

UNITARIAN

UNIVERSALIST

COMMUNITY

CHURCH

FIRST 25 YEARS

1992-2017

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH (UCC) - FIRST 25 YEARS! (1992-2017)

June 3, 2018

*Dear members and friends of UCC,*

*Our year-long celebration of the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the merger of the Augusta Unitarian and Universalist churches is coming to an end. As we celebrate this historic event we are looking forward as well to how we will be “doing church” in the future. I hope you will add your voices to this exploration.*

*This history booklet, brought together by the History Committee, looks at the many efforts that have brought UCC to this day. I want to thank Helen Zidowecki for being the shepherd for this effort. And thanks to you who have contributed to the story of our 25 years as UCC. Within that story, please find a sense of who we have been and are as a faith community; what we have contributed to each other, to Unitarian Universalism, and to the larger community; and who we can become. Thank you for your support of UCC as the liberal religious voice in the Augusta area.*

*Sincerely, Martha Naber, UCC President*

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Compiled by Rev. Helen Zidowecki, History Committee

# UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST COMMUNITY CHURCH (UUCC) - FIRST 25 YEARS:

## Introduction

*“Capturing history as we make it.”*

As the past and the future come together, we are distributing our story of *UUCC—First 25 Years* at our Annual Meeting, June 3, 2018. This presentation and the 2018 Annual Report provide a base for celebrating our twenty-five years as a ‘consolidated’ or new congregation on June 10 and for engaging with our future.

The Annual Meeting focuses on the work of our faith community. Rev. Carie Johnsen added the spiritual component when she noted in June 2010:

*“This year UUCC will try a new format for the Annual Meeting. Following the idea that anything we do here at UUCC is spiritual, we will intertwine the Sunday morning service with the Annual Meeting. This is a practice I bring to you from my home congregation — First Parish Brewster”*

In June 1992, All Souls (1825, historically Unitarian) and Winthrop Street (1836, historically Universalist) congregations joined to become the Unitarian Universalist Community Church (UUCC). It is timely to look at what our presence as a faith community has meant here in Augusta, in the larger community and world, and to Unitarian Universalism. May this overview

Capture the essence of who we have become since 1992,  
Celebrate the individuals in the community, and our community as a whole, and  
Provide a basis for considering what we want to be in these changing times.

This document is compiled from previous Annual Reports, some issues of *The Flaming Chalice*, and the memories and reflections of people in the congregation. Committees and groups have been asked to contribute. There is variance in the way the sections are written regarding style, details, and content. The authors of some sections are identified, others are noted by the title of the group, and still other sections have been drafted by the History Committee and reviewed by respective groups.

It is a beginning historical reflection rather than an historical documentation. Additional documentation can be added as we work on a more in depth history of our consolidation.

*Please explore UUCC—First 25 Years with deep appreciation for this faith community, and a feeling of being part of something historic as it evolves to meet the needs of our time.  
History is never complete or final. The story continues each time we visit it, as we perceive history from the perspective of where we are at the moment of review.  
Please let the History Committee know when you want to add to this story, or tell parts in a different way.*

## UCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Ministry

As we moved through the consolidation into a new congregation, our sense of being seemed to move toward an institution that focused on ministry. An example of this is the change from a “Ministerial Relations Committee” with a focus on the position of the minister to a “Committee on Ministry” with a focus on ministry as a way we do things.

### **MINISTERIAL LEADERSHIP:**

In the over hundred and sixty years of Unitarian and Universalist ministry in Augusta prior to consolidation in 1992, there were about sixty-five ministers, and three stayed for more than a dozen years: Drew, Universalist, (1835-1849; Judd, Unitarian (1840-1853); and Robbins, Universalist (1943-1973). Since 1992 we have had three ministers, including an Interim.

1986 -2006 **Calvin Dame** was called as minister of All Souls in April 1986 and of Winthrop Street in 1991. With the consolidation, he was minister of UCC from 1992 until April 2006. During this period, actually starting at least three years before consolidation, he helped us navigate through the change from two congregations to one, including usual legal and cultural considerations, closely working with the Unitarian Universalist Association. We also focused on creating our new identity as a blended community. This included moving to shared ministry.

In 2000 **Glenn Turner** retired as District Minister for Maine and the Maritime Provinces of Canada. While he was not our settled minister, he was named as Minister Emeritus in honor of his work with UCC over the years, such as the development of Small Group Ministry in the Northeast District and the consolidation process.

2006-2009 **Lee DeVoe** was the interim minister. During this time, the ministerial misconduct of previous ministers became known and was addressed intensively by the congregation. Healing began as we cultivated greater trust and truth-telling in our relationships.

2009 to present. **Carie Johnsen** became minister of UCC, and was installed in April 2010. From her 2017 Annual Minister’s report: “I was called to be an after-pastor minister with a charge to join with all of you in strengthening and building congregational systems and structures toward a vital, thriving and healthy community. In the wake of ministerial misconduct we were called into a shared ministry of healing and trust building which included developing safe congregation policies and practices, while strengthening administrative procedures. .... We have worked hard together to build a solid foundation for our ministry to thrive, and our ministries today are stronger than ever. *Just as one might expect, we have become a congregation whose past no longer defines its present. While we will always need to keep an eye on our history, it is no longer leading our ministry. .... Together we have and are becoming something new together.*

Carie brings to her ministry a spiritual practice of creating deep meaning in everyday life experiences, a compassion for all of humanity, a commitment to greater equality and justice, and passion for liberal religious faith communities. These are evident throughout her ministry.

### **SUPPORT FOR MINISTERIAL PREPARATION AND PRESENCE**

We have been increasingly involved in supporting the preparation of UU ministers through internships and congregational endorsement of several people entering the ministerial process.

**1998 Helen Zidowecki**, co-Religious Education/Exploration Director with Linda Findlay, was ordained by UUCC on May 17, 1998. Her ministry has been largely consultation on Religious Education, Youth and Small Group Ministry. She retired from Northern New England District staff in 2007.

**2004-2006 Peter Friedrichs** was part time ministerial intern. He was ordained jointly by UUCC and Yarmouth UU Church in 2006.

**2013- 2014 Sharon Piantedosi** was full time ministerial student intern. She was ordained jointly by UUCC and First Parish Church of Portland on May 14, 2014.

In addition, UUCC is supporting two candidates for UU ministry.

**Claire Curole** is a member of UUCC. She graduated from Meadville/Lombard Theological School in May 2018 and is completing requirements toward ordination.

**Erica Long** grew up in UUCC. She is being ordained by Arlington Street Church, Unitarian Universalist, Boston.

**Please note the contribution of Linda Findlay to ministry.** Linda chaired the Intern Committees for Helen, Peter and Sharon, and the Installation Committee for Carie Johnsen. She was also instrumental in the development of Small Group Ministry. Her tenure in Religious Education/Exploration can be defined as an Educational Ministry. The robustness of this ministry over the years can be largely attributed to her ability to connect with families and children/youth, and engage all ages as participants and leaders.

**UU Ministers** who are retired or whose ministry is other than parish ministry have long been members and part of the UUCC congregation. This follows professional ministry guidelines and a defined collegial relationship with the parish minister. Carie has welcomed such ministers in the overall ministry of UUCC. Since consolidation, these include:

Donald Hinckley and William DeWolfe, both now deceased.

Nancee Campbell and Helen Zidowecki, active members.

Marcel Duhamel, now connected with another congregation.

Thank you, Carie, for the opportunity to continuing ministry within our own congregation.

## **SHARED MINISTRY**

We may not consider the time ministers are away from the church as a part of shared ministry. However, both Calvin and Carie have had Sabbaticals, which is planned study and clergy renewal extending for several months. The minister and leadership develop a plan for how the congregation will function in this altered period. This collaborative process is shared ministry.

**1996 Ministerial Associates** (Pastoral Care) started with an initial training by Calvin and Helen Zidowecki. A number of people have participate over the years as this evolved in 2011 into the present **Pastoral Ministry Team** under Carie's leadership to provide confidential, caring and compassionate presence to members and friends during times of grief, loss, life changes and stress. The minister of UUCC is available for pastoral appointments for personal or family crises or for conversation about spiritual and ethical concerns. The lay pastoral ministers are an extension of the Minister's pastoral presence.

Under Carie's leadership, the Pastoral Ministry Team has expanded its function to provide opportunities for the congregation, such as:

Since December 2011, Healing services around winter holidays and on loss

2016-2017 Our Journey's End: Conversations on Living and Dying (Seven month series)  
2017-2018 Sacred Sexuality  
February 2018 Faith Café

Over the years, the Caring Community has been part of Membership, and it is now part of the Pastoral Ministry Team. Caring Community is available to assist families with logistical and more physical and nutritional needs during times such as a death in the family, surgery, accident, etc. The committee mobilizes the congregation to provide meals, run errands, and provide some transportation to medical appointments and also coordinates fellowship following Memorial services and Celebrations of life. A number of people have been involved, including responding to requests for meals, transportation and other needs, both through Caring Community and individually arranged services. This sharing is essential to the shared ministry focus.

**2009 Worship Associates** were developed by Rev. Carie. (See Worship)

**Small Group Ministry** started in 1998, with a focus on sharing ministry among members of the groups. (See Small Group Ministry)

### **THEME BASED MINISTRY**

In September of 2013, UUCC transitioned to a model of theme-based ministry in worship and programs. This 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 engage in a specific theme each month, selected by the minister.

A monthly Soul Matters Packet is developed by Rev. Carie. This packet offers the opportunity for deeper private or small group reflection on the monthly theme.

## **UUCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Communications**

“Better communications” is sometimes seen as a panacea for improving situations. It is usually mentioned regularly when we have visioning sessions. The Leap of Faith program resulted in congregational goals in June 2014, one of which was on communications. The Ad Hoc Communications Work Group was established in **May 2016** to address that goal:

“We are a congregation that is transparent in its decisions and actions. We strive for communication that is abundant, clear, compassionate, and inclusive.”

The basic functions were to:

- 1) review current communication practices and policies.
- 2) review implementation and education process of policies with leadership and membership.
- 3) explore ways to improve community interest, readership and engagement.

The original members of the Communications Work Group were: Helen Zidowecki (Chair), Lynn Smith, and Sheila Comerford. Sheila was succeeded by Kathy Kellison in November 2016.

The working definitions and premises defined by the Communications Work Group itself were:

1. *Congregation* applies to members and friends of UUCC.
2. Communication outlets will balance the need to get information out and redundancy.
3. *Methodology* considers electronic versus hard copy, and not assuming that everyone uses e-mails for communication
4. *Consistency* implies that policies and practices are applicable to congregation, including volunteer and employed leaders.

**On June 15, 2017**, the Board decided that:

*The Communications Work Group will continue for up to a year, specifically to assess, receive, and process communication concerns in the congregation. The tasks are:*

- 1. Work with the Leadership Council to determine where the work of communication resides.*
- 2. Review current communication practices and policies in How Our Church Works as an ongoing process. Revisions and additions will be made as they are needed, working with the Office Administrator, Minister and Board.*
- 3. Increase use of social media, website capability and current technology in exploring ways to improve the interest and engagement within our church as well as in the larger community.*

The work of the Communications Work Group in the last two years is noted below related to the task statements for 2018.

### **Task 1) Determine where the work of communication resides.**

The Leadership Council as a vehicle for engaging leadership in enhancing communications. The Communications Work Group designated a representative to the Leadership Council to assist with dissemination of changes in the policies and procedures and communication concerns. However, several of the Leadership Council meetings have moved to larger meetings, limiting the time for specific discussions.

### **Task 2) Review current communication practices and policies**

**Historical note:** From early in consolidation, there has been work on developing policies and procedures that enhance the functioning of the congregation. The Personnel Policies were developed in 2002, and the Administrative Procedure Manual and The Congregations Safety Policies were approved in 2005. Policies and procedure that developed over the years were compiled into what is now How Our Church Works in 2011. This document has expanded and revised on an ongoing basis with the 2017 edition.

- *How Our Church Works was printed in October 2017 and placed in each building and on the website in a format that can be readily updated.*
- *An inventory of communication methods available and a survey of communications resources (2017) developed into the Publications Chart/Communications Cycle (on website, Communications). Concerns are addressed as they arise.*
- *Consistent names and abbreviations are being used for the spaces in our buildings, as well as for some programs.*
- *The process for preparing *The Flaming Chalice* has been refined with the transition in editors from Sheila Cumerford, who had been editor for five years, to Roxanne Reed and Bill Byrne, who started in September 2017.*
- *The system for getting messages to committees and programs through the mailboxes was revised, including getting written information to staff and the minister when the church office is closed.*
- *The Church Directory is updated at regularly and distributed via email to members and friends. It is no longer available in the church vestibule for privacy concerns.*

### **Task 3) improve community interest, readership and engagement**

- *Changes have been made to assist our community in finding timely information in the church building (bulletin boards) and in publications (newsletter, e-blast, announcements)*

The publications have been revised for easier readability and more consistency (Fonts/graphics and colors).

- Increasing inclusion resulted in review of worship service systems for the hearing and vision impairment – and awareness on the part of speakers in using devices (microphones) as a matter of course. The first devices for hearing were donated to UUCC over fifteen years ago.
- We created a system to ensure persons who do not use email can be notified when important notices are sent to the congregation. (Phone Tree)

We continue to explore website changes that engage leaders to be more proactive in updating their own sections of the website. This increased involvement by leaders will require ongoing discussion, orientation, and collaboration.

## **Recommendations for 2019**

### **Work for the new church year:**

Addressing the goal of "a congregation that is transparent in its decisions and actions with communication that is abundant, clear, compassionate, and inclusive" has been ongoing work. While much has been intentionally accomplished, there needs to be a mechanism to 1) continue some of the items in process; 2) be able to address items as they arise (from the minute to the grand); and 3) continue communications as the congregation changes in moving forward.

## **UUCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Elder Ministry**

In 2009-2010, the Welcoming Alliance that developed from Welcoming Congregation provided several opportunities to consider the needs of the congregation at specific age levels. The three programs of Looking at Later Life and the March session on Ageism considered the gifts and challenges and needs in compiling some specific considerations, such as:

- Opportunity for older adults and elders and their families to plan for later and end of life issues, including group activities (such as Small Group Ministry) and time with the minister.
- Transportation to events, and timing of events.
- Ways to keep connected with the church community as ability to participate as fully declines. This includes visiting and contacts.
- Awareness of inclusion of older adults and elders is ongoing.

**Elder Lunch** The *Flaming Chalice* announced the First Elder Lunch on Sunday, October 25, 2009. According to Dan Sorensen, this originated from a conversation between Dan and Rev. Lee DeVoe, Interim minister (2007-2009). He introduced the lunches to offer opportunity for older members of the congregation to have informal conversation and maintain contact. The time was set as daytime, and related to another major community event, the Sunday service. Ironically, there was a blizzard the day of the first lunch -- and still about 20 people came! The second lunch on December 13, 2009, seems to have been set with the schedule as the second Sunday of the month, where it continues today.

A core group involved in organizing the lunches over the years has included Dan, Marty Thornton and Marilyn Dunn. Judy McCowan and Bruce Bierce have decorated the tables since the beginning. Catherine Palmer and Becky Harvey have been stalwarts in the kitchen the past few years. Individuals and groups, such as Small Group Ministry and Peace Jam, have regularly contributed. A number of others have been involved through the years.

"Elder lunch is the second Sunday of each month October through May. Plan to relax and socialize with your friends after the second service. Menu always includes breads, salad, entrees

and dessert. Church elder lunch is not exclusive to Senior Citizens – we have regular attendees in their 40s and 50s, too, with attendance of 35-40 for each lunch. Enjoy lunch and conversation.

**Seasoned Souls** is a study/support group open to any church member over 65 years of age who wishes to talk openly about topics related to the aging process. This group meets twice a month. It grew out of several specific programs, such as:

The first reference to Seasoned Souls in *The Flaming Chalice* is August 2014.

Our first meeting was May 22, 2013. We decided to meet for an hour and a half on Wednesday mornings, once a month through August 2014 and twice a month which we have been doing ever since. The group was inaugurated and initially facilitated by Carol Strecker, our RE minister at the time. We focused at first on reading books together ("*Seasoned Souls*" from which we took our name, another one was "*Aging as a Spiritual Practice*"). Over the years other formats have emerged, such as individual members recalling their life histories for one session, bringing in poems we love, and members presenting a topic of interest to discuss. Meetings have always begun with an extended check in, often our richest time together. It has always been an open group, with people welcome to come and go, but usually with a solid core of ten or so members. One of its more remarkable features is that we have been able to develop a robustly humorous approach to our aging, memory losses, dying and death, with laughter easing these passages. Many of us feel our aging process could never have been as positive without this group, and we have developed great affection for each other.

## UCC—FIRST 25 YEARS: Facilities

Contributions from Hal Booth, Marilyn Dunn, and others

When we consolidated , the All Souls congregation was meeting at 11 King Street, and the Winthrop Street congregation was meeting in the current building. During the consolidation process, the congregations ‘lived’ in both buildings, deciding to move to Winthrop Street. The King Street building was rented and then sold in October 1996. However, while the church on Winthrop Street was renovated in 2008, the King Street building was used for UCC summer s.



**11  
King  
Street**

From 2003 to 2006, we considered relocating to building in Manchester. We decided to stay in Augusta, closer to a community that we can serve, closer to the State House. Extensive and intentional planning is evident in the Long Range Planning Committee.

Our church has three buildings (and a garage for storage) on Winthrop and Summer Streets.

	<p>The Church Building (69 Winthrop St.):  --is the successor of a historic Universalist church, built in 1868.  --dedicated in June 1981.  --renovated in Summer 2008 to increase space in the sanctuary and rearrange other spaces.  --essentially accessible.</p>
	<p>The Drew House (6 Summer St.):  --was the Winthrop Street Parsonage.  --major restoration was done during the summer of 2011, through the work of the Buildings and Grounds Committee and volunteers.  --not accessible.  Named for Rev. William Drew, founder of Universalist Church</p>
	<p>The Judd House (71 Winthrop St.):  -- purchased in 2008 and renovated, primarily by volunteers.  --first floor accessibility.  Named for Rev. Sylvester Judd, Unitarian Church</p>

### FACILITY RENOVATION AND UPKEEP

In **October of 2006** the church purchased the property, now **Judd House**, at 71 Winthrop St., just to the west of our church building. That fall and winter the building was largely left fallow – occasionally used for choir-rehearsals while plans were made for radically-transforming the space.

The following spring, we had a huge all-church demolition-party where dozens of people showed up with all sorts of wrecking-tools. Walls were knocked-down, a bathroom [and kitchen]were removed under the general direct ion of Andy Fisk and Wayne Ladner. It was a day/weekend to remember!

During the following months a more-modest, but still generous collection of volunteers kept returning to the ‘scene of the crime’ at least every-other weekend – some people quite a bit more frequently – to fine-tune the removal of unwanted walls while starting the construction of new walls in the desired new configuration.

During the process, the entire electrical-system of the building as well as two antique boilers were removed [one wheezy boiler was retained over the winter of 2007-2008 for minimal heat, the other was sold for scrap]. New insulation was added to the attic and blown into some walls.

Over that long, cold winter a dozen or so volunteers built new walls, removed old wall-paper, skim-coated the rough plaster underneath, hung sheetrock, helped the electricians string new wire – there were cheers when there was finally a working electrical-outlet again, light could be had by using extensions-cords – those extension-cords becoming fewer and shorter as electricity was returned in new wires. Then there were light-fixtures that could be switched-on!

At least ten, perhaps as many as twenty, 5-gallon buckets of ‘joint-compound’ found their way onto walls and ceilings as the new walls and ceilings took shape. New tile floors were installed in two new bathrooms, which were also installed. By the summer of 2008, the walls had new paint, the old hardwood floors had been refinished [We hired the sanding, and applied the polyurethane ourselves.]

We removed the old double-decker porch, and we had a new one built for us. The heating system – originally two entirely separate systems – were combined with a new boiler and three zones of heat using some of the old radiator system, and adding new baseboards.

We also installed a ‘to code’ stainless-steel liner in the chimney – Andy Fisk on the roof pushing, Jim McKendry and Hal Booth pulling in the cellar – the latter two becoming ‘quite liberally’ covered in soot in the process.

Many people in the church were involved in the renovation of the building at 71 – now called The Judd House. Listing them all would be impossible, but the major players included: Andy Fisk, Wayne Ladner, Jim McKendry, Hal Booth, Claire Curole, Tom Waddell, Marilyn Dunn, Stephanie Barley, Cheryl Ring, Bill Allen. In the late-fall of 2008 – after about 18 months of ‘intensive work’ – we moved the administrative offices into the newly-renovated space as well as some of the RE program.

During the **summer of 2008** we also had the **church building** radically-reconfigured [hiring the work done] to make it better-suited for our needs. Walls were removed/repositioned, the sanctuary was turned 90° and lovely windows were added. Changes were also made to the rest of the building, making it more usable.

Starting in the **summer of 2011** we tackled the **Annex [6 Summer St., aka The Drew House]**, removing some walls and reconfiguring the four upstairs rooms to make them into two large rooms more useful for our needs. As with the Judd House, the old plaster walls needed ‘extensive skim-coating’ to provide a satisfactory surface – many more 5-gallon buckets of joint-compound. We also had the hardwood floors refinished, again hiring them sanded and applying the polyurethane ourselves. Volunteers poured a new walkway and built stairs. The work continued through most of the winter and into the spring – not so intensive/expensive a job as Judd, but still burning up many hours of volunteer-labor. Many of the same players as before. The next summer we hired a firm to renovate the old windows and we purchased and installed cellular shades.

**Around 2013** volunteers stripped and re-shingled the garage and the following year renovated the outside and painted. Drainage was also installed.

In **2015** all buildings were converted to natural gas and new boilers were installed in the Drew House and the Sanctuary.

**Ongoing general clean-up** of buildings and grounds, and some renovations of the facilities, is largely undertaken by volunteers in scheduled work sessions. Special projects are undertaken by a group of interested people or as a service project under Small Group Ministry. The attention to the facilities makes space more conducive to rentals and to use from our own community.

The Aesthetics Committee (around 2009) considered internal décor, care, and use of space. The work of this committee became part of the Buildings and Grounds Committee. The Aesthetic Committee guidelines became part of the policies in *How Our Church Works*. (Some of the members of the Aesthetics Committee were Janet House, Carolyn Ladd, and Marilyn Dunn.)

Donations such as paintings, quilts, artwork, furnishings have added to the décor of our facilities over the years. Notations about items that are part of UUCC are located on the UUCC website (Buildings and Rentals: Around the Church).

## NAMES FOR SPACES:

In 2012, we researched names for our three buildings. We left the Church Building so named, and named the other two building for historic Unitarian and Universalist figures. In addition, both congregations had spaces that had been named for specific people in their histories.. The dedication of the spaces and naming of the buildings occurred in September 2012.

REV. WILLIAM ALLEN DREW BUILDING (1798-1879) Universalist Minister in Augusta 1833-1848. He organized First Universalist Church of Augusta in 1833, and was ordained as its Pastor in 1835.

REV. SYLVESTER JUDD BUILDING (1813-1852) Unitarian Minister in Augusta 1840-1852 He graduated from Harvard Divinity School and was ordained as minister of the Unitarian Church of Augusta in 1840 and held this position until his untimely death in January 1852.

ALICE OLSEN ROOM (In Drew House, First Floor by kitchen). Dedicated in May 1979. Member of All Souls congregation who died in an automobile accident in February 1975. A fund in her name collected over \$1000 for social action.

REV. DOUGLAS ROBBINS PARLOR (In the Church, Summer St. Entrance). (1905-1980) Minister of Winthrop Street Universalist Church 1943-1973. The Robbins Parlor was dedicated by the Winthrop Street Universalist Church.

PHILBRICK AND NEWBERT NURSERY (Church)

MABEL PHILBRICK NURSERY was dedicated in the Winthrop Street Church to Mabel (Mrs. Clarence) Philbrick who from the late 1950s until the late 1970s, coordinated the Nursery.

NEWBERT ROOM was dedicated in the All Souls Church to Anna (Mrs. John) Newbert, who led the Primary Department of All Souls (Unitarian) Church in 1949 and worked in Religious Education through the early 1970's, and to Rev. Elmer Newbert, minister 1892-1903, and his son John (her husband).

## UCC -FIRST 25 YEARS: Financial Support

Financial details are available in the Annual Reports and Board notes. Review of reports related to Stewardship, Fundraising Activities, and Invested Funds seem to indicate increasing connection between increasing relationship between our finances and values.

### STEWARDSHIP

**Stewardship:** The annual canvas or stewardship drive occurs in the spring. It has taken many forms, from individual visits to members and friends of UCC, to special events, such as dinners or programs. In the recent years, we have aligned the Stewardship Kick-Off with how we live out our UU values. Following are three recent examples.

2015 Save the evening of Saturday, January 31<sup>st</sup> at a dessert –Hear from special guests including Martin Luther King Jr., Thich Nhat Hanh, Buckminster Fuller, and Jesus. This theatrical

experience was constructed by and for UUs to bring alive the words and wisdom of these famous activists, poets, and sages.

2016 “The Power of One: Be an Upstander, Not a Bystander” on February 7 (in conjunction with the Family Violence Project. Workshops with age-specific focus:

“The Power of One – 5- 8yrs” – Nancy Provost—Read “One” by Kathryn Otoshi How to help someone who is being bullied, as well as how to help a bully to learn new behaviors

“Respectful Connections – 9 -12yrs” – Brigid Chapin Learn Characteristics of a healthy friendship by role plays & discussion

“Healthy Relationships – Teens” – Monique McAuliffe Addresses healthy vs unhealthy qualities of dating relationships & how to access available resources

“Let It Begin With Me” – Helen Zidowecki Overview of Nonviolent/Compassionate Communications

“Elder Abuse Prevention” – Nan Bell

2017 “Earth’s Future is in Our Hands.” Activities to learn what you can do to protect our planet!

Children’s Reusable Craft Program

Solar Power and other Renewables

Nature Up Close and Personal (macro photography)

The Importance of Bees

How to Save Energy at Home; Programs you can use

## FUNDRAISING

History of the Fundraising Committee at the UU Community Church of Augusta,  
Maine from 1992 through 2017

Hannah Faulkner, with input from Catherine Palmer, and others.

In 2003 Marty Soule became our first official Fundraising Chair. Between the 1992 merger that formed the UU Community Church of Augusta, Maine, and Marty’s unifying leadership in 2003 and 2004, individuals or Small Group Ministry groups organized occasional events. These included spring plant sales in the Fellowship Hall, and, in 2002, Rev. Calvin Dame’s quickly set up driveway sale recruiting the help of Judy McCown, Bruce Bierce and others.

In 2003 and 2004 Marty instituted the popular First Friday Jazz Coffeeshouses and started the October Harvest Fair, the December Holiday Fair, and the May Service Auction, accomplishing her long-term goal of establishing dependable fundraisers as annual events. People who assisted her that year were Diana Scully, Leann Diehl, Cheryl Clukey and Joel Glatz. Sara Hodgkins and her SGM undertook the March Book Sale. With her vision of serving the general public, Marty Soule set the framework for the ever-growing role of fundraising events in our church.

In 2005, Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce became Fundraising Chairs for the next eight years. With the help of many volunteers, Judy and Bruce carried on three of Marty’s initiatives and brought in many of their own. Some of the leaders among the volunteers were Peg Barnes, Hannah Faulkner, Marty Soule, and Marty Thornton. Judy & Bruce added the Arts and Crafts Fair, the Nicaraguan Coffee Sales, the Inside/Outside Yard sale, and the Dessert Social/Gaslight Theater outings. The ongoing church gift sale table at the Yard Sale and the Holiday Fair was named “Hannah’s Boutique.” Scheduling one event per month, in 2006 Judy and Bruce added a Vegetarian Potluck Supper with Musical Entertainment and in 2009 a Chowder Luncheon, a Square Dance, the November Pie Sale at Longfellow’s, and a Jim Scott Concert/Lasagna Dinner. In 2011 they added Dessert/Dinner Travelogues led by Marty and David Thornton, a Quilt Raffle, a Gourmet Dinner Raffle with Rev. Carie, and a Lynn Deeves Concert arranged by Marty Soule. Guided by Judy and Bruce, to benefit the church Charlene Cleven maintained

the ongoing sale of her unique handmade cards. Roberta Record sold her book, *Slices of Life, Essays of a Caregiver*. Tom Waddell and Marilyn Dunn sold large donated items on Craig's list. Bob Rand held a winter Whoopee Pie Festival in the Fellowship Hall. Joe Laferriere maintained book sale tables, and Helen Zidowecki sold copies of *UU Women in History* and worked with Grace McDonald on a raffle drawing for gift baskets. Judy and Bruce established publicity guidelines and instructions for future fundraising events.

In 2011 the UUCC Cookbook, *The Fellowship of Food*, was completed at the Cookbook Launch where an abundance of recipes were offered for sampling. We were gratified that Bea Robbins, to whom the book was dedicated, was present to sign copies. Bea was the widow of the Reverend Douglas Robbins, minister of the Winthrop Street church from 1943-73. She passed away in March 2012 at the age of 102. The cookbook required a year to complete, and Editors Bruce & Judy worked throughout with Roberta Record, Barbara DeWolfe, Helen Wing and Cheryl Clukey to compile recipes from many members of our church. Copies of the second edition of this book are available for purchase at \$15 each.

In 2011 a Small Group Ministry group consisting of Hannah Faulkner, Terry Cookson, Betty Armstrong, Sunshine Perlis and Jill Watson began the CLYNK bottle redeeming program, which brings in hundreds of dollars to UUCC each year.

In 2012 the same Small Group Ministry Group started the Hannaford Cash Card Program. Doug Rooks, Wick Johnson, and Mary Simpson supported Hannah's efforts to obtain board permission to establish this program in our church. We were fortunate to receive expert advice from Doug Stevenson of the Wayne Community Church, United Methodist, who had launched a successful Hannaford program in that church. The Hannaford Cash Card Program brings in thousands of dollars to our church each year.

In 2013, Terry Cookson Cairn and Hannah Faulkner became Fundraising Cochairs for three years. In coordination with Social Activities Chair Cheryl Clukey, they hosted a September Spaghetti Dinner preceding a long-awaited performance of the Stratton Elementary School Steel Band. Apple Valley Books of Winthrop gave the church proceeds from a 2013 holiday fundraising discount program. Gary Chapin and Sunshine Perlis arranged a January 2014 French Dance in the Fellowship Hall featuring Joelle Morris and Marie Wendt. The dance was so well attended that in February 2015 they held another one in a larger space in the Maple Tree School in Readfield, thanks to the generosity of Nicole and Tom Danielson.

Alternating new activities with the big annual fundraisers established by their predecessors, Hannah & Terry sponsored a February 2014 Wayne Ski and Snowshoe Outing with Vegan Chili, March 2014 luncheon preparations for the Northern New England District Meeting at our church, and Spring Plant Sales featuring heirloom tomatoes grown by Dale McCormick, with house & garden flowers grown by Cheryl Abruzzese. Carol Aft arranged a May 2014 dessert accompanying the showing of *Two Who Dared, The Sharps' War*, the story of two Unitarians who at great personal sacrifice rescued many Jewish children from the Nazis during World War II. Judy and Bruce helped with all these events. Terry's wife Betty Cairn organized and led the kitchen volunteers, including Nancee Campbell, Cheryl Clukey and Cheryl Abruzzese, at Auctions, Holiday Fairs and Indoor/Outdoor Yard Sales. Richard Bridges, Jim McKendry, Denis Thoet, Helen McKendry and Marilyn Karasopoulos volunteered as sales people. Diane Moongrove and Libby Weeks managed Hannah's Boutique and cash security. Norman Emanuel and Bill Allen always helped with yard sale clean-ups and transportation to Goodwill and other places. Rita Moran, Ida Gammon and Noah Gottlieb handled book sales. Auction helpers included Mark Rolfe, Annie Voorhees, Janet Sawyer, Brenda Sawyer, Kit Perry, Carolyn Ladd, Beth Nasberg, Emma Chapin, Brigid Chapin and Xinan Clark among others already named in other capacities above, or not named.

In October 2013 the UUCC Board initiated and approved a fundraising policy that provides guidelines and an application form for members of the congregation setting up fundraising events. Following these guidelines, members of the congregation initiated fundraisers throughout the year. In

December 2014 Terry & Hannah organized receptions and solicited freewill offerings at the newly-formed Concert Extravaganzas given by our UUCC Choir and Occasional Orchestra in Winter and Spring.

In the 2015-2016 church year, one new endeavor was Rev. Carie's August 30, 2015 Welsh Tea. Others, in coordination with the Social Activities Committee, were the

2015 presentation of Penny Partridge's book of poetry about adoption, *The People They Brought Me*, and the April 2016 showing of the movie *Spotlight* that documented investigative reporting of long-standing child abuse allegations in the Catholic Church. The final two fundraising events during Terry and Hannah's tenure were the May 15,

2016 Choir/ UUCCOO Concert, *Music Leads the Way*, dedicated to Don Stratton, followed by the outstanding June 11, 2016 Inside/Outside Yard Sale. Dozens of volunteers in our congregation continue to make such fundraisers possible.

At the June 2016 Annual Meeting, Catherine Palmer was officially elected Fundraising Chair. She remains in this position through June 2018. Catherine has brought her considerable skills in finance and technology to our church's fundraising program. She personally processes credit card payments on her Smart Phone, making it easier for customers at our Auctions, Holiday Fairs and Yard Sales to make large purchases on the spot. Having earned her living as a professional fundraiser, she is at ease with all forms of timely online publicity so that church activities receive widespread attention in the community. Her wife, Becky Harvey, helps her with all her hands-on fundraising work. An adept hostess, Catherine provides a welcoming presence at the many receptions and food events that bring income to the church. Since Catherine has become Fundraising Chair, Music Director Bridget Convey has scheduled four Fundraising Concerts a year to bring in guest artists from the Augusta area and beyond. The proceeds from these concerts add to the church's ever-growing fundraising totals. Catherine has found many ways to increase income from our annual events, has reinstated Chocolate Auctions and has also initiated a popular pre-Easter Bake Sale. The church's large Hannaford Cash Card Sales Program has flourished under Catherine's leadership.

The preceding Fundraising Chairs, who include Marty Soule, Judy McCown, Bruce Bierce, Terry Cookson Cairn, and Hannah Faulkner, are proud of the heights Catherine has obtained above the sturdy groundwork that we prepared.

## INVESTED FUNDS

Details of invested funds are included in the Annual Reports over the years. At UUCC, we currently benefit from the following trust and investment accounts.

Adams Trust has been in place for many years, and UUCC is one of eight named beneficiaries.

Ballard Trust was established by bequest through a will originally written in 1896. Ballard Memorial or "Rose" Window, a reproduction of The Last Supper, was given in memory of George Steven Mellen Ballard. The window replaced a fresco of The Ascension by Raphael above the altar in the previous Universalist church building. It has been in storage since the previous Winthrop Street building that housed it was replaced by the current church building.

The Church Endowment is composed primarily of funds transferred in 1992 at the time of merger—combining monies held by the former Winthrop Street Universalist Church, with monies held by the former All Souls Unitarian Church. The principal balance of this endowment is increased through restricted gifts to UUCC (for example, by an individual marking that designation on the Annual Appeal donation form), as well as through unrestricted gifts as so directed by the Board of Trustees.

## UUC -FIRST 25 YEARS: Goddess/Earth Circles

In 1977, the Unitarian Universalist General Assembly (UUA) passed—unanimously!—the Women & Religion Resolution, urging Unitarian Universalists to “examine carefully their own religious beliefs and the extent to which these beliefs influence sex-role stereotypes.” It urged all UUs to “make every effort to (a) put traditional assumptions and language in perspective, and (b) avoid sexist assumptions and language in the future.” This prompted the development of the feminist curriculum, *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* by Shirley Ranck in 1986.

The Augusta congregations offered *Cakes* several times in the 1980’s. Ongoing women’s groups --“Spiral” at Winthrop Street and “Circle” at All Souls-- consolidated into Circle/Spiral before 1992. We have offered courses: *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven* (original and revised versions), *Rise Up and Call Her Name* (2009-2010), and *Women of Wisdom*. We also offered *History of the Female Divine* (2008) by Joe Laferriere, an anthropologist.

Goddess/Earth Circles meets monthly year-round with sessions on specific goddesses and earth-based celebrations, and leads church services for the congregation at least annually. Goddess/Earth Circle activities over the years have influenced the congregation by 1) introducing the Water Ceremony at September Ingathering, and other rituals such as croning (see below); 2) urging gender neutral language and more inclusive music, and 3) increasing sensitivity and justice around the status of women, 4) broadening the various concepts of “deity,” and 5) encouraging all women to own their wisdom.

*Cakes* brought croning, or the recognition of women who have passed menopause, usually after late fifties. The word crone is derived from the word *cronus* (time) and signifies wisdom gained through life experiences. Twenty-two Women of Wisdom from UUC have been ‘Croned:

Before consolidation: *Alice Gifford, Hannah Faulkner, Helen Zidowecki, Lorna Doone, Mary Perkins,*

2012: *Maggie Ricker, Ida Gammon, Judy Gallant, Linda Findlay, Marilyn Gordon, Mary Shifman, Nance Caldwell, Nancee Campbell, Phyllis Cudmore, Priscilla Jenkins,*

2015 *Beth (Nasberg) Olsen, Lois Whitcomb, Ruth Butts, Terry Culligan.*

2016 *Darlene Bassett and Jean Sizelove*

2017 *Kay Fritz*

We acknowledge changes in our Women of Wisdom group:

moves from the Augusta area: *Ruth Butts* (2017) and *Lois Whitcomb* (2018)

the death of *Alice Gifford* (April 2017) and *Mary Perkins* (October 2017)

Women of Wisdom/Croning celebration is around Samhain, or Halloween. We invite women to be croned, and to share their wisdom, which constitutes the *Wisdom Book* for the year. Books are given to participants of Goddess/Earth Circles, and are available to others on request.

### WATER CEREMONY (INGATHERING)

In November 1980, Carolyn McDade, and Lucile Schuck Longview created a worship service for the Women and Religion Continental Convocation of Unitarian Universalists in Lansing, MI. Carolyn McDade wrote the hymns, #123 “Spirit of Life” and #346 “Come, Sing a Song With Me.” Lucile Longview was an author of the Women and Religion Resolution (see above).

The first water ceremonies in Augusta were noted in September 1986 at All Souls. This coincided with offering *Cakes for the Queen of Heaven*. The ritual symbolizes the diversity and unity of our gathered community. The participants bring a small vial of water that is gathered in a large container. The water is blessed and a portion is retained for use in special occasions, such as child dedications, throughout the year.

## 25<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY: History Committee

The first Annual Report of the History Committee appears in 2004. Started by Ron Le Blanc, along with Barbara Thurlow, then church Administrator, the initial Committee members included Helen Zidowecki and Heide Munro, who continue as members. A number of people have participated in the History Committee over the years directly, on specific projects, and through donations of historic materials.

We established a permanent location for historical materials in the History Committee Room, previously upstairs in Drew House and presently on the first floor of the Drew House. There is also a lead-lined file in the basement of Drew House for the old materials from previous congregations. Historic materials have been collected and organized from Winthrop Street (Universalist), All Souls (Unitarian), and UUCC (since 1992). This is an ongoing process that needs collaboration between the office and history room.

### **The History Committee has contributed the following to UUCC:**

- \*Historic information on the church website itself, as well as contributing information to other parts of the church programming and life from historical files.
- \*Assisted Rev. Peter Richardson in preparation of the Augusta section of his book, *Universalist & Unitarians in Maine* (2017).
- \*Wayside Pulpit on the front lawn. The stand was built by Jim McKendry and Bob Rand in 2010. This public awareness of UU values in quotes was started by liberal traditions, with active involvement from Unitarians starting in the 1920's, primarily in the Boston area.
- \*Researched and recommended names for spaces, specifically Drew and Judd Houses, dedicated in September 2012. (More details are given under Facilities.)

While events set the stage of history, it is the people involved that set the personality of the community. With this in mind, there are two ongoing activities of the History Committee. Several **Oral Histories** were recorded over the years:

1992 Traute Lipman  
1999 Ruth King  
2005 Helen McKendry  
2005 Heide Munro  
2005 Beatrice Robbins

The 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary renewed interest in oral histories. A number have been done or are planned. These will be cataloged and publicized as our history moves forward, possibly including a way of indexing the content. The information is important; the voices are unforgettable!

The **Memorial Book** includes people connected with the Augusta congregations who have *died since consolidation*, whether they officially joined UUCC or not. This is a way of honoring their lives and their place as UUs in the Augusta area.

### **In the next 25 years we would like to:**

- \*We need to restructure the History Committee, such as a core group of "historians" or "historical coordinators" along with people working on specific projects, such as
- \*Establish a way of consistently acknowledging gifts to the congregation.
- \*Develop an efficient way to update historic information, such as UUCC timeline on the website.

## UCC - THE FIRST 25 YEARS: Membership

From one point of view, the consolidation of the All Souls and Winthrop Street churches was a legal matter with technical details to be managed. Two institutions intended to become one in the eyes of the State of Maine. On a much more significant level, this was a matter that deeply concerned the people who were the churches at that time. A religious institution with no members would be meaningless. There is no reason to maintain a lifeless institution.

With this in mind, the leadership of our two congregations laid out a strategy that called for careful planning and considerable in-depth conversation as we contemplated this significant change. Although leadership probably had the authority to take the steps necessary to move forward, they recognized that only failure lay ahead on that path. Our intention was to involve the members of each church in every step going forward with the hope that we would maintain the level of membership each church brought into the process.

Each community was its members. All members needed to feel connected to the unfolding process and taken into consideration as much as possible. We were rewarded with very minimal loss of commitment from members and no clear indication that the consolidation process was the cause of any loss we did experience. We considered this a major success and a reward for all of the time and energy we invested.

As we recognize the 25 years that have passed, I want to acknowledge our current members who were part of the history we made in 1993. The following were all founding members of UCC:

Bill Allen, Karen Allen, Stefanie Barley, Harold Burnett, Susan Burnett, Michele Dooling, Lorna Doone, Nancy Fraser, Nancy Fritz, Jane Gilbert, Kathy Kellison, Melanie Lanctot, Michaela Loisel, Jim McKendry, Helen McKendry, Heidi Monroe, Jane Orbeton, Bob Rand and Mary Rand, Cheryl Ring, Annie Welch, Lois Whitcomb and Helen Zidowecki from All Souls.

From Winthrop Street came Hannah Faulkner, Doug Findlay, Linda Findlay, Judy Gallant, Rose Hinckley, Wick Johnson, Wayne Ladner.

Much credit goes to them and to all of the past members who contributed so much to creating the vibrant congregation that is our UCC in 2018.

Kathy Kellison for the Membership Committee

## UCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Music

### Highlights of Music Committee History at the Unitarian Universalist Community Church of Augusta

- Fall of 1996 - Charlene Cleven starts the UCC Choir, becoming the first UCC Choir Director. In 1997, Charlene becomes a choir singer after welcoming Ray Long, a retired professional choir director, to the leadership position. Over the next ten years the enthusiastic group of UCC singers grows to include Phil Brzozowski, Ruth Butts, Hannah Faulkner, Mary Henderson, Priscilla Jenkins, Melanie Lanctot, Helen McKendry, Hope Tracy, John Pelletier, Cheryl Ring, Mary Simpson and many others, with Stefanie Barley as Choir Accompanist.

- Spring of 2004 - Karen Allen organizes the Music Committee as a subcommittee of the Worship Committee. Committee members are Karen Allen, Chair; Stefanie Barley, Charlene Cleven, Priscilla Jenkins, Gary Chapin, Hannah Faulkner and Bill Goldberg. Regular meetings are held periodically after choir rehearsals.
- The newly formed committee gathers in the Sanctuary on September 11, 2004 to refurbish the music files, removing irrelevant pieces and photocopies.
- An initial Committee fundraising activity is the sale of dedications for the new teal supplemental hymnals.
- The church's membership in the national UU Musicians Network takes effect in 2004. Accepting no money from the church for these trips, Hannah Faulkner attends national conferences 2005-2010, and 2014-2017, bringing back a large array of approved UU music samples for the UUCC choir directors.
- 2006- 2008 Hannah Faulkner serves as Music Committee Chair. During this time Roland Coryell, Claire Curole, John Davis, Alice Gifford, Christian Heath, Kristina Weeks Oliveri, Don Stratton, and Annie Voorhees are members at intervals.
- April 2007, Ray Long leaves our church after 10 years as volunteer Choir Director. Ray, who had special expertise in conducting classical music, died in 2010.
- Don Stratton provides Music Committee Mission Statement:  
*"Sound as music permeates our lives as present as air. All things feel its vibrations in their being. Recognizing this, it is our mission to accept its presence and nurture our awareness of its nature, thereby participating consciously in the oneness."* "If it is wished I have some suggestions as to how to gentle ourselves into the above."
- November 2007 "Gentling ourselves along," Don Stratton provides list of 38 hymns for which he is prepared to place descants if asked.
- In 2008 the Board establishes the official salaried position of Choir Director in the church. Doug Barley becomes the first paid Choir Director.
- January 2008 All-Church Music Survey distributed and compiled
- February 2008 Karen Allen starts Music Staff Meetings at UUCC.
- Summer 2008 Claire Curole's team packs and moves hymnals to the King Street building for safekeeping during the renovations of the Winthrop Street church.
- In 2008 Annie Voorhees becomes Co-Chair with Hannah Faulkner
- May 13, 2009 Karen Allen presents "Role of the Music Committee"
- 2009-2012 Claire Curole serves as Music Committee Chair. Hannah works with her as Recording Secretary
- 2009-2014 Rev. Carie leads Worship Arts Retreats
- May 2010 Hymnal and Supplement Dedication Sales
- May 2011 Wooden book rack is purchased to hold teal hymnals.
- May 2011 Choir pianist compensation considered.
- September 2011 Karen Allen is willing to conduct UUCC Occasional Orchestra with guidance from Deb Large and Don Stratton
- In the fall of 2011, on behalf of the Music Committee, Stefanie Barley facilitates the purchase of the new adjustable piano bench for the Steinway Grand Piano in the Sanctuary.
- February 11, 2012: "America in the Poetic Imagination." Bridget Convey organized this concert with Music Committee support. UUCC members and composers Don Stratton, a retired UMA music professor, and Bill Goldberg (1917-2008) were honored during a concert held in our Sanctuary. Nancy Ellen Ogle, soprano, accompanied by Ginger Yang Hwalek, pianist, and Karl Dan Sorensen, narrator, presented "America in the Poetic

Imagination. This program included Don's composition "Soon Shall the Winter's Foil Be Here" as well as Bill's "Look Down Fair Moon," both inspired by poet Walt Whitman. Now, as we fondly remember Bill Goldberg, Don Stratton (1928-2016), and Karl Dan Sorensen (1927-2018), we lift up these three men to recognize the amazing musical talent within our congregation and community.

- The committee purchases for UUCC two copies of "Las Voces del Camino: Un complement de Singing the Living Tradition" (the Spanish-language hymnal supplement), one for Rev. Carie and one for the Pianists' use during worship services. Stefanie has the books spiral bound at Quality Copy in Hallowell so they can lie flat on the piano rack. We have also purchased for the church four copies of Choral Responses, published by UUMN, for small choral groups to use in special music presentations.
- A revision to the pay schedule for the Sunday morning pianists is proposed by Karen Allen, pianist and piano scheduler, reviewed by the Music Committee and forwarded to the Board in fall 2011 with our unanimous recommendation, where it is approved for inclusion in the 2012-13 budget. A proposal is made to allocate funds for the occasional hiring of paid guest musicians beyond the regularly scheduled pianists.
- Dale McCormick starts UUCCOO and Don Stratton becomes Conductor Karen Allen conducts UUCCOO with Don Stratton's guidance in the Easter 2011 church service on April 24, 2011. In that year, the UUCCOO first gathers to play music at the church on Christmas Eve.
- 2012 Doug Barley steps down. He has been, pardon the pun, instrumental in developing UUCC's music program over the last five years. Stefanie Barley retires from her 16 years as Choir Accompanist.
- In 2012 Claire Curole leads the Choir throughout the summer.
- From September 2012 through December 2014, Joelle Morris serves as Choir Director, bringing considerable knowledge of international music to enhance the repertoire of our UUCC choir. Together with the UUCCOO Joelle leads the choir in a joint concert on December 8, 2013.
- In the fall of 2012, Karen Foust becomes Choir Accompanist.
- In January 2015, Bridget Convey becomes Music Director. As a soloist and ensemble musician, Bridget has been heard throughout the United States performing music of diverse periods and styles. Bridget is an active performer while continuing a life dedicated to education. Into her fourth year leading the UUCC Choir, she guides our church into diverse and exciting styles of modern choral pieces while nurturing our connections with classical church works.

In 2015, guided by the leadership of Annie Voorhees, the Music Committee again joins the Worship Committee team, helping to arrange special music for worship services and other events. Hannah Faulkner becomes Chair in Autumn 2016, assisting Rev. Carie, the Worship Committee, the Fundraising Committee and others in the church with the management of music and musical events in the church.

Respectfully submitted,  
Hannah Faulkner  
May 12, 2018

## INSTRUMENTS

At the time of consolidation, there was an electric organ in the Winthrop Street sanctuary. It had not been played for several years. It had been donated by Leroy Hussey, who had been

on the Board of the Board of the Universalist Church in 1956 when his grandmother donated the organ to the congregation. He was very clear that he DID NOT want the organ sold. In fact he would like to find a congregation that would put it to good use. The following note appears in the May 2009 Music Committee Annual Report:

"The organ was received by Dr. Stan Moody, minister for the North Manchester Meeting House on the Scribner Road in Manchester. He will have the casing refinished and restored over the summer, and is grateful for the opportunity to restore such a fine instrument. The North Manchester Meeting House is a Baptist church and is affiliated with the Albert Schweitzer Academy for the Arts. The family of the original donor (the Hussey family) is pleased with the updated disposition of the instrument."

**A grand piano**, the property of Cecilia Club, was housed with All Souls Church in various locations, in lieu of charging Cecilia rent of space for concerts. The piano was donated to UUCC when Cecelia Club closed. Stefanie Barley accepted the gift, and the following acknowledged this transaction:

Wednesday, February 13, 2008

The Cecilia Club  
c/o Cay Gallant, Past President  
385 Western Avenue  
Augusta, ME 04330

Dear Cay:

The Unitarian Universalist Community Church most gratefully acknowledges the very generous gift of the Cecilia Club's Steinway grand piano. Our congregation is blessed to hear this Steinway every Sunday in our sanctuary, and our pianists feel fortunate to have the opportunity to play it.

This instrument is one of the finer examples of a Steinway grand piano. It fills our hearts with harmony and repose when played as an integral part of our worship services.

We thank you, as a congregation, for the piano.

Sincerely,

George LaPointe, President UUCC Board of Trustees

May 2012 **Suzuki Digital Piano** (Deluxe Model HP-97 with full 88-note key board) offered on long-term loan to the church by the Nielsen family.

#### ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS

**Drum Circle** (Augusta Community Drum Circle) is free style and welcomes people of all ages, walks and abilities. While not a program of UUCC, it meets the fourth Friday of each month in the Sanctuary. The leader is Mike Moody.

**Sacred Dance** has been included in services on several occasions, involving Christine Little and Jenny McKendry, with children and youth. This included the installation of Rev. Carie Johnsen in April 2010.

## UUCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Non-Violent Communication

Nonviolent Communication (NVC) became a part of UUCC in 2005 when Helen Wing attended her first training. In 2006, Helen offered several Sunday afternoon “Introduction to NVC” sessions at UUCC with the hope of arousing interest in NVC. She also organized a Level I training with Peggy Smith (held at UUCC) in 2006. NVC trainings with Peggy were also offered in 2007, 2008, and 2009. Terry Cairn began assisting with the organization of the trainings in 2008 or 2009. For example, Nonviolent Communication Training hosted by UUCC on August 15 and 16, 2009, offered an hour and a half introductory session the evening of August 14.

Participants from UUCC have taken various levels and aspects of training over the years. “Building Practices and Processes in Living Compassion, A Workshop in Nonviolent Communication” held in Bar Harbor December 2-4, 2010, was attended by about 60 people from New England, including four from UUCC Practice groups (Helen Wing, Terry Cookson, Lorna Doone, and another not from UUCC). The Presenter was Robert Gonzales, who has been offering Nonviolent Communication training in some form since 1986. Information from the workshop was shared with the UUCC Practice Group.

Helen started the first Practice Group in 2007 and it continued about twice a month through December 2017. Annie Lunt has been an active participant in Practice Groups since the early years and was the coordinator for the last few years. Both the educational programs and the Practice Groups have included people from outside of UUCC.

Based on the work of Marshall Rosenberg. Nonviolent communication, also known as Compassionate Communication, is a unique model of communication based on human needs and feelings that underlie all behavior. This model seeks to teach a means of developing empathy as a basis for communication rather than models of blame, judgment and criticism.

### **Nonviolent Communication seeks to teach us how to:**

- Change patterns of thinking that lead to depression, arguments, anger and violence
- Resolve conflicts peacefully, whether personal or public, domestic or international
- Speak in ways more likely to be heard and understood by others
- Set healthy boundaries and say “No” with strength and compassion
- Express anger fully, safely and respectfully
- Translate criticism, judgment, blame and other hard-to-hear messages into feelings and needs

### **Some basic premises:**

- All actions are attempts to meet needs
- Human needs are universal - we all have the same needs
- Feelings result from needs being either met or unmet – when *needs* are met we feel *happy, pleased*, etc. – when needs are *unmet* we feel *sad, hurt, anxious, scared, angry*, etc.

A Nonviolent Communication workshop at the “Power of One” community event, February 7, 2016, was an overview and implementation guide. The handout for that workshop, “Let It Begin With Me,” is on the UUCC website, and can be used for additional workshops and to re-start Compassionate Communication focus. Several Small Group Ministry Sessions are available.

## UUC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Peaceful Heart Sangha, Mindfulness Meditation ("sangha" means a community that lives in harmony and awareness)

A Mindfulness Meditation group in the tradition of Vietnamese Zen master, peace activist, and poet, Thich Nhat Hanh (Thay, meaning "teacher"), began meeting in the Unitarian Universalist Community Church in September 2001. Marty Soule began exploring Thay's teachings in 1993, several months before she and family began attending UUC. When June Zellers told Marty that Thay was offering a retreat in Massachusetts in August 2001, Marty attended her first retreat. When she returned, she and June started a meditation group on Sunday, September 16, 2001. Marty was very grateful for June's steady solid practice and example. Over time, June moved on to a different practice group and meditation continued as a very small group. In 2007 Marty learned that there was a sangha in Yarmouth practicing in Thay's tradition with some more experienced practitioners. Marty stopped the UUC group for several months and attended Open Heart Sangha, learning a very nourishing form for sangha gatherings, including Dharma Sharing (ways to support a group in sharing openly from the heart). In the winter of 2008 Marty offered introductory sessions on Mindfulness Meditation at UUC. In early March 2008 Marty re-started sangha and after several months of regular gatherings, the group decided on a name, Peaceful Heart Sangha (PHS). That summer UUC was closed for the re-building of the sanctuary, etc.. UUC member and Sangha member, Vendean Vafiades, invited us to meet in her home while UUC was unavailable. Our gatherings in Hallowell included lovely walking meditations around the huge very old oak tree in her backyard.

Marty was ordained into Thay's Order of Interbeing (OI) in summer 2009 with the name *True Land of Light*. Since that time other PHS members have ordained: Lorna Doone (*True Precious Form*) in 2013, Mary Rankin (*True Blue Pine*) in 2015 (she started Full Moon Sangha in Farmington in 2012), Greg Fahy (*True Awakening Diligence*) in 2016 (he started the Hallowell branch of PHS in 2012), and Lynn Deeves (*True Manifestation of Kindness*) in 2017. Current PHS Aspirants to the Order of Interbeing include Pam Robson and Janet Favor. Marty has a quarterly mentoring group in her home for OI Aspirants around the state. There has also been a quarterly gathering of our Maine OI community at UUC for about 10 years. Several PHS members have shared practices and offered classes and meditation sessions in their homes, in their place of work, and through adult education.

When Rev. Carie Johnsen was ordained in Augusta in fall 2009, Marty helped welcome her into our community. During the ordination ceremony, Peaceful Heart Sangha gave Rev. Carie the mindfulness bell with which we are invited into worship every Sunday at UUC.

All are welcome at Peaceful Heart Sangha – young and old, those who have never meditated and longtime meditators – including our congregation and the wider community.

- Every Monday evening, 6:30 – 8 at UUC and
- Every Thursday morning, 8 – 9:30 at River Studio, 332 Water St, Hallowell

We have offered monthly mindfulness practice sessions for children/ youth over the years.

Other activities in addition to our weekly gatherings:

- Days of Mindfulness (DOM) – a full day of practice, often offering practices that are not available during our weekly practice. Sometimes DOMs at UUC have been led by a visiting Dharma Teacher, including Joanne Friday (RI), John Bell (MA), Monastics from Blue Cliff Monastery (NY), Bill Menza (FL), and Peggy Smith (ME).
- Four Monastics from Blue Cliff Monastery will join us again in September 2018. We will have a DOM at UUC on 9/29 and a DOM at the Maine Coast Waldorf School in Freeport on 9/30. The monastics stay with Marty Soule in Readfield during their visit.

- A month long January Intensive – Every year we are invited to decide on a practice that we would like to explore during the dark quiet beginning of the year. It is an ideal opportunity to commit to the deepening of our mindfulness practice without interrupting our regular lives. We might extend our meditation time or try out a few silent mindful meals or commit to a focused study or reading or decide to be part of a regular sharing with another sangha member or any of a number of possibilities. We have Saturday meditation gatherings with pot lucks to begin and end the intensive.
- Every other year we have a PHS retreat at Nurture Through Nature in Denmark, ME. We have at times had teachers with monastic heritage join us – including Brother Phap Tri and Michel Ciborski and Fern Dorresteyn.
- Most years we have offered a UUCC service focused on gifts from our practice, often focused on the Five Mindfulness Trainings. Now PHS and other Maine sangha members have begun offering our church services at other churches (Brunswick UU church), with more planned for the future (Castine UU church and others pending...).
- From 2012 - 2015 Lynn Deeves coordinated many 5-week “Introduction to Meditation” sessions for the CARA program at the Kennebec Correctional Care Facility in Augusta. Many PHS members took part in these offerings.
- In 2015 we helped to create and lead a Celebration of Life for PHS sangha member, Dawn Habash, who died during the earthquake in Nepal.
- We have a lending library. Also we have read several books during sangha, including:
  - *Peace is Every Step, the Path of Mindfulness in Everyday Life;*
  - *Fear, Essential Wisdom for Getting Through the Storm;*
  - *Work, How to Find Joy and Meaning in Each Hour of the Day;*
  - *The Heart of the Buddha’s Teachings, Transforming Suffering into Joy and Liberation*
  - Currently we are reading: *Together We Are One, Honoring our Diversity, Celebrating Our Connection.*
- Over the years we have trained and had many “Bell Minders” facilitate sangha.
- We have been part of the wider sangha in many ways including:
  - Regular donations to the Thich Nhat Hanh Foundation and to support Blue Cliff Monastery
  - Donating an apple tree to the Blue Cliff Monastery orchard when it began
  - Attended many retreats and DOMs at Blue Cliff Monastery and at other New England sanghas – often attending as a group and car-pooling to the event.
  - Joined planning teams to bring together retreats for the wider community at Blue Cliff Monastery over the years.
  - Offering loving videos, cards, and messages of loving kindness to our teacher, Thay, over the years – supporting him through his stroke in 2014 and celebrating his 90<sup>th</sup> “Continuation Day” in 2016.
- We have made “dana” (gratitude) donations to UUCC several times/year for many years.
- In Spring 2017 we made our first donation- \$300 - to the Afghan family supported by UUCC Family Mentor Team to cover summer activities for the 4 children, including summer camp, soccer, swimming, and piano lessons.
- We created a scholarship fund that has helped sangha members to travel to and participate in sangha related events (DOM, retreats).
- Two members of PHS were arrested for Civil Disobedience: Greg Fahy in 2011 for supporting Occupy Maine in Augusta and Marty Soule in 2017 for sitting with Rev Carie Johnsen and other faith leaders at Senator Collins’ office in Portland to try to convince her to vote against a US Tax Bill. Dharma Teacher, Peggy Smith of the Camden sangha, was also arrested in 2017 for a Tax Bill Protest, in Collins’ Lewiston office.

## UUC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Religious Exploration

Prior to consolidation, Linda Findlay was DRE at Winthrop Street Church and Helen Zidowecki was DRE at All Souls Church. They anticipated that the congregation might consolidate at some point, date unknown. From the mid-1980s, they worked to plan parallel curriculum, have the RE committees in the respective congregations meet periodically.

DRE (coDREs)1992-1998: Helen Zidowecki and Linda Findlay

DRE 1998-2005: Linda Findlay

DRE 2005-2011: Karen Fisk

DRE 2011-2012: Pat Gardiner

DRE 2012-2013: Carol Strecker

DRE 2014-2016: Nicole Danielson and Youth Advisor Monique McAuliffe

DRE 2016-2017 (Dec 31<sup>st</sup>): Brigid Chapin and Youth Advisor Monique McAuliffe

Jan 2018- June 30, 2018: RE Committee and Youth Advisor Monique McAuliffe

Children and Youth participation in the RE programs over the past 25 years certainly varied as the times have changed. In the early 90's for about 15 years the number of registered children often exceeded 100. Some years we had forty plus adults involved as well. More complete statistics are available if anyone chooses to see them. As we went through 25 years of annual reports is how many of the adults and teens who were involved in teaching, child care or the RE Committee are still connected with UUC today. Here is a list of those folks that Linda could find (not all years listed who the teachers were).

In no particular order: Michaela Loisell, Michelle Dooling, Mary Simpson, Debbie Mattson, Harry Grimnitz, Cheryl Clukey, Bob Rand, Mary Rand, Bill Allen, Jacqui Clark, Susan Burnett, Harold Burnett, Marty Souls, Helen McKendry, Wayne Ladner, Linda Conti, Heide Munro, Jenny McKendry, Sara Hodgkins, Glen Hodgkins, Julia Clukey, Gary Chapin, Hilary Necklles, Cathie Nielsen, Martha Pelletier, Jane Gilbert, George Lapointe, Pam Lombard, Martin Spahn, Kristin Aiello, Walt McKee, Gary Nielsen, Jim McKendry, John Pelletier, Ron LeBlanc, Nancy Fritz, Sean Fritz, Janet Sawyer, Peter Mendall, Amy Mendall, Daisy Dore, Christine Little, Miriam Nielsen, Diana Scully, Betty Armstrong Cairn, Jill Greenlaw, Abby Lourie, Ida Gammon-Wilson, Nicole Danielson, Sheila Comerford, Steve Gove, Rebecca Dore, Jeff Jannell, Sue Caldwell, Jim Caldwell, Nicole Benoit, Nate Benoit, David Rand, Melanie Lanctot, Hannah Faulkner, Hal Booth, Marty Thornton, Tom Waddell, Noah Gottlieb, Priscilla Jenkins, Mark Rolfe, Mark Griswold, Monique McAuliffe, Helen Wright, Tracy McNaughton, Annie Reiter, Nate Kane, Sunshine Perlis, Faith Madore, Terry Cookson Cairn, Annie Vorhees, Janine Boink, Liza Gottlieb, Emma Chapin, Brigid Chapin, Nicole Danielson, Cheryl Abruzzese, Diane Smith-Howard, Helen Zidowecki and Linda Findlay.

Curriculum used in Religious Education (changed to Religious Exploration in 2005) included material from the UUA. However, there were periods in when what was available did not seem to meet our needs. Over the years, Linda and Helen created several curricula, namely:

*The UU Alphabet* for preschool and early elementary

*UU Principles and Parenting*, based on the assumption that being UU had an impact on how we parented. This was revised into a Small Group Ministry format, and Karen Fisk drew from it for sessions for parents of youth taking Coming of Age.

*Dr. Seuss and UUs* with material for all ages

These are all available in hard copy and electronically. Several were sold to other churches.

Since 1992, ongoing youth programming has included:

*Our Whole Lives (OWL)* with the availability of Small Group Ministry sessions for parents of youth in OWL  
*Coming of Age* for 12-14 yrs.  
*Peace Jam* for Ages 13-18, started in 2009, Social Justice  
 Youth-led Sunday services

In addition we have had many youths who were paid nursery attendants. We have had youth on our Board of Directors, the RE Committee, attend District meetings as delegates as well as GA as delegates. The Youth programming has used UUA curriculum as well as more recently the Coming of Age/Mentoring program, AYS, OWL, and Peace Jam. Our Youth have been involved in the local Soup Kitchen, providing food for Fellowship Hour, starting a composting program at church, serving Elder Lunch, and initiating “Game Day” open to the public at the Buker Center. Perhaps one of the best programs they have shared with Mid Coast UU Youth and the Safe Passage trip to Guatemala where firm UU connections with other churches were made.

Youth in grades 6-12 from both Augusta churches participated in the Northeast District YRUU (Young Religious Unitarian Universalist) conferences from 1986 through 2007. This included 3-4 conferences each year (Fall Conference, such as at Hersey Retreat or Friends Camp in Winslow, usually a Ski Weekend at Sangerville and Greenville, and Spring Conference, frequently at Ferry Beach. We also initiated the Junior Youth Conference at the request of Sarah Halperin, who also was later voted Outstanding Youth by the UUA (need to research date). These included 25 congregations from Maine and the Maritime Provinces). UUCC had representation at each of these conferences. This is for a total of 130 people (14 preconsolidation only, and 116 pre/after consolidation). There was usually a youth from Augusta on the district YAC (Youth Advisory Committee). Please note that not all youth participated in district conferences, which means that the 130 is a minimum .

Listings from the NED Youth Conference files by Helen Zidowecki, District Youth Coordinator  
 “A” =Adult. “b” after a date= participation in a bridging ceremony at a district conference.

Pre-consolidation		1989-05	Linda Findlay A
1985-86	Emily Osborn	1991-02	Anne Sheble A
1985-86	Erik Zidowecki	1991-02	Bill Allen A
1985-86	Justine Marchand	1991-92	Alexandra Velasco
1985-88	Carl Dillard	1991-92	Brianne Brown
1985-88	Kevin Heckman	1991-92	Christina (Alex) Whitten
1985-89	Heather Findlay	1991-92	Fay Marcus
1987-88	Ellen Steiner	1991-92	Madigan McGillicuddy
1987-88	Ethan Gurney	1991-92	Megan Findlay
1987-88	Jennifer Heckman	1991-92	Yvonne Ladner A
1987-88	Justin Sheehey	1991-93	Grace McGillicuddy
1987-88	Melissa Heckman	1991-93	Karen Allen A
1988-89	Amy Forster	1991-93	Maggie Kaloust
1988-89	Chris Masters	1991-93	Megan Freise
1988-89	Dale Freise A	1991-93	Ruth McGillicuddy
		1991-93	Ryan Roy
UUCC		1991-95	Jessica Rosen
1985-07	Helen Zidowecki	1991-98	Justin Culp
1985-88	Krista Zidowecki YCR and	1992-93	Clarissa Fesler
	1993-95 A	1992-93	Erica Johnson
1987-02	Helen McKendry A	1992-93	Jessi Kaloust
1988-93	Leslie Rosen	1992-93	Meghan Stetson
1988-93	Ryan Freise	1993-95	Molly McGillicuddy

1993-96	Abe Furth	2001-02	Linda Caswell
1996-00	David Rand	2001-02	Mary Simpson A
1996-00	Nicholas Elvin-Dubois	2001-02	Ross Keller
1996-00b	Alyson Dame SJR	2001-02	Vicki Sheble
1996-01b	Sara Halperin YCR	2001-02b	Mikel Panteris
1996-02	Robert Rand A	2001-03	Ben Sawyer
1996-02?	Jon Dame	2001-03	Joel Glatz
1996-02b	Eammon McKinney	2001-03	Ned Burnett
1996-03	Mary Rand A	2001-03b	Ari Leach
1996-03b	Andy Rand	2001-03b	Leah Wade
1996-07	Amelia Clukey	2001-05	Alexandra Richards A
1996-07	Julia Clukey	2001-05	Julia Simpson
1996-97	Andy Harris	2001-05	Mabry MacGregor
1996-97	Joan Walters	2001-05b	Matthew Glatz
1996-97	Sam Dulac	2001-06b	Cassie Grimmnitz
1996-97	Willy Galbraith	2002-03	Alex Hughes
1996-98	Allen Littlefield A	2002-03	Harry Grimmnitz A
1996-98	Ian Macleod	2002-03	Marty Soule A
1997-08	Dan Bell	2002-03	Michaela Loisel A
1997-98	Jeremy Dameren	2002-05	Brittany Ladner
1997-98	Maggie McKinney A	2002-05	Richard Bridges A
1997-98	Seamus McKinney	2002-06	Andy Fisk A
1998-00	Diane Elvin	2002-07	Brad Sawyer
1998-00	Eric Webster	2002-07	Janet Sawyer A
1998-00	Olivia Clukey	2002-07	Zoe Fisk
1998-02	Maggie Simpson	2002-07b	Joanna Bridges
1998-02?	Maggie Kennedy	2004-	Grace Burnett
1998-03b	Ben Grimmnitz	2004-05	Hannah Caswell
1998-03b	Sophie Gabrion	2004-05	Lauralee Raymond
1998-99	Barbara Crowley	2004-07	Ben Barnes
1998-99	Can Insel	2004-07	Karen Fisk A
1998-99	Gozde Kurtay	2004-08	David Bridges
1998-99	Mali Marenberg	2005-06	Andy Bosworth
1999-00?	Rev. Calvin Dame	2005-06	John Hutton
1999-03b	Bethany Glatz	2005-06	Mya Elliot
2000-05	Linda Findlay A	2005-06	Noah Bosworth
2001-02	Becka Homan	2005-07	Gabe Greenlaw
2001-02	Denise Fahey	2005-07	J'rae Mendall
2001-02	Erin Pidot	2005-07	Peter Mendall A
2001-02	Evan Gove	2006-07	Alyra Donisvitch
2001-02	Hannah Frankel	2006-07	Ari Nitzel
2001-02	Jane Gilbert	2006-07	Connor Fahy
2001-02	Janet Bridges	2006-07	Maggie Ricker A
2001-02	Jenna Marcus	2006-07	Ru (Evelyn Tai ) Allen
2001-02	Jim McKendry A	2006-07	Samantha Gilbert (Ricker)
2001-02	Jim Spicer A	2007-06	Dan Ucci

Youth conference notes:

--Helen retired from working with the district in 2007 when Northeast District combined with New Hampshire/Vermont District. UUA and district youth programming changed.

--Ariel (Carolyn) Ziemer, who now attends UUCA, participated in District youth activities from the Sangerville church.

## UUC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Religious Exploration, Adult Enrichment

### *Introduction:*

*This section is in process of being compiled. Part of the concern is whether to put all programs in this section as an overall reference, or to place details with other respective section, such Elder Ministry or Social Justice and have ones that cross categories here. My tendency is to have them all listed here with cross reference to other sections. This will take a little more research.*

*I will say, however, that the diversity of the offerings both show the diversity of interest and the great opportunity to engage with many areas. Adult enrichment as an entity has developed largely in the last ten years.*

*Helen Zidowecki*

### **2010 Building Your Own Theology** with Rev. Carie Johnsen

Wednesdays, 6:00 8:00 p.m. ~

January 27<sup>th</sup> 2010 February 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, March 10<sup>th</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup>, April 7<sup>th</sup>

Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic Unitarian Universalist adult religious exploration program invites participants to develop their own personal credos. Together we will explore ultimate meanings –our deepest values and convictions. We will build theologies based on the materials from your individual life experiences.

### **2010 Looking at Later Life** Gifts, Challenges, Celebrations in the Wisdom Years 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of the month, After Elder Lunch, 1-2pm, Sanctuary

February 14 Ageism. Helen Wing. Attitudes toward, experiences and perceptions of, and opportunities for the older years.

March 14 Legalities and Legacies. Things that help assure that our wishes are followed, such as wills and directives, and current laws and practices.

April 11 End of Life Planning with the Minister. Rev. Carie Johnsen

. How do we want to be remembered? What about our lives do we want to share with others?

May 9 Celebrating the Wisdom Years.

2013“Where Will We Live?” is a three part Small Group Ministry series on how our living arrangements change as we age that was offered in 2013.

### **2011 Building Your Own Theology: Ethics**

Rev. Carie Johnsen and Rev. Helen Zidowecki

Third Wednesday of the Month, 6-8 pm

Apply your beliefs, values and convictions to ethical situations. Using a “Moral Compass,” participants address various ethical dilemmas. Each session focuses on a dimension of moral decision making.

January 19 Authority–Can We Be Good Without God? Explore your authority for making ethical decisions.

February 16 Motivation–Doing the Right Thing for the Wrong Reason

Probe your conscious and subconscious motivations for ethical behavior.

March 16 Responsibility--The Difficult Art of Doing Good Distinguish between the ethics of conscience and the ethics of responsibility.

April 20 Situation–What is Going on Here Morally? Consider whether moral principles are absolute in every time and place, or whether they vary with the situation.

May 18 Intention–Does the End Justify the Means?

Examine the age-old issue of whether the end justifies the means, and to explore the role of intention in moral decision-making.

**2015: Ethical Wills: What are They and Should I have One?**

We will all leave remnants of our lives behind when we depart this life. We will leave possessions, be they many or few, we will leave sums of money, be it large or small, and we will leave memories that will be unique to the person who will be remembering us. But what do YOU want people to remember you best by? What values have you cherished most that you hope to have passed on? Has your life exemplified what you had hoped to teach the world? If you want to be very clear, why not write an ethical will? Ethical Wills are not a new invention, and have a long history in the Hebrew religious tradition. This program is part of our *Congregations and Beyond* ministry whereby we bring our values and principles out into the greater Augusta community.

Date: Saturday, December 12, 2015, Time: 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m.

Leader: Nancee Campbell

**2015-2016: Unitarian Universalists Praying**

We will have a six session long exploration and conversation about prayer – its role in our lives, our relationship with it, our hopes for it – and we will pray. Prayer is complicated for Unitarian Universalists, being private, public, universal, personal, and intimate – and also traditional. Help us sort this out on Sunday afternoons this fall. This program is designed for members and friends of UUCC with a distinct Unitarian Universalist identity or curiosity about prayer in our faith.

Date: 2nd Sunday of the month, October 2015 – May 2016

Time: 12:30 – 2:30 Location: Drew House, 1<sup>st</sup> Fl, Front Rm

Leader: Gary Chapin and Annie Voorhees

**2015-2016 Books for Serious Readers series started**

A discussion of five books, chosen for their provocative ideas. Leaders are invited to attend any or all of the sessions. We hope for lively discussions focused on the books and the ideas they contain. All of the books are available from interlibrary loan if you prefer not to purchase them.

Times: Thursdays from 12:30 – 2:30 pm

Location: Fellowship Hall

Leaders: Kathy Kellison & June Zellers

**2016: The Four Agreements**

*The book The Four Agreements* by Don Miguel Ruiz offers an opportunity for the participants to explore how their thought process is developed by influences and symbols. The agreements offer the participants an avenue to open up to awareness through the four teachings: be impeccable with your word, don't take things personally, don't make assumptions, and always do your best. Participants will explore how to use these practices to free them from their previous teaching and allow them to open to the possibility of their own new interruptions of what fits best for their lives, as opposed to what is expected or engrained in their belief system.

Dates: Sundays, January 10, 2016 to February 14, 2016

Time: 6:00 - 7:30 Location: Church, Committee Room

Leader: Helen O. Paré

**2016: Forgiveness**

What does it really mean? Who needs it? How do we give it? How do we get it?

In this class, we will work through practical exercises with the goal of becoming a more forgiving individual. We will learn to forgive through applying a five-step method of forgiving transgressions you have experienced.

Once you have learned the five steps, you will be able to apply them to a variety of hurts. By doing so, you can truly become a person who has few unresolved hurts and who can resolve new hurts thoroughly.

Dates: 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, January through May  
Time: 1:00 – 3:30      Location: Fellowship Hall.  
Leader: Maggie Ricker

### **The Way of the Naturalist**

As Unitarian Universalists we strive to respect the interdependent web of all existence of which we are a part. This program offers stand-alone sessions that provide an experience and an opportunity to discuss how we are all interdependent with each other and the natural world. These sessions offer participants an opportunity to feel connected to the earth and to each other, to share their own personal experiences, and to deepen their understanding about the natural world. This program is part of our *Congregations and Beyond* ministry whereby we bring our values and principles out into the greater Augusta community. Each session is designed as “stand-alone”, so that participants may attend one, or all.

#### *Nature Up Close*

Presentation of photography and essays

September, 20, 2015

Time: 2:00 p.m.      Location: Fellowship Hall

Master Naturalist, Artist & Poet: Melanie Lanctot

#### *The Northern Stars Planetarium*

Sunday, October 25, 2015

Buker Community Center, 22 Armory St. Augusta, 2:00-3:15 pm

Leader: Cheryl Clukey, Social Activities

Space limited, sign-up required at [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org)

#### *The Way of the Flowers*

Spring, 2016

Leader: Melanie Lanctot, Master Naturalist

For more information contact [admin@augustauu.org](mailto:admin@augustauu.org) or 622-3232.

### **2016-2017 OUR JOURNEY’S END:** The Flaming Chalice, Dec. 2016

Spiritual and practice series to guide end of -life planning.

December 4 How Does A life Mean? Finding Tools to Craft Our Story

Using image, language, sound and metaphor we converse with our mortality and learn its story.

January 15 The Paperwork is Killing Me!

The logistics of death: medical, legal, financial, and the disposition of the body.

February 5 We Practice Some Dying Every Day

Cultivating a spiritual foundation to guide our living and dying.

March 5 Crafting Our Legacy

To be remembered. Shaping Celebrations of Life. Writing obituaries and Ethical Wills.

April 2 The Many Faces of Grief

Grief is the natural response to death of all kinds-natural and expected, as well as sudden and tragic.

May 7 Final Decisions

Compassionate choices and Hospice care.

June 11 Unfinished Business. Completeness of life at death, those who we leave behind.

## UCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Small Group Ministry

In 1997 Rev. Glenn Turner, Northeast District Minister, introduced the Unitarian Universalist ministers in Maine to the work of Rev. Carl George, an evangelical Christian church consultant with the concept of “meta-church” or transformational church. The UU focus is on *intimacy*, or bonding within the community, and *ultimacy*, or considering life topics in more depth.

*During the next year Glenn preached about small group ministry at UCC. He led the All Church Retreat in the fall, which resulted in an Ad Hoc Committee being formed and careful planning by Cheryl Ring, Stefanie Barley, Harold Burnett; Susan Burnett; Lynne Caswell; Gary Chapin; Charlene Clevin; Bill Galbraith; Carolyn Galbraith; Jane Gilbert; Glenn Hodgkins; and Nancy Niven. (Names in bold are still part of UCC in 2018.)*

In April 1999, a Sunday service was followed by an April 1999 Wednesday evening opportunity to form groups consisting of fifty people in six groups. Ad Hoc Committee members were the first facilitators. The following were part of the first six groups. **Carolyn Ladd, Linda Conti**, Alice Gifford, Deb Hjort, Jill Morton, Barb DeSerres, Janet White, Suzanne Berard, Barbara Crowley, **Linda Findlay**, Pat Halperin, **Wick Johnson**, Lois Whitcomb, **Jacqui Clark**, Kip DeSerres, **Nancy Fritz, Melanie Lanctot, Pam Lombard, Debbie Mattson**, Jim Spice, Beth Wheatley, Cheryl Chapin, Karen Fisk, Andrew Fisk, Colleen Freise, Don Barrett, **Martha Pettetier**, Sharon Sanstrom. **George Lapointe, Hilary Neckles, June Zellers**, Elaine Letendre, **Sara Hodgkins, Jenny McKendry, Michaela Loisel, Karen Allen**, Judy Jamison, Genny Keller, **Helen McKendry**, and **Jim McKendry**

Kathy Kellison was the SGM Coordinator from 2003 until June 2015. Following is her article, “Revisioning Workshop at UU Community Church, Augusta, ME”, in the CGN September 11, 2011 (UU SGM Network), Excerpts.

Small Group Ministry started at UCC 12 years ago. We felt the need to consider anew the role of Small Group Ministry within our congregation, including changes over the years in the *congregation* and in the *Small Group Ministry model itself*.

On Saturday September 17,(2011) 28 people gathered to explore Small Group Ministry at our church. With the help of expert facilitation provided by *Peg and Tom Herbert* of the Concord, New Hampshire Unitarian Universalist Church, we began by looking at what having this ministry provides to us individually and to our congregation. We created a broad vision. From there we looked at the basic elements that define Small Group Ministry. *What makes it different from other aspects of church life?*

Many of the contributions to our vision of Small Group Ministry focused on relationships and how they are 'broadened', strengthened' and 'deepened' by participation. We reflected that qualities of Small Group Ministry have permeated our church culture, most notably an increase in civility at committee and membership meetings since we began this practice. We noted that unlikely friendships have developed through group participation. We have become clearer about what being a Unitarian Universalist means to us and have learned to speak up about it in many settings. The opportunity to minister to one another through group participation is a gift for both giver and receiver. We are grateful for the ability and willingness of groups to welcome and integrate those who are new to our community. In a very brief time we identified a wealth of gifts available through Small Group Ministry.

After reviewing the basic elements of Small Group Ministry, we talked about how we might reinvigorate our practice. We looked at creating more connection between groups, encouraging groups to become involved in more service projects, offering group leaders opportunities to expand their vision and skill as they work with their groups and making Small Group Ministry even more available and accessible to those who are interested in participating. It is in these areas that the committee will be focusing in coming weeks.

We plan to recruit some new leaders for this ministry, and expect to begin some new groups. We will be offering training to group leaders in October. Our plan is to meet with all current leaders and those who want to join the leadership ranks. We will be launching new groups in January. The Small Group Ministry Committee and I look to the future with hope and enthusiasm.

*The Small Group Ministry Handbook* was initiated about ten years ago and is reviewed and revised as needed. This is found on the clipboard in the pews, in the Vestibule, on the website, and is available at new members events and SGM other events.

Luke Curtis was Coordinator for two years (2015-2017). The position was defunded in 2017. Small Group Ministry is in a period of review and transformation.

--The number of people involved at a time varies, and people are engaged for various lengths of time. Connection with Small Group Ministry, long or short, engages participants in developing a healthy community and active spiritual journeys. A minimum of 180 people have participated in groups since 1999.

--We have expanded the Small Group Ministry process into short term series such as UU Principles and a series on "Where Will We Live" as we age. Small group sessions were part of the Faith Café in January 2018. Participants in such programs need to be included in the statistics around Small Group Ministry.

--Group Leaders and the SGM Committee meet four times a year, including a longer retreat, for planning, sharing and celebration.

### **Small Group Ministry influence beyond UUCC:**

UUCC has been instrumental in the development of Small Group Ministry throughout the denomination. We did not keep SGM to ourselves. As Cheryl Ring notes:

*In the next few years after UUCC launched SGM, I worked with Calvin Dame (minister) and other people in our church to make any number of presentations about SGM. I can't remember all of them, but they included General Assemblies ( Nashville 2000, Cleveland 2001), the West Paris/Norway Church (with Dan Sorenson), the Pittsfield Church, the Castine church, the North Andover Church, the San Jose CA church flew me out there to make several presentations on SGM at their Annual Meeting after hearing us at GA, the church in Palatine, Illinois, and internationally, to the church in Fredericton, New Brunswick. (Cheryl also created the electronic list on the UUA website, now under the UU Small Group Ministry Network.)*

Kathy Kellison and Helen Zidowecki had presentations at Northeast District meetings. UUCC published books in 2001 and 2003 that were sold by the church and the UUA Bookstore.

Calvin Dame was a co-founder of the UU Small Group Ministry Network in 2004. UUCC is a congregational member and has contributed over thirty session plans and about the same number of articles, and has been involved in Small Group Ministry conferences. UUCC is preparing a reflection on twenty years of UU Small Group ministry and its role in today, for a workshop publication at General Assembly in Kansas City, June 2018.

## UCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Social Activities

Social Activities are abundant. They build community, introduce new adventures. A listing of activities is available in *The Flaming Chalice* every month.

Thanks to Cheryl Clukey who has been coordinating these events for a number of years.

### UCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Social Activities (Rev. June 1, 2018)

Social Activities remains a long standing tradition in our UCC. Its mission remains the same: to bring our own and that of the wider community together to share a relaxing, pleasurable, and/or educational event with others, or have just plain fun. Frequently we would plan an event and gather groups of people who did not know each other very well, or at all, as they only saw one another on Sundays. Meeting and getting to know each other is always a great benefit to our UCC community.

Over the years we have lost several fun activities for a variety of reasons, extensive planning required or difficulty finding a working committee.

The following activities took place over the last few years:

- Discussions, both political and historical
- book talk/authors
- movies
- historical presentations
- dinner: pot luck and themed
- music
- short trips
- kayaking, canoeing, hiking
- Science
- cooking classes
- Arts and crafts/ painting
- multi-generational events
- DIY workshops
- games and JUST PLAIN FUN!

Many people expressed appreciation for the variety and range of social activities offered. Several people offered suggestions which were always great, interesting ones. Social Activities is always open to new and different ideas.

In the future, I would like to revisit a few activities we have lost, such as CIRCLE SUPPERS, THEATER trips and Contra Dance.

I am very appreciative and grateful for the help I have received organizing and contributing to our Social Activities effort. At times, it was difficult to generate the organizational and "hands on" help required, but in the end many always come forward ready to help.

So, any ideas for next year? Let me hear from you.

Cheryl Clukey, Social Activities

## UCC -FIRST 25 YEARS: *Social Justice*

Social Justice has been known by various names over the years, including Social Concerns and Faith in Action. There has been a diversity of interests, type and level of activity, and varying length of time on projects. Some examples are given in this report, and a more comprehensive could be developed from the Annual Reports and *The Flaming Chalice* historically. UCC, and its predecessor congregations, were known for being visible in social justice work. This has increased with the ministerial leadership from Rev. Carie Johnsen.

The diversity of events has engaged designated leaders for various aspects of Social Justice and provides many options for participating in Social Justice. This is coordinated through the Social Justice Committee by Dale McCormick.

### LONG-TERM SUPPORTING SERVICES

**Partnering With Augusta Food Bank (AFB)** has occurred since before consolidation UCC members generously donate food, money, their time volunteering at the food bank and serving on the board of the AFB.

Contact: Becky Harvey

**Share the Plate** One Sunday per month the collection is given in its entirety to a local, national or international non-profit organization. The recipients of this collection have included in the past the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee, Maine Migrant Health Program, Keep Maine Warm, Augusta Food Bank, Family Violence Project, Islam Relief USA, Maine Council of Churches, St. Mark's Public Suppers and Bread of Life Ministries.

**Neighbor to Neighbor Project: First Saturday Public Suppers** UCC partners with members of The 209 Church (formerly St. Mark's Episcopal Church and Prince of Peace Lutheran) as well as unaffiliated volunteers, for First Saturday Public Suppers, the Augusta Food Bank, Addie's Attic clothing bank and the Essentials Pantry.

Contact Jenny McKendry.

**Family Violence Project** The congregation has a long history of partnering with Family Violence Project (FVP) to foster education and raise awareness around issues of domestic violence, elder abuse, teen dating violence, and bullying. We support the vision of FVP through share the plate, adopting a family during the holidays, and educational events. "The Power of One" Stewardship event in February 2016 was a joint program with FVP.

**Guest At Your Table (GAYT)** This yearly program (usually around Thanksgiving) fosters understanding and awareness of Unitarian Universalist Service Committee's human rights work. By celebrating the GAYT in the congregation, we are nurturing a spirit of gratitude and "justice, equity, and compassion in human relations."

### SPECIFIC INITIATIVES

**Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network**—In 2012, Maine became the 17th state to create a State Advocacy Network. This network is a statewide coalition of UU congregations committed to systemic change through legislative advocacy. UCC has been founding member and support for MUUSAN.

Contact: Dale McCormick, and visit [www.muusan.org](http://www.muusan.org)

## **UNITING FOR RACIAL JUSTICE: Making Our Way *Together* To Conscious**

**Engagement.** Racism is pervasive and racial injustice requires of us a willingness to stay tuned in, informed, ready to take risks, make mistakes, be called out on our white privilege and do better. Our Unitarian Universalist principles and history call us to close the gap between our values, our actions and our beliefs. People of color living across the nation need us to stand in solidarity as comrades in the work to dismantle racism in all its insidious, nefarious and sundry forms. Adult Enrichment has offered “Waking Up White” course throughout the current year.

Our efforts to support the work of the Maine Wabanaki-State Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Maine Wabanaki REACH has offered multiple ways for members of UUCC to reflect, engage and advocate for the first people of Maine. UUCC is a host site for REACH Ally trainings in central Maine. Several members have completed the training. Stay informed about future ally trainings by reading the monthly *Flaming Chalice* newsletter and Weekly E-blast.

**Capital Area New Mainers Project** This cross-cultural organization that welcomes immigrants and works to create a thriving, integrated, multicultural community in central Maine. The mission of the project is to help secondary refugees (those refugees who were settled in one U.S. location & moved from that location to the Capital Area) with housing, education (adult & public), transportation, food, furniture & housewares. UUCC was a founding member of CANMP and supports a Mentor Team to help a primary refugee family adjust to their new life in Augusta. Many people from the Augusta UUCC are members of the group & are involved in activities to meet its mission. Started in 2017.

**Kennebec Valley Organization** This consortium of religious organizations, union locals and social service agencies gathers to identify community needs and design strategies to effect public policy decisions addressing those needs. UUCC has been actively involved with KVO, and our current focus has been on maintaining and strengthening services to senior citizens throughout Kennebec Valley.

Contact Roberta Record

**SEXUAL AND GENDER IDENTITY** This is considered under the Welcoming Congregation.

### **VISIBILITY**

We have had at three banners hung inside and outside, such as

2005 Discrimination Free Zone

Standing on the Side of Love

We also fly the rainbow flag.

We participate in various protests, legislative and other hearings, and ongoing community events related to Social Justice Issues. We have participated in the Gay Pride Parade in Portland several years, and were honorary marshals in 2010. (The picture of this honor is in the Vestibule.)

To be done: Detailed listing of social justice events/activities over the years.

## **UUCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Welcoming Congregation**

The UUA created the *Welcoming Congregation Handbook* in 1990. It set out actions churches can take to make their congregational environment more welcoming and nurturing to sexual minorities. There are 13 guidelines created that set out commitments, actions, suggestions for congregational

life and community outreach. This was *revolutionary*. There were few gay or lesbian clergy, we were beginning the struggle of civil rights in Maine, and UU sexuality education that included gender and sexual affiliations was truly 'cutting edge'. The intervening years have been *evolutionary*. The spectrum of intentionality has expanded to include people who identify as bisexual, transsexual and transgendered, and questioning, from the young to the elderly. The focus is on spiritual inclusion.

Two key activities were occurring in Augusta prior to starting the official Welcoming Congregation process. First, both All Souls and Winthrop Street congregations offered *About Your Sexuality* to youth. The last revision of that curriculum was published in 1983, just prior to the identification of HIV/AIDS in Maine (late 1980's). UU sexuality education was greatly expanded with the *Our Whole Lives Curriculum* around 2000, for all ages and broadening the diversity of gender and sexual identity included.

Second, in 1995 UUCC was the supporting agency for the Speakout Project for Equal Rights, created in response to the recent anti-gay rights activities surrounding the Question One ballot initiative. Its broad educational purpose was non-partisan. The Project created a pool of trainers in Maine with assistance from four trainers from the Boston Gay/Lesbian/Bisexual Speakers Bureau. The Boston folks conducted two train-the-trainers sessions, July 22nd in Augusta and July 29th in Portland and Bangor. Altogether, the project trained over 100 volunteer speakers throughout the state. These volunteers, most of whom were non-heterosexual, then went in pairs to conduct over fifty 'dialogues on discrimination and equal rights with members of churches, service clubs, employees at their workplaces, college campuses, and other organizations.

The Welcoming Congregation Committee started at UUCC in late 2005 with Peter Friedrichs, Ministerial Intern, holding an exploratory meeting. A committee met monthly. We have created a list of programs, education and general changes we would like to have happen in UUCC as we wind our way down the path to a congregational vote of UUCC as an official Welcoming Congregation. Nancy Fritz and Maggie Ricker were Co-Chairs. Over the years, participants included Marion Blasziez, Terry Cookson (Cairns), Ida Gammon, Priscilla Jenkins, Joan Mohlar, Keith Morgan-Davie, Don Paul Sommerfeld, Dan Sorensen, Jim Spicer, Helen Wing, Helen Zidowecki.

In 2006, the Welcoming Congregation spent many hours in many meetings trying to decide who we are and what we need to be doing. Throughout the year we:

- Held a weekend long educational retreat in 2006 (for 20 individuals) run by Nancy Fritz and Peter Friedrichs. Other shorter retreats followed.
- Hosted several Sunday afternoon movies on the topic of LGBT issues
- Held an exceptionally well attended panel discussion featuring several transgendered individuals
- Held another well attended event, a potluck dinner discussion of the book, '*She's Not There, A Life In Two Genders*' by Colby professor Jenny Boylan. The discussion was led by Rev. Lee Devoe and Jane Gilbert
- Held one last workshop on June 6<sup>th</sup> exploring and coming to an understanding of our own feelings regarding transgendered individuals. This workshop will be lead by PJMears.

Similar workshops, educational presentations, and Small Group Ministry sessions, Sunday morning services continued for the next two years.

Excerpts from two articles by Maggie Ricker in *The Flaming Chalice* are included here.

October 2007 Were you able to attend church October 7th? If so, then you had the opportunity to observe what we thought was a very innovative service. Our goal was to help people to not only hear but perhaps have a further understanding of the many (small?) ways in which oppression based on sexual orientation can hurt people. Maybe you even recognized a thought or feeling you

yourself have held. Nearly everyone knows someone who is part of a sexual minority. But how many of us have had the courage or taken the time to ask what oppression this person has lived with or what pain they have endured over the course of their life? Just listening with a compassionate ear can help relieve some of the painful burden.

#### Jan. 2008 On Becoming A Welcoming Congregation

The Federal Government isn't the only entity holding a significant election this year. The Augusta UUCC congregation will be asked to vote on whether to apply to the UUA to become designated as a Welcoming Congregation. Are you one of the many who have wondered, 'just what the heck is a Welcoming Congregation? Will it mean I have to act differently? Aren't we already welcoming? And what is all this fuss anyway? No one in this church would ever say an unkind word to anyone!' Well, you aren't alone in your questions. The Welcoming Congregation Task Force wants to answer every one because we want to win your vote in June. What does it look like when put into action? What would that look like in day-to-day life? As with any change it works best when everyone has the opportunity to become educated about the issue and to be able to express their opinion about it.

2009 We voted to become a Welcoming Congregation on March 1, 2009, and received the UUA certification. *Our Whole Lives* curriculum, resources used in RE, session plans in Small Group Ministry, and educational, awareness programs, and worship services, offered throughout the year weave Welcoming Congregation into the fabric of the congregation. *Welcoming is what we model for each other, for our children, and for the larger community with our public affirmation, interactions and language.*

UUCC has actively participated in every initiative related to sexual and gender equality. Maggie Ricker, was a major organizer in Augusta area for the Marriage Equality campaign, offers the following summary of the work the Augusta UUCC for the UUA district Welcoming Congregation e-list. Thank you, Maggie, for taking this leadership. See *The Flaming Chalice*, November 2009 for description of the work of the campaign.

2010 The Welcoming Alliance was established. The intent is 1) to continue the focus on Bisexual/Gay/Lesbian/Trans and Questioning/Queer issues, and 2) to expand into another area of intentional welcoming. While the Alliance has not been active, in the Annual Report of 2011-2012, noted work by individuals and groups within the congregation, including:

\*Nov 13th *Transgender Justice* Rev. Carie Johnsen

Phyllis Cudmore November 20<sup>th</sup> was Transgender Day of Remembrance. We honored and named those who had died in the past year due to anti-transgender hate and prejudice.

\*Working on the petition drive and other activities around marriage equality.

\*At various grade levels in Religious Exploration.

\*We also had panels of the AIDS quilt in the sanctuary in honor of a community service.

Welcoming Congregation: Marriage Equality *Maggie Ricker*, was a major organizer in Augusta area for the Marriage Equality campaign. Continuing from last church year, UUCC was involved in the following ways:

- We held weekly phone banks at the Church.
- In August, we had a very successful baked bean dinner with 40 pounds of hotdogs and 7 huge crock pots of beans and desserts, followed by a fabulous talent show.
- The last week of the campaign, the No on One campaign door to door canvassing event that involved many of our members who made phone calls, canvassed, and provided food.
- We offered two new Small Group Session Plans: "After A Vote" and "Heterosexism"
- UUCC, with the leadership of *Rev. Carie Johnsen*, created the spiritual environment for the

congregation and larger community with three key events.  
On Oct 25th had “Standing on the Side of Love!” service. It was standing room only. We also served wedding cake at Fellowship hour. We got a front page article in the *Kennebec Journal*  
The Sunday before the vote, we held an interfaith candle light Vigil outside the church. (The *Kennebec Journal* indicated that 75 people were in attendance, including 5 clergy.).  
On Wednesday night after the vote, we held a service of grieving and healing and commitment

NOTE: The Welcoming Congregation Alliance can be included under Social Justice as an ongoing way to hold up the work around equality for the GBLTQ issues. We need to document such activities, primarily from *The Flaming Chalice* each year. This includes noting items that may not have been included here.

## UCC - FIRST 25 YEARS: Worship

Sunday and other Worship Services are found on the first page of *The Flaming Chalice*.

### **Sunday Morning Worship**

**September through May**, Sunday worship is held at 9:15 and 11:00am. All Souls started two services in 1990, and this was carried over with consolidation. Both services are usually the same, but the services may differ on some Sundays, such Religious Education Celebration or Winter Celebrations.

**June through Labor Day**. Sunday morning services are led by a different lay leader each week. This pattern seems to have evolved around 1994. Prior to that, All Souls had had potluck suppers and more informal discussions or programs, originally held on a week night.

**Traditions in Sunday Services:** Unless otherwise noted, the following service traditions were brought into the consolidation.

**Ingathering Sunday** On the first Sunday after Labor Day, and includes the Water Ceremony (Explained more in Goddess/Earth Circles)

**Harvest Feast and Communion** before Thanksgiving and may include using the communion cups from Winthrop Street.

**Christmas Eve Candlelight Service** The time and number of services has varied.

**Stewardship Sunday** relates to stewardship as an ongoing spiritual practice including regular giving to the congregation.

**Peeper Sunday** started in the 1970’s at All Souls as recognition of Spring. Originally a spontaneous service, it now is the passing of the frog statuette to the person who reported hearing the peepers first to care for until the next spring, and singing the Peeper song, written by Helen Zidowecki with editing from Harold Booth.

**Religious Exploration Recognition Sunday** At the end of May

**Annual Meeting as Spiritual Practice** (First Sunday in June) started by Rev. Carie

**Flower Communion** (Second Sunday of June)

**Music Sundays** are fairly new with the evolving of the choir, orchestra, drumming group, and others.

**Special worship services** may be held during the week. For example, the Healing Service in December is held on a weekday evening.

**Worship Associates** were first mentioned in the Annual Report of 2009:

“Worship Committee was formed this fall to assist the minister in creating worship for Sunday

services. Members were Annie Voorhees, Christine Little, Martha Pelletier, and Teresa Kavanaugh. We met with the minister once a month to share ideas and plan upcoming services. Each Sunday a designated committee member shared in the leadership of the service and participated through readings, personal sharing, song, or dance. Another responsibility for members was working with the minister to line up guest speakers and worship leaders. Some services were led by the committee members themselves.....”

Worship Associates are drawn from all parts of the congregation, starting with youth. They present the diversity in the congregation, and provide consistency in the flow of worship.

The role of Worship Associate has changed and deepened over the years.

Initially, it was the main role of the Worship Committee to create and schedule lay-led services when the minister was out of the pulpit; also helping the occasional visiting minister or guest to settle in to Sunday worship. The Worship team still fills this role, but also works with the settled minister every week to plan our Sunday services in a more collaborative way.

With help from first Rev. Lee Devoe, and creatively carried forward by Rev. Carie Johnsen, the Worship team has taken on new responsibility for the success of every Sunday. Worship Associates participate regularly in many parts of the service including, but not limited to, the welcome, the offering, the Embracing Meditation, rituals, readings, and microphone wrangling. They engage members of the congregation by asking them to participate in services via the chalice lighting, announcements, and other readings; keeping in mind the need to engage a diverse cross-section of the community.

Behind the scenes, the Worship team replenishes candles and batteries, and helps to keep the sanctuary beautiful. They have committed as a group to promote the constant use of microphones so that folks who struggle with low hearing can enjoy the service and fully participate.

They are trying, though not always succeeding, to incorporate new technology, offering a dimension of multimedia to the Sunday experience.

The members of the Worship Committee are also skilled listeners; always taking in the reactions of the congregation, so as to be constantly improving and deepening worship in the community.

As the years whiz by, the Worship Committee is devoted to a shared ministry, ever deepening the flow of services, and the flow between minister and congregation, helping to weave the best experience possible for everyone who attends, or participates in, our sacred hour.

