



The Flaming Chalice

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

July 2012

Summer Worship Services One Sunday Service at 10:00 am ONLY

July 1st Come and Be Surprised! Melora Norman and Family

July 8th *Building Connections to Haiti* Stephanie Ralph

Reflections on the experience of some UU members building homes in Haiti as well as reflections on making connections with the migrant farmers from Haiti and elsewhere who harvest our food.

July 15th *I Didn't Realize it Was Spiritual* Rev. Nancee Campbell

My 50th class reunion is this summer, and I'm aware how many events happened in the 60's that deeply impacted the woman I am today. This service will be a glance back for all of us as we identify spiritual influences that we didn't recognize at the time. Also, the music...

July 22nd Come and Be Surprised! To Be Determined

July 29th Come and Be Surprised! Goddess Circle and
Helen Zidowecki

That which we persist in doing becomes easier for us to do; not that the nature of the thing itself is changed, but that our power to do is increased.

~Ralph Waldo Emerson

A Faith Journey by Rev. Carie Johnsen...

At the May Religious Exploration service our youth led us in an exercise whereabouts we were asked to take a stand on a variety of topics. Waffling in the middle was not an option, we were instructed to take our place on a spectrum of possibilities.

As I sit in the Detroit airport in route to Arizona for the Justice General Assembly (GA), I am mindful of how timely the presence of Unitarian Universalists as we anticipate Supreme Court rulings on the Arizona Immigration laws. Regardless of how the Justices rule, the planners for GA will be prepared to work with program partners in Arizona to provide a timely response.

Last month I had the opportunity to visit a local farm with the Maine Migrant Health Program. My time spent at the workers camp on the edge of the raspberry field was one of those transformative experiences. This camp of Jamaican farm workers was filled with optimism and an eagerness to work. Conversations focused around the crop and the rain. More specifically when would the rain stop so they could get back to work.

When the farm workers learned I was a minister, the casualness of the conversation shifted. They quickly became curious about me and they had stories to tell, stories that needed someone to witness the inhumanity of being black and poor in Maine. I quickly learned my role among several health professionals at this clinic was to bear witness to experiences of discrimination. Experiences of intolerance and prejudices on Sunday morning in the sanctuaries of local churches. As they shared their personal and painful stories of seeking a faith community in Maine, I listened. While the doctor attended to matters of the heart in the camp sleeping quarters, I attended to matters of the heart next to the pots and pans. I walked away changed. These men welcomed me, a stranger into their home and they invited me into their faith journey.

As I departed the workers that rainy Sunday afternoon, they proudly and enthusiastically encouraged me to stop by the farm stand and buy the vegetables they had recently brought in from the field. I purchased a quart of strawberries, a bundle of beets and some red leaf lettuce, went to my car and drove an hour and a half across central Maine to the comforts of my home acutely aware of my privilege.

Welcoming the Haitian blueberry pickers into central Maine is a small thing we do with a profound impact. A moment of kindness and human affirmation goes a long way. It is just one way we can be part of the change we wish to see in the world. As our partnership with MMHP grows, bit by bit the farm workers will come to know the goodness of the Maine people. In living out our faith values and Unitarian Universalist principles, we affirm the worth and dignity of every migrant farmworker and they will know this faith community cares about them.

The Immigration Work Group will be leading a worship service July 8th. I encourage you to support their mission, join them to listen to the experiences of UUCC members who traveled to Haiti to build homes.

The migrant farmworker welcome will follow later in the month. Stay tuned to the weekly inserts and all church emails this summer.

May you find time to pause to see, to listen, to know, to bear witness to life in its glory and its failing. And remember it is the bits and pieces of building relationships that matter most in this common journey called life.

In faith, Rev. Carie

Interim DRE ...

Thanks to all who helped me celebrate my year at UUCG with amazing haiku poems, prayer flags, hugs, and more!

Summer Spirit Play has begun. We had 8 children at the first session on 6/17! The sidewalk in front of #71 boasts some of their lovely chalk drawings (at least until it rains). Summer Spirit Play is led by one of a number of volunteer adult teachers with a teen assistant each Sunday from 10:00 to 11:00. Parents are always welcome.

I've sent out an email reminder to families that we hope to have every family registered *before* the fall. Paper copies are available at church in case you can't open attachments. Registration forms will also be part of the RE prospectus in the fall.

Winners of the drawing for the family chalice and books (because they registered by June 10) are the O'Connors - Aimee, Bill, Marcelle, Moira, Lochlan, and Shea. Congratulations!!

Something I inadvertently omitted on the RE volunteer sign-up sheets was Coming of Age. If you would like to be part of this 2012-13 program for our 12 to 14 year olds, please contact me (until the end of June) or Pam Lombard or Sue Caldwell, or DRE Carol after mid-August. 622-3232 will reach any of us. "CoA" involves one meeting a month for youth and adult mentors. I hear they're wicked fun!

If you've not taught in an RE class before and would like to have a discussion about it, drop me a note at dre@augustauu.org or call the church and leave a message. There's still a need for teachers in the younger grades for the fall. I have heard many adults say that they learned an amazing amount about Unitarian Universalism (and more) by teaching in a class. You don't have to be a long-time UU and Know Everything to teach!

Namaste!

Pat

Small Group Ministry ...

SERVICE is one of the basic elements of Small Group Ministry in our congregation. Each group is encouraged to do at least one service project every year because service is part of a life of faith and because service keeps the group from becoming insular and self absorbed. Over the years, many of our groups have made significant contributions to the world outside our walls. I am grateful that they have done so much.

I wonder how many of you are aware of the service that our groups have offered within our walls in the past year. The Small Group Ministry Committee wanted to know, so at the thank you dinner we hosted for group leaders, we asked. The list was impressive. I want to share some of the highlights with you.

One group has organized displays for the case in the hallway, offering us information and education. Another regularly cleans the kitchen, feeling particularly proud of 'purging' unnecessary items and generally making it easier for all of us to use the kitchen. Several groups helped with elder luncheons, lightening the load of that committee. There was a group volunteering to help regularly with coffee hour between the Sunday services, and one co-created worship with Rev. Carie. At least two groups connected with the Building and Grounds Committee to help with the renovations in the Annex and garage roofing project. We have a group which has been willing to host receptions at the church on important occasions. All of these contributions to the life of the congregation are important. The willingness of these groups to step up and say yes has meant that someone else had an easier time. We all owe a sincere thank you to the members of our Small Group Ministry who have given so much behind the scenes.

The next time you wonder if an elf is responsible for something having been accomplished at the church, I hope you'll remember to wonder if it was one of our marvelous groups coming through once again.

Kathy Kellison
Small Group Ministry Coordinator

Board President ...

Transitions

June and July are months of transition at UUCC, when we elect new church leaders and begin a new church year. I am grateful to have your support as I begin my term as board president, and I am mindful of how important it is for our transitions to be as smooth as possible.

Leadership practices at UUCC are quite different than in some other church denominations and congregations. We do not depend on long-time leaders who are presumed to be the experts in how things should work. We elect our church officers for only one year, although by tradition they often serve two years. One leadership principal that we faithfully practice can be summed up with a quote from playwright Henrik Ibsen, "A community is like a ship; everyone ought to be prepared to take the helm."

I'm convinced that our practice of shared leadership makes us a stronger and a healthier congregation, but it does require careful planning and continuous training. Sheila Comerford, our immediate past president, has been a fine mentor for me, and I will continue to rely on her advice and counsel in her final year on the board.

In one sense, there's a lot of "inexperience" on the board and committees right now. Three of the four officers are new to their positions. In just the last two years, 10 of our 15 standing committees have acquired new chairs or co-chairs. But appearances can be deceiving. Most of our leaders have already served in one capacity or another, and their willingness to take on new assignments helps keep leadership fresh, with new ideas coming to the fore. On two committees, Worship and Religious Exploration, we are transitioning to new leadership by having co-chairs work together for a year.

While I'm confident our new and returning leaders are capable and talented, we don't do our jobs in a vacuum. We need the help of all members and friends of the congregation to be successful. In the months ahead, I will discuss some new initiatives and continuing projects of the board of trustees. But as we begin our summer programs at UUCC, I'd like to ask for your help. If you have a concern, compliment or idea, please let us know. For a complete list of leadership, please see the new church directory. I can be reached at drooks@tds.net or 724-2759, and I'm always happy to talk on Sunday.

-- Doug Rooks, Board President

Stewardship ...

At the beginning of our stewardship campaign, Reverend Carie called upon UUCC to *Live Our Greatness*. Our Board of Trustees heard this call and established a bold staffing plan to support this vision of greatness. And you, the congregants of UUCC, were inspired by this vision and ACTED! Through the combined generosity of increased pledging by members and friends, additional gifts from lead donors to bridge the gap while congregational giving increases to new levels, and a matching gift for new pledgers from Stephanie Ralph in memory of her husband Larry, our projected income for the coming church year has increased over last year's. Although we have not yet reached our \$227,000 pledge goal, this increased income will indeed allow UUCC to increase some programming. As we close this stewardship campaign, remember that pledging is how we support our minister and our staff, how we heat and maintain our buildings, and how we get our good work done within our congregation, our community, and our world. It is never too late to pledge: if you have not yet pledged for the coming church year, please consider how you are able to contribute financially to our shared vision. Let's all join together to embark on a new era of greatness for UUCC.

Your Stewardship Campaign Committee,
Karen Foust, Noah Gottlieb, Hilary Neckles, Annie Reiter, and Mildred Stengel

Goddess Continuing ...

Goddess Continuing will be offering the **Summer Service on July 29**, related to the celebration of Teltane or Lammas. Lammas is midway between summer solstice and fall equinox. Although the days are still long, the sun rises later and sets earlier. To ensure the balance between sun and earth energies necessary for a successful harvest, the ancient Celts celebrated a ritual marriage between earth and sun, male and female. Reflect on the balance between our male and female aspects so that we can harvest the fruitfulness of our souls. This is the first harvest festival as the planting comes to fruition.

Goddess Continuing will be meeting on the following Sundays:

July 1 ~ Composting as Spiritual Practice, and planning

July 15 ~ Focus on Planning for Teltane/Lammas

August 19 ~ Informal work session as we work on making our resources more accessible for our own programs and for the larger congregation.

Meetings are held in the Olsen Room from 11:15 am – 1:00 pm

For more information, contact Mary Shifman at: shifmanmary@aol.com or 549-7719

Display Case ...

Summer Spirituality ~ An evolving summer display.

How do we engage our Spirituality in the summer?

What are your spiritual connections?

Are you visiting other UU churches?

Are you inviting others to join you here?

Are you going to Ferry Beach or Star Island?

Check this evolving summer display every week! Items from General Assembly in Phoenix will be added. You are welcome to add things from your summer spirituality. Hope to see you in church!

History Committee ...

The History Committee will be meeting this summer to work on projects, including looking at and cataloging our scrapbooks, developing the wording of information for rooms and buildings that have been named, and working on a possible Sunday Service of Women in our UUCC history.

Meeting Dates are:

June 27

July 11

July 25

August 8

Augusta 22

You are welcome to join us in the Annex 9:30-Noon

Please continue to put articles and other information relevant to our community in the History Tray in the Committee Room .

For more information contact Krista Zidowecki at 582-5308 or kaz@hzmre.com

Equality Maine....

EqualityMaine ~ EqualityMaine ~ The church will be hosting an EqualityMaine staff organizer every Thursday from 6-9pm in the Fellowship Hall. Volunteers will be calling previous supporters of equality and inviting them to upcoming Augusta events. A training, script and a list will be provided by EqualityMaine staff but please bring a phone if you are able. Contact Katie for more information.

Katie Guare will be working from the committee meeting room in the church from 11am to 9pm on Wednesdays and 11am-5pm on Thursdays. Please stop by to say hello and help her out with ongoing mail and data projects. Katie can be reached at (207)991-7479 or KGuare@equalitymaine.org.

Fundraising ...

Support UUC while shopping Hannaford! In cooperation with the Wayne Community Church, United Methodist, the UU Community Church is participating in a Hannaford Supermarkets program that makes it easy to shop and possible to support the church at the same time. Hannah Faulkner will sell you, at face value, a Hannaford Gift Card she has purchased from the Methodist church for resale that you can use like cash in any Hannaford store to pay for any purchases. The Church receives a contribution from Hannaford for all payments made by the Card. Every \$100 you spend on groceries with these cards brings in \$5 to the church at no cost to you. The \$5 comes from the 5% bonus that Hannaford gives for a bulk purchase of \$1,000.00 in cards.

The cards we have available are in the following denominations: Five dollars, Ten dollars, Twenty-five dollars, Fifty dollars, One hundred dollars. To purchase your card or cards, please see Hannah Faulkner.

These cards may be "reloaded" on most Mondays with additional amounts up to a balance of \$500, via payment to Hannah Faulkner, who will combine your request into a two-church \$1,000 order so that our church can receive 5%. For your convenience, we are finalizing forms you can submit to your financial institution for automatic deductions from your checking accounts to reload regular grocery amounts on your personally numbered church gift card. The cards are available following the church service most Sundays (and possibly at other times). So for routine shopping, presents, support of another person or other reason, please plan to use a Gift Card from our church. Payment may be made via cash or a check made out to Hannah Faulkner. The Methodists are making hundreds of dollars for their church each month this way, and we can do it too!

Buildings and Grounds ...

The June Second Saturday was a great success. We had 16 workers. The garage roof was stripped and re-shingled, bushes trimmed, lawns mowed, grounds weeded, two trailers of free mulch were spread, and some carpentry repairs done from the "to do" list.

Please join us for the July second Saturday on the 14th. The main project will be scraping the portico and bay window on 71 Winthrop which is very much in need of paint. Bring a scraper if you have one. We hope to scrape in the morning and prime in the afternoon. There are other carpentry and grounds tasks as well. Call for more information.

Most Tuesdays Tom and/or Marilyn work on general maintenance and grounds. If you are available to help just call 512-5382 (home) and let it ring through to Tom's cell to reach them. Please call ahead to check that they are planning to work that day.

Clean pine needles (no cones, few leaves) are wanted for mulching the fellowship garden. Just leave them bagged outside the fellowship hall.

From the Administrator ...

Directory update:

KELLISON, Kathy [M]
P O Box 49
Windsor, ME 04363
445-4415
Email: kell6787@gmail.com

MACDONALD, Dale(Grace) [M]
44 Route #3
South China, ME 04358
330-5402

DOONE, Lorna
41 Richmond Mills Road
Wayne, Me 04284
685-1061
Email: ldoone@myfairpoint.net



Music Director Search Committee ...

At the June meeting, the Board of Trustees authorized a search for a music director to succeed Doug Barley, who so capably served our congregation for the last five years. Claire Curole, who chairs the Music Committee, will also chair the search.

The board also agreed to change the title from choir director to music director. Although the successful candidate will concentrate on the choir for the coming year, our intention is to gradually incorporate other duties in the future, such as supervising the pianists, special music presentations, and music selection for Sunday services. The goal is to have a new director on hand for in-gathering Sunday in September.

See below for job advertisement

Music Director

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta, Maine is seeking a Music Director, one-eighth time (average 5 hours per week) for 10 months/year, starting Fall 2012.

The UUCC Music Director conducts the weekly choir rehearsal and the choir at Sunday services. The director works with the Minister to choose appropriate and diverse choir music for one to two Sundays per month. The Music Director will assume other responsibilities within the music program as church finances permit.

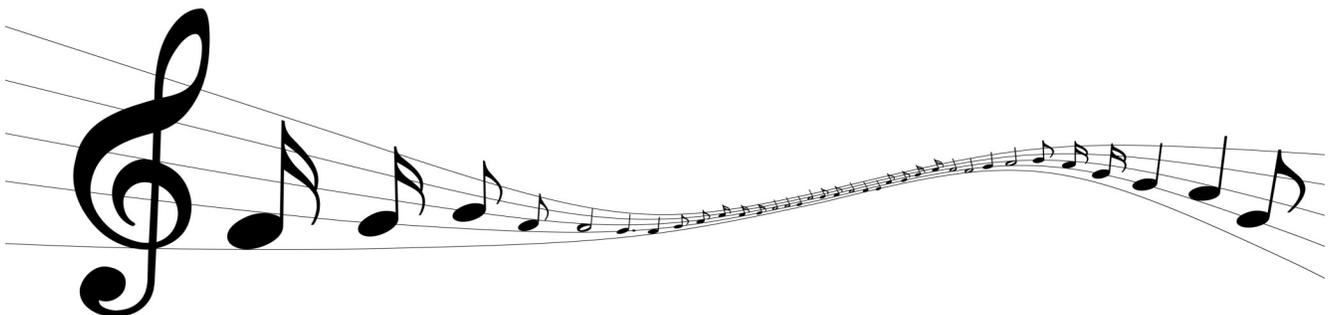
Qualifications: choral directing experience, knowledge of choral repertoire.

Salary range: \$3100-\$4300 commensurate with experience.

The Search Committee will select candidates for interview in August. The Search Committee will make a recommendation to the Board as soon as possible.

To Apply

Applicants should send a resume and names and contact information of three references to the Music Director Search Committee at musicdirectorsearch@augustauu.org by July 22. For more information about the UUCC of Augusta Maine, see <http://www.augustauu.org> or send questions to musicdirectorsearch@augustauu.org.



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 July 16th. Please submit newsletter articles by email, no later than 9:00 a.m. to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org. Thank you!

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Doug Rooks
Director of Religious Exploration: August 2012
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Search in Progress
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8:00 am- 4:00 pm
(Summer) Thursday, 4:30 pm- 8:30 pm

Friday 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)

revcariejohansen@gmail.com

www.augustauu.org

Minister's Summer Office Hours:

July 4th-August 8th ~ Rev. Carie will be away on vacation. All pastoral calls will be directed to Rev. Helen Zidowecki. She can be contacted at 582-5308 or hzmre@hzmre.com.

August 8th – August 31st ~ Rev. Carie will keep office hours Monday-Thursday 11-5pm.

