



The Flaming Chalice

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

Worship Services Sundays at 10:00 a.m.

August 2013

August 4 **...You Do Not Necessarily Require Happiness**

Annie Reiter and Kathy Kellison

We will explore this thought of William Saroyan's as well as other ideas about happiness.

Service leaders:

August 11 **When Love is Deep....**

Sedona Kmen,
Christine Little and friends

The music and philosophy of Master Shinichi Suzuki will be explored as Sedona Kmen, Christine Little and friends share their recent experience traveling to Matsumoto, Japan to attend the Suzuki International Conference.

August 18 **Taking the Leap**

Claire Curole

Engaging the future - whether as an individual or as a community - sometimes demands stepping out into the unknown. As we look forward to the Leap of Faith program and other new adventures this coming year, let us begin to imagine where we might want to go and what it will take to get there.

August 25 **The Voice of God: a Literary Appreciation of the
1611 King James Bible**

Jim McKenna

The King James Bible was completed in 1611. It remains, 400 years later, one of the masterworks of English literature. What if we were to consider the God of the Bible as a literary character? Today, for example, would you or I have the patience of Job? Would you change your ways after hearing the Sermon on the Mount?

Stepping Forward...

Doug Rooks, President

Leadership is a vital commodity in any organization. Without good leadership, a group or institution can lose its way. Most people would agree with those statements, but when we get to the “how” of leadership, things become less certain.

Since I am still a relatively new church leader, I try to pay attention to how people can be encouraged to step forward at the right time -- and to be sensitive to situations where leadership responsibilities aren't welcome, for whatever reason.

A recent example of how leadership evolves at UUCC came after the annual meeting, when we still had one – just one – important committee post still unfilled. While we had a full board and chairs of our 12 standing committees, and four subcommittees, the Leadership Development Committee was unable to find anyone to accept the role of Fundraising Chair, now part of the Finance Committee team.

Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce have led our highly successful fundraising efforts for several years, most recently concluding with our most successful auction ever, which all by itself raised more than \$7,000 – more than we had budgeted for the entire fundraising year. A year ago, Judy and Bruce told the board that this would be their last year.

We thought, and talked, and looked, but were unsuccessful finding the right person or persons. I was occasionally asked, along with other board members, whether we thought the fundraising programs would continue, and whether this was something we thought was still important.

It is important. Fundraising events are obviously about raising money to keep church programs going. Fundraising has often been our third largest source of income, after annual pledges and earnings on our invested fundraising. But more is involved. Fundraising events are fun. They foster a sense of community among members, and also contribute to our outreach and involvement with the larger community.

Still, we wondered what would happen. Then, shortly after the annual meeting, I got a message that the call to service made that day had been heard. Two of our long-time members, Terry Cookson and Hannah Faulkner, decided that they would step forward to lead Fundraising, and their appointment has since been approved by the board.

Terry served for three years on the board of trustees, has been active in the NNED's Harvest the Power leadership training program, and has been an enthusiastic participant in fundraising events. Hannah has lent her talents to just about every fact of church life, from the music program and pastoral ministry to several fundraising efforts that she's initiated – mostly recently, the highly successful Hannaford card program that raised more than \$2,000 in its first year.

Hannah and Terry have been successful in attracting new members to the committee, experienced and novice, and are exploring several new ideas for programs, including the possibility of making the community auction – previously an ever-other-year activity – into an annual event.

While there are sometimes moments of doubt, a healthy church community produces leaders, and good leadership, in response to important challenges. It may come from unexpected sources, and may involve new roles for those who've previously served, but it does arrive when it's most needed.

There is something mysterious about how leadership is created and maintained, but at least part of the process is having faith that our church community can rise to the occasion – and then seeing that faith put into practice.

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 woman 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.

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.

Sunday, August 18th: Fundraising Team Meeting 11:30 a.m.

Buildings and Grounds ...

August 10th is the next scheduled work-day. Weeding, painting, tile repair, and general maintenance on the to do list.

We hope to see you there.

Questions - Call 512-5382 or send email to maine2007@hotmail.com.



Member News...

Susan Leary graduated with a Master of Arts in Theological Studies on June 22 with the last graduating class from Bangor Theological Seminary. Congratulations, Susan!

Fundraising...

Fundraising Team Meeting

Sunday, August 18, 2013

11:30 a.m.

All are welcome to gather with us in the Fellowship Hall after church to brainstorm fundraising ideas for 2013-2014. We will serve lunch and set up a schedule for the coming year.

Terry Cookson and Hannah Faulkner, Fundraising Co-Chairs





**UUCC of Augusta
Ongoing
Fundraising
Program...**

HANNAFORD CASH CARDS

**Sold or reloaded SUNDAY during
coffee hour**

NO FEES

**EVERY PURCHASE HELPS THE
UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST
COMMUNITY CHURCH**

***BUY CARDS FOR YOUR OWN
GROCERY SHOPPING OR
DONATE A CARD TO
AUGUSTA FOOD BANK***

***RELOAD YOUR GROCERY CARD
THIS WEEK***

For more information, contact Hannah Faulkner
at 293-9377 or hannahu3@fairpoint.net

UUCC Annual Meeting Minutes June 2, 2013...

The meeting was called to order by Doug Rooks, President.

A quorum was called, as 76 members were present.

Moderator: Nancy Fritz

Minutes of last year's meeting were accepted.

Report of the Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen welcomed everyone, expressed gratitude for the vitality of our church community, and specifically recognized the outstanding work of the Faith in Action Committee and its leaders over the past year.

Report of the Committees was accepted.

Report of the Long Range Planning Committee: Chairperson Janine Bonk spoke on behalf of the Long Range Planning Committee and responded to comments and questions, as noted below:

Accessibility: The side door to the Church is often locked; another problem, the lip on that door, is being addressed this summer. Other issues include 2nd floor inaccessibility at Judd House and bathroom access in Drew House. Signing for the deaf was discussed, as was the need for a wheelchair with large wheels.

Kitchen and Fellowship Hall: The Committee will be looking at issues and short-range fixes.

Sanctuary: The need for air conditioning was noted on this hot, humid day.

Leap of Faith: More information on this new program was given. The main purpose of program was identified as growth--specifically, growing ties among our membership.

Developing a young adult ministry: This goal was affirmed.

Support for the Membership Committee: Discussion included the importance of maximizing database use, and recognition of the LRPC's hard work and excellent report.

Problem Areas: \$700 has been set aside for repair of the Drew House back porch.

Recommendations for Bylaw Changes, as follows, were adopted:

1. LRPC nominations are removed from the annual meeting agenda and a reference to other elected positions is added.
2. The Leadership Development chair is nominated at the annual meeting, not chosen by the committee, consistent with other committee chair selections.
3. The Finance Committee description is amended to include the former Invested Funds Committee and Fundraising Committee as subcommittees.

Report of the Treasurer: Treasurer Mary Simpson reported that the percentage of pledges

Continued on page 6

Minutes continued from page 5

coming in is pretty much the same as last year, but that money is tight. Members were asked to complete their pledges, which are due at the end of June. The Treasurer's Report was accepted.

Vote on the Proposed Budget: Wick Johnson, Finance Chair, began by recognizing the excellent work of Treasurer Mary Simpson. He reported that the budget is tight; the bottom line for Income is larger than this year but fundraising efforts are strong: Share the Plate has yielded over \$3,000; RE Fundraising has helped considerably; and the Hannaford Card fundraising project, organized and managed by Hannah Faulkner, continues to be very successful.

Judy and Bruce Bierce, who are stepping down this year, were recognized and thanked for their excellent leadership and fundraising work. So far, we do not have a replacement for them.

There were no salary raises this year.

Concern was expressed that we do not have a balance sheet. Wick explained that we don't have a bookkeeping function capable of producing a balance sheet, and that the existing bookkeeping function is budgeted to aid the Treasurer, primarily with payroll work. Carol Aft graciously volunteered her accounting services. Wick noted that the savings balance is decreasing and could evaporate. When one-time money goes away, it will need to be replaced or the budget will need to be cut.

It was noted that more money is needed for Web Design (Item 4110); the amount allocated by this budget would reduce hours by half. It was also noted that with the shortfall in pledges this year, the estimate for the coming year seems ambitious. Wick reported that 81% of pledges have come in, which is similar to collection at this time last year.

The Budget was adopted.

Outgoing leaders were recognized and thanked; incoming leaders were recognized and commissioned.

The Leadership Development Report was given by Chairperson Annie Voorhees. The slate presented was approved by the Congregation. Rita Moran, a floor nomination, was approved as a member of the Long Range Planning Committee.

Additional Recognitions include Phyllis Cudmore, for folding and stuffing bulletins; Helen Zidowicki, for pastoral ministry, Goddess Circle, and website work; and Hannah Faulkner, for pastoral ministry, the Hannaford Gift Card program, and other fundraising efforts.

Meeting adjourned at 11:47 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha Pelletier

UU Work Groups Having Fun and Getting It Done!



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 August 19th. Please submit newsletter articles by email, to Sheila Comerford at: newsletter@augustauu.org. Thank you!

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

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

Office: (207) 622-3232,

admin@augustauu.org

Minister's Study:(207) 623-3663 (Office)

(207) 395-8051(Home)

(508) 221-5295 (Cell)

revcariejohnsen@gmail.com

www.augustauu.org

Minister's Office Hours:

Monday 1:00-5:00 pm

Tuesday 12:00-4:00 pm

Wednesday Writing Day

Thursday 4:00-7:00 pm or by appointment

Friday

To schedule an appointment please contact Rev. Carie at: 623-3663 or revcariejohnsen@gmail.com

Friday is my Sabbath. I do not schedule meetings, attend to emails or respond to messages. If there is a pastoral emergency, leave a message on my home or cell phone and I will return your call promptly.