possible. In particular, Janet Sawyer, who served as chair of the Committee on Ministry. and George Lapointe, who serves as President of the congregation, were called to go above and beyond what they had anticipated in terms of time and roles. They served with courage and compassion in complex situations. Thank you, George. Thank you, Janet.

I am pleased to have a second year of ministry with you.

In faith,  
Lee

**Will you sign up for a Sunday this summer to help in the nursery?**

Be part of the community support  
To help families with young children  
Come to church this summer!!!

**Contact Liza Gottlieb, 549-5198,**

**To find out which Sunday our babies and toddlers need you!**

## **Newsletter Schedule**

**August 20** - Materials are due in church office for the first newsletter of fall.

Newsletters will be published about every three weeks.

The second due date will be September 10.

Newsletters are mailed the Friday following the deadline.

They often take a week to ten days to be received, due to bulk mailing.

## SAFE CONGREGATION

The Committee on Ministry held two meetings to discuss “Safe Congregation Policies and Practices” within our community. This was a first step in developing and implementing a Safe Congregation Policy for our church. The following lists are some of the issues and solutions raised at the meetings. It is our plan to use this information to draft a policy that we will propose to the congregation this Fall. Please contact any of the members of the committee with additional suggestions or concerns. **Members are John Pelletier, Jim Spicer and Jane Gilbert.**

### What Isn't Safe

- Choir didn't expect or want sexual advances; “hostile” environment
- Being on the wrong side of power dynamic
- Have not had a way to share or a place to go with concerns; some people haven't felt comfortable and were unable to say what made them feel that way
- People were silenced
- Have to make it safe
- Use or misuse of power; people in power abused their authority and/or position
- Lack of Boundaries
- Creepy behavior
- Behavior that damaged relationships within the congregation
- History of ministers having sexual relationships with members of the congregation
- Not just women who felt uncomfortable

### How To Make A Safe Congregation

- Policy needs to include expectations for minister's behavior
- Policy needs to direct who to go to with concerns
- Keep kids safe; safe kids 18 and under
- Be proactive
- Professional minister's code of ethics (make available to congregation)
- Include information in Orientation for new members
- Safe place to share
- Policy needs to be gender neutral
- Develop a way to address being uncomfortable and not have it received as an insult
- Become familiar with laws around children
- Be intentional around “Safe Congregation”
- Keep Safe Congregation issues present
- Do a service on what is a Safe Congregation or Right Relationship within a congregation
- Have a policy that addresses disruptive persons and “right” relationship
- Offer Our Whole Lives (OWL) curriculum for adults
- Make sure that there are both men and women available as resources
- Use non-violent communication model for Safe Congregation discussions

## Budget Information for 2007/2008

At the annual meeting on June 3, the congregation voted a proposed 2007-2008 operating budget with the provision that the final figures in the budget be determined by the Board of Trustees. This decision was made in order to allow time for the final figures from 2006-2007 to be determined and also to allow additional time for pledges to be made for 2007-2008.

The Board has approved a final budget of \$193,638 in expenses. The budget includes funding a \$4,602 deficit from 2006-2007. The deficit has been reduced from the amount reported at the annual meeting as the result of collecting additional pledges for last year, transferring money from the Future Facilities account to cover the costs associated with 71 Winthrop Street in 2006-2007, and the receipt of donations specifically targeted to reduce the deficit. As of June 18, we have identified \$191,150 in anticipated income. This means our church needs to raise an additional \$2,488 to fully fund the 2007-2008 budget.

Here are some important points about the new budget:

- Provides a 3% cost of living salary increase for staff.
- Maintains the Sexton's hours at 10 hours per week rather than increasing hours.
- Budgets \$9,300 for the search process.
- Projects pledge income of \$144,000 (as of June 19 we actually have slightly more than \$144,000 pledged).
- Reflects a deficit of \$2,488 which the Board agreed needs to be funded before the end of the fiscal year.

There are most likely two ways to fund the deficit – either additional pledge income or holding one or more additional fundraising events. If you can organize a fundraising event, please let someone from the Board know. If you can make a pledge, or increase your pledge, please let the Treasurer (Nancy Fritz) or the Church Office know. If you'd like a copy of the final approved budget, please let the Treasurer know.

Nancy Fritz, Treasurer

Please join us for a keynote address  
by  
UUA Moderator Gini Courter

### **“Sunday Afternoon at the Sacred Cow Barbeque”**

*Pull up a lawn chair for a frank (and beans) discussion about how things are working in our communal UU life.*

*We'll toast our successes and roast our challenges, add rubs (there's always a rub) and sauce, and serve it all up with appropriate side dishes and condiments in informal conversation to follow.*

Outdoor Chapel in the Grove  
Ferry Beach Park Association  
Saco, Maine  
Sunday, July 8—3 pm

Come enjoy the beach and stay for the keynote. If you missed GA, you don't want to miss this address! Gini has made her mark on the national scene as our moderator and is a well-known champion of Unitarian Universalism and effective lay leadership. For directions, visit the Ferry Beach website ([www.ferrybeach.org](http://www.ferrybeach.org)) or contact Jenn McAdoo at [dre@uuyarmouth.org](mailto:dre@uuyarmouth.org) for more information.

## SMALL GROUP MINISTRY

Hospitality is more than a career in travel and tourism!

I have heard the word 'hospitality' frequently and have come to realize its importance for our Small Group Ministry. I remember when we were creating Small Group Ministry. We imagined it would be a vehicle for newcomers to find connection and depth early in their association with us (without having to join a committee). We recognized that visitors approached us looking for spiritual growth and the opportunity to explore really big questions in life. We hoped and expected that people new to our congregation would join a Group and from there connect with the larger congregation.

As time has passed, Groups have settled into the life of our church and have become extremely meaningful to those who participate. Many members have been in the same Group since the beginning. We count this as a success, knowing that these connections are rooted in years of sharing and caring that is irreplaceable.

At the same time, I wonder if we are fulfilling our vision of a ministry of hospitality which brings new people to a home with us. I worry that our Small Group Ministry is not realizing its full potential at the moment. I know that our Groups are thriving and their members satisfied. I also see that we are not creating new

Groups, that attendance at the monthly drop-in group has declined, and that fewer new people among us are expressing interest in Small Group Ministry. I fear that our vision of a ministry of hospitality has been overshadowed by other important work in our congregation. After all, we are not a stagnant group!

So, even though we are pouring great effort into our building expansion, even though we are on our way to calling a new settled minister, even though, even though...I hope next year that our Small Group Ministry leadership will give attention to the possibilities of hospitality in Small Group Ministry. Surely we can find creative ways to reenergize this wonderful potential in our community. Surely we can envision ways to offer the possibility of encountering new growth for our congregation, growth in depth of connection, growth in understanding of one another, growth in the spiritual practice of hospitality.

I hope anyone who is interested in joining this conversation will let me know.

Thanks!  
Kathy Kellison

### WAYSIDE PULPIT

***"I was thinking of the greatness of what was human, and found myself in the divine."***



## Celebrating Coming of Age!

This year approximately 20 youth from our church and wider community met on a monthly basis for four hours to explore various disciplines of spirituality. The result was an engaging and enriching experience in which our youth eagerly participated. Some of their comments are;

- "Great experience, it really brought us together."

- "I think I am a richer person for COA (Coming of Age). A lot of the things we did opened me up to what I was missing out on but now I know I can do."

- "COA was an amazing experience. It gave me a place where I was able to question my religion and my faith...a place where I could start the long journey towards discovery."

Thank you so much to Karen Fisk, Maggie Ricker and to the many adult volunteers who helped bring this valuable program to our community!

Peggy Barnes

## RELIGIOUS EXPLORATION NEWS

Even as we begin our summer break from our religious exploration program, I am anticipating September with excitement.

Next year's program will include more exploration of our Unitarian Universalist promises, plus more about our history, heritage and sources. We will also explore world religions next year in both first and second services. Junior Youth is likely to engage in the Neighboring Faiths curriculum, which includes being guests at the worship services of many other faiths. Senior Youth will enjoy a weekly Sunday evening youth group. Youth also will have the opportunity to travel to Boston for our semi-annual heritage trip; participate in Peace Jam, a new program for us which allows our youth to work directly with a Nobel Peace Prize winner; put together a service trip; and who knows what else. Next year is also an OWL (Our Whole Lives Sexuality Education) year for 5th graders and for 8th and 9th graders.

During August (August 10 & 11), we are holding an RE retreat for adult leaders and committee members to explore our UU Heritage, discuss our RE philosophy, explore options for next year's curriculum and have fun. I hope you can join us.

Thank you all once again for creating the beloved community that so lovingly embraces our RE program.

Yours in faith,  
Karen Fisk

## Summer Nursery

Over the summer, the RE program does not fund or supervise nursery care givers, but we welcome volunteers for this wonderful task. **If you would like to volunteer to offer nursery care this summer, please call Liza Gottlieb, 549-5198.**

In accord with Safe Congregation practice, we need two adults or two youth (young people ages 12-18) with an adult supervisor taking care of our youngest community members. For bathroom breaks, we ask the care providers to get the child's parents from the service. Thank you all for adhering to our Safe Congregation policy.

Karen

## Grant for Community Service Opportunity

The Audrey B. Seale Service Program of the Allen Avenue Unitarian Universalist Church is now accepting applications, with a deadline of August 15, for awards to be made in September. The program was established in 2006 by a generous gift from Audrey B. Seale to the Allen Avenue Church. The purpose of the program is to enable individuals ages 17 to 25 who have been active participants in a Senior Youth Group of a Unitarian Universalist church in Maine to perform a significant period of community service, up to one year in duration. Attached you will find the program description, an application form, and two referral forms. For more information, please e-mail the Allen Avenue Church at [office@aauu.org](mailto:office@aauu.org), with "ABS program" in the subject line, or call the church at 207-797-7240.



## 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

## Social Activities

Let's plan some fun events for our UUCC community!  
 If you have enthusiasm for an event,  
 please share your ideas and energy.  
 Call Marty Soule or Michael Conley.

## SOCIAL CONCERNS

Have a wonderful summer, everyone! If you have some free time, take a look at our film library titles below. Maybe you would like to check out one or more for a rainy day.

We are developing an interesting list of organizations for our Change the World Fair. Don't forget to tell us who you would like to have there. "There" means—minimally—supplying us with written/printed material and—maximally—presenting a workshop or film or lecture and anything in-between. We already hope to have the play "Hear our Stories – Know our Names" (about homelessness). 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 Change the World Festival.

| Organization Name | Phone Number | Email Address | Address | Contact Name |
|-------------------|--------------|---------------|---------|--------------|
|                   |              |               |         |              |
|                   |              |               |         |              |
|                   |              |               |         |              |
|                   |              |               |         |              |

Check out our film library in the office across from sanctuary:

|                                      |                                      |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| American History X                   | Poverty and Justice                  |
| Anchor of the Soul                   | Maine's Black History                |
| Bowling for Columbine                | School Violence                      |
| The Day the Levees Broke             | Poverty and US Disaster Preparedness |
| Fahrenheit 9-11                      | Terrorism                            |
| The Ground Truth                     | Iraq War                             |
| An Inconvenient Truth                | Environment                          |
| Iraq for Sale: The War Privateers    | Iraq War                             |
| Outfoxed:                            | Freedom of the Press                 |
| Rupert Murdoch's War on Journalism   |                                      |
| Sacred Choices                       | Right to Choose                      |
| Wal*Mart: The High Cost of Low Price | Economic Justice                     |
| The War Tapes                        | Iraq War                             |
| When I Came Home                     | Veterans Affairs                     |

# Use Local Farms - Shop Farmers' Markets

## Demolition Dog Days of Summer!



Newer folks are probably asking: “Just what are we demolishing?” What are we working on? We are converting 71 Winthrop St. to a habitable, safe, and energy efficient building that we can use for additional classroom and meeting space and eventually to house our administrative staff.

Up to 40 of us have had a blast at tearing things apart (in a planned and safe manner, of course) and we are slowly turning the tide to construction rather than destruction. We’re going to need a few more work days as folks probably figured out.

The energy and synergy that comes out of these ‘all hands on deck’ events is just amazing, so we didn’t want to deny anyone the opportunity to partake. Any help is appreciated, and skilled work even more so... if you have talents you’d like to show off, or get bored with summer, please contact Maggie Ricker (623-9943, [Maggiesway@aol.com](mailto:Maggiesway@aol.com)) or Wayne Ladner (737-4995, [wladner@gwil.net](mailto:wladner@gwil.net)) to join in the fun. Here are tentative dates for the next three work days for folks that are interested.

### July 14th, August 4th, August 25th

So what are we going to do, and on what day?

#### Major tasks to be undertaken next time, July 14:

- finish removing glue from hardwood floors (glue removal)
- finish framing in office doorway (carpentry)
- frame in end of hallway/close off front room
- finish wall removal from upstairs (un-carpentry)
- frame in new downstairs bathroom.
- install sub floor where required (carpentry)
- excavate around bulkhead and attempt with jack to relocate and reinforce wall in proper location (shovels, pick, hydraulic jack, grunts and oomph’s).
- remove that one last stump near bulkhead (see above, also chainsaw with ‘bad’ blade)
- install newly made/refurbished basement windows (Mike and his magic)
- tear off upper porch (tall stepladders, extension ladders, crowbars, etc.)
- nail removal to reclaim good lumber (pry bar, hammers)
- start caulking around windows (caulking gun, experience, maybe a scraper)  
install weather-stripping around rear door

#### For the second day, August 4:

- Remove window under stairs, remove section of surrounding vinyl siding, and replace bad wall boards, relocate this, or another window further north from existing location.
- Start installing insulation on basement walls (Staple guns, measuring tapes, short step stools or 3 foot stepladders)
- Tear off lower porch (tall stepladders, extension ladders, crowbars, etc.)
- Tighten and weather-strip front door.

### Third day, August 25:

- Replace lower porch with new construction (carpentry)
- Frame in front entry fire door under stairs
- Install attic shields and possible walk way to allow for blown in insulation
- Start installing sheetrock ceilings and walls
- Work on heating system.

We will have a few smaller, more selective work days as well, for a few specialized projects, so don't be surprised if you see a few folks working 'off schedule' (some carpentry, floor sanding, insulation of the attic, etc.). Requests for Quote have gone out for electrical work, with the hope that this is accomplished by Labor Day or thereabouts. We have someone coming to look at reinforcing the porch roof so that we, or others, can tear off the existing ones, and rebuild them to be better and stronger. It appears that what's there is not safe, and would not be able to be made safe enough for our intended uses.

### Future Events:

- Construction of a shed? ( for snow removal and lawn equipment and tools only)
- Tearing down of the garage (we still have time for One More Sale!!!)

Stay tuned!!! And call us to lend a hand!



### EXPERT NEEDED!

In conjunction with the planning for phase I of our building project, there will be a displacement of plants, bushes, etc. on the north side of the church building. Additionally, earth disturbance will be going on around the south and west side of the Annex. If you are an expert on outside bushes, flowers, plants, shrubs, ground cover, etc. (meaning you can identify, know when and how to transplant, and you know relative value of plants versus weeds), please contact Wayne Ladner, at 737-4995. We will most likely have heavy equipment in the area early next spring (maybe before the frost is fully out of the ground) and I'd like us to put a plan in place to see what could be, or should be, saved, and how we would go about that. Volunteers anyone?

Wayne Ladner

**MARK YOUR CALENDAR!**  
**Progressive Pot Luck Dinner**  
**Saturday, September 15**

Appetizers in the Annex  
Main Meal in the Fellowship Hall  
Dessert in 71 Winthrop Street (if our work crews say that's ok)

Let's get to know our three buildings and each other.

We will bring photos of ourselves (or have a Polaroid taken)  
for a community collage



**WHAT'S HAPPENING?**

**Wednesday, June 27, 6:30-9:00 PM:** Music Jam in Fellowship Hall

**Friday, July 6, 10:25AM-12:25 PM:** NVC Practice Group in Robbins Room

**Wednesday, July 18, 6:00-8:00 PM:** Welcoming Congregation Meeting in Fellowship Hall

**Friday, July 20, 10:25AM-12:25 PM:** NVC Practice Group in Robbins Room

**Wednesday, July 25, 6:30-9:00 PM:** Music Jam in Fellowship Hall

**Friday, Aug. 3, 10:25AM-12:25 PM:** NVC Practice Group in Robbins Room

**Friday, Aug. 17, 10:25AM-12:25 PM:** NVC Practice Group in Robbins Room

**Wednesday, Aug. 22, 6:30-9:00 PM:** Music Jam in Fellowship Hall



**New  
Addresses**

Annie, Dylan and Zuri Voorhees have moved to 3 Wilder Street, Hallowell, ME 04347.

Linda & Douglas Findlay have moved to 37 Robin Hood Drive, Winthrop, ME 04364. Their telephone number and email address remains the same.



The UCC Board of Trustees would like to extend a special **ThankYou** to the Nominating Committee for all the time and effort they spent in establishing a slate for our Search Committee!

We would like to thank Melanie Lanctot and the Caring Committee for the beautiful plant and support offered to us following the tragic death of our friend in Nicaragua, Lemon.

Brenda Sawyer and Kit Perry

**To All of UCC**

Thanks to everyone who supported us in our journey to adopt and bring our new son, Vy, home from Vietnam. I especially appreciated the meals people made for Taj and me while Deb was in Vietnam with Vy, going through the long process to get his papers in order so he could come home to us. He and Deb have been home just over a month now. Taj is adjusting to being a big brother and Vy is settling in and learning lots of English words. We are all figuring out how to be a family of four, and we love it!

Nancy Niven, Deb,  
Taj and Vy

**Bread of Life  
Ministries**

We have a need for a two or three drawer filing cabinet for our housing manager at Lawrence House. Does anyone have one they are not using and can give to us?

Karen McGuire  
Office Manager

## UCC Volunteers: Encouraged and Welcomed

When I think of the significant contributions by committee members and many other volunteers at the UCC of Augusta over this past year, the words of William Shakespeare come to mind, *"I can no other answer make, but thanks and thanks."* Our church could not have functioned so well without your help.

As we make the transition to the structure that better supports the mid-sized congregation we have become, there are many opportunities for even more members of the congregation to become involved in the life of the church. We all have knowledge, skills, and abilities that can help our church community.

Volunteering for various activities can be challenging for a variety of reasons. The "busyness" of every day life is a reason for many to hold back from volunteering. Not being able to get out and about very easily is a reason for others.

In the annual report for this past church year, Reverend Lee Devoe expressed concern that several of our committees consist of little more than the Committee Chair or Co-chairs. In fact, this has been the case for several years. We need volunteers both for our committees and for other church activities.

Please consider what you might be able to offer to the UCC of Augusta and whether you are able to volunteer. The church could use your help in the following areas:

- Event organizing
- Finance and fund-raising
- Food
- Graphic design
- Handyman/repair activities
- Hospitality
- Supporting members of the congregation; welcoming new members
- Teaching
- Something not on this list that you have to offer

Special Note: Liza Gottlieb recently volunteered to engage in a hospitality ministry for our church by taking responsibility for our weekly fellowship hour. This is a huge gift. However, Liza cannot do this alone. Are there members of the congregation who can bring food to share at fellowship hour or who can help with clean up?

If you have experience and interest in any of the areas mentioned above, please let me know. Then we can figure out how to get you launched in a rewarding new volunteer activity. I can be reached at home evenings and weekends at 622-2310 or [vantagept@adelphia.net](mailto:vantagept@adelphia.net).

You might want to reflect on the words of Winston Churchill. *"We make a living by what we get; we make a life by what we give."*

From a much different source, Anne of Green Gables offers additional food for thought. *"Some people go through life trying to find out what the world holds for them only to find out too late that it's what they bring to the world that really counts."*

Diana Scully

# Welcoming Congregation Workshop Provides a New Perspective

By Maggie Ricker

## “Sex, Gender and Sexual Orientation: The Reality of Being Human”

I suppose it's insufferably smug of me, but I've reached a stage of life experience where I think nothing can truly surprise or shock me anymore. (This statement excludes Ella's diaper changes!) So when I am surprised, it usually comes as a needed shake up in my world view. The Welcoming Congregation workshop conducted by PJ Mears comes under the heading of total surprise and total pleasure, with a touch of confusion thrown in for good measure.

On June 6<sup>th</sup>, the WelCong hosted its final event for the church year. I admit I went with a certain amount of anxiety, as this represented uncharted waters for me. PJ had promised a significant alteration of one's perception and that brought to mind the possibility of having my ignorance publicly outed.

I needn't have worried. A more gracious, comfortable, humorous educator I have never known. He held true to his promise. I will never look at the world of sex and gender the same way. He began with the drawing of a simple triangle which he said represented the totality of human sexuality and led us through an exercise of creating definitions. One point represented Sex, which he described as anatomical/biology-based – an easy and familiar concept to grasp (or so I thought). The second point represented Sexual Orientation, which he defined as the concept of who one is attracted to. Again, a no brainer. The third point was for Gender. I went in thinking *gender* and *sex* were synonymous. But PJ defined gender as how one expresses oneself; the identity one assumes plus the roles assigned by culture. OK, that's not so tough to understand.

Then he started back at the beginning and here's where the surprises began with the introduction of a new word, 'intersex'. (The old word used to be hermaphrodite.) He took us through a list of differing medical possibilities with respect to body hormone level and content as well as reproductive organ variations. I was amazed to learn a person could have the external organs of one sex and internal mechanics of another. Or could have the outward organs of one sex and both male and female internal organs.

We moved on to discuss the almost endless list of ways in which a person can express their gender identity. The length of this list was only topped by the length of the list of characteristics to which people are attracted. In a very limited amount of time, we came up with a total of 396 different combinations of sex, gender and sexual orientation. (Multiplying number of sexes times number of gender expressions times number of sexual orientations.) Let me repeat that. **396!** And these 396 types of people are living in a world that affirms and condones only 2 sexes; 2 types of gender expression and 2 types of sexual orientation, male to female to male. People living with these other variations of their own reality have to find a way to assimilate into our very restrictive 2 dimensional world. How painful and difficult a task that must be.

This workshop was a wonderful end to a very productive year. I believe we all came away with a lot to ponder and a different vision of the world and the unspoken, unwritten rules under which most of us operate and unintentionally impose on others. It adds a twist to the golden rule that needs to be examined and contemplated from a new perspective. Which is exactly what was promised! If UUC is able to coax PJ back for another workshop next year, I strongly encourage everyone to attend.



**THE CECILIA CLUB OF AUGUSTA  
DONATES  
STEINWAY GRAND PIANO TO UCC**

At their final musical luncheon gathering, held at Granite Hill Estates on May 9, 2007, Cay Gallant of The Cecilia Club presented the Club's Steinway Grand Piano to the Unitarian Universalist Community Church. Representing our church at this historic moment were Stefanie Barley, Charlene Cleven, Barbara Thurlow and Lee Clement. Stefanie accepted The Cecilia Club's fine gift by offering the following remarks, giving a printed copy to Cay Gallant:

**Stefanie's Oration Thanking The Cecilia Club for the Steinway Grand Piano:**

In 1951, when I was 9 years old, I first joined The Cecilia Club, and later, for many years, kept an active membership, including service on the board. My son, Douglas, received a scholarship from The Cecilia Club when he graduated from Cony High School in 1987.

I have been a member of the Unitarian Church in Augusta since 1942, when I was born into that congregation. Therefore, my recollections for both institutions are long and strong. I was going to play "Memory" for you on the piano today, but am substituting these remarks in place of that musical offering.

It seems appropriate for me to speak about the connections and mutually beneficial relationship between The Cecilia Club and the UCC (which is the merger, now 15 years old, of the former Unitarian and Universalist Churches in Augusta).

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church is filled with gratitude for the generous donation of the wonderful Steinway grand piano that belongs to The Cecilia Club and has been housed for decades by the church in various locations. I remember playing the Club's Steinway when it resided on State Street in the Unitarian Church, after Annette Schneider had donated it to the Club. Later, that piano was moved to 11 King Street where it remained for more than another decade. And, finally, it came to 69 Winthrop Street in Augusta when the two churches merged into one congregation.

On Sunday, May 5th, Rev. Lee Devoe opened our worship service by lighting the chalice and speaking of our thanks to The Cecilia Club for the donation of the Steinway. She spoke of our spiritual reception of this fine instrument, and of our responsibility to "pay forward" on the gift.

As one of the regular musicians at UCC, I speak for the entire congregation, together with the other pianists, when I promise that we will fulfill the vision of playing the Club's generously-donated piano for years to come, to share music and to enhance our lives, with deep appreciation to The Cecilia Club of Augusta.

Stefanie Barley  
Wednesday, May 09, 2007



## **BORED SILLY**

Rev. David Blanchard



Did you know that July is National Hot Dog Month? It is. It is also National Eye Exam Month, Minority Tourism Month, Hitchhiking Month, National Baked Bean Month, National Ice Cream Month, National July Belongs to Blueberries Month, National Lamb and Wool Month, National Peach Month, National Picnic Month, National Purposeful Parenting Month, National Recreation and Parks Month, National Tennis Month, Sports and Recreation Books Month, and it is also National Anti-Boredom Month. There seems to be something for everyone. I figure I'll do my part in celebrating about half of these commemorations before the month is out. A picnic with a well-stacked cooler would take care of many, and if you hitchhiked to the park in a wool sweater and brought a book about sports and an optometrist along you'd be well on your way to a thorough celebration of July. The only festival I plan to omit from my July is the last one mentioned: National Anti-Boredom Month. I think July is a wonderful time to be bored.

In spite of what they hold as true at The Boring Institute of Maplewood, New Jersey, summertime is the ideal season for boredom. Some people call it vacation. I think being bored is an undervalued state of mind. Obviously, it's not a place one wants to stay all the time, but only when you're bored do you let yourself fully pay attention. When you're a kid that's when you lie on the ground and watch the industry of ants, or look for shapes in the clouds, or find four leaf clovers, or make up a game with whoever's hanging around. Later on in life, it's when, well, it's when you do the same sort of stuff. But while you're watching the ants or scouring the skies, you're also imagining all kinds of other things, making connections, sorting out your life, sensing the patterns that give your life its shape. That doesn't happen when you're in a hurry. It doesn't happen when every day has a full agenda. Those things rarely happen when you want to make them happen.

Boredom is one of those gifts life gives us that we often think we'd just as soon do without, and it would surely be a curse if it was unrelieved. But for most of us, it's a temporary state of grace that we visit from time to time, temporarily without our bearings, when we discover all the ways we human creatures are made for wonder.

As summer arrives, I anticipate a good boring July. This is our opportunity for authentic boredom. After all, everyone knows August is National Canning Month, so you know we'll be busy then.



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