



The Flaming Chalice

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

September 2010

Worship Services

One SUNDAY SERVICE AT 10:00 a.m.

Sept 5th *What makes music inspirational?* Priscilla "PJ" Jenkins

Universal inspirational music. Music Inspires. What makes music inspirational? Who decides what is inspired music? Nearly everyone agrees, that there is spirit in music, and there is music for the spirit.

Return to Two SUNDAY SERVICES AT 9:15 & 11:00 a.m.

Sept. 12th *In-Gathering Sunday* Rev. Carie Johnsen
Karen Fisk, Director of Religious Exploration

Please bring a vial of water from your summer sojourn to add to our communal bowl. The water may signify a moment that was spiritually significant for you, the turning of your spirit whether you ventured far or stayed close to home. The waters gathered and sanctified by this community will be used ceremonially in rites of passage in the year to come

Sept. 19th 9:15 Religious Exploration Kick-off Rev. Carie Johnsen
Karen Fisk, Director of Religious Exploration

This service will mark the start of a new year of religious exploration classes for our children. Join us as we celebrate the journey of discovery and wonder in this unfolding universe.

11:00 *Temples in the Hearts* Rev. Carie Johnsen

Side by side we come, year after year, month after month, week after week. Side by side we gather together amid the diversity of theological beliefs yet united as one faith community. Side by side we come building temples in our hearts.

Sept. 29th *The Spirit of Persia* Rev. Carie Johnsen

This service will explore the works of two popular Persian poets and mystics— Hafiz and Rumi . Their quest for the Beloved is passionate and playful. Their writings are a rich expression of their longing for communion with God .

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen
President: Sheila Comerford
Director of Religious Exploration: Karen Fisk
Administrator: Julie Pelletier
Choir Director: Douglas Barley
Small Group Ministry Coordinator: Kathy Kellison

Office Hours: Monday & Tuesday, 8 am-4 pm
Saturday 8 am-12 pm
Office: (207)622-3232, admin@augustauu.org
Minister's Study: (207)623-3663(office), (508)221-5296(Cell) and
(207)395-8051(home - effective 2/24/10)
revcariejohnsen@gmail.com
<http://www.augustauu.org>
Minister's Hours: Monday 11 am - 4pm
Tuesday 1pm - 6pm
2nd & 4th Wednesdays 11am - 4pm

Next newsletter deadline is **September 20th**. Please submit newsletter articles by email to Julie Pelletier, UUC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org

A Faith Journey...

I hope all of you had a peaceful and fun filled summer of family and friends.

While some of us have been busy with a summer routine that pulls us away from the pews and halls of UUCC, others have enjoyed a large variety of worship services. New this summer was a summer spirit play coordinated by Liza Gottlieb. It is my understanding that summer activity on Sunday morning has increased with as many as 60+ people attending summer service plus a number of children partaking in the children's program. It is very exciting to see the church keep it's vibrancy amid the busyness in the summer. We are grateful for all the worship leaders and associates, childcare workers and parent volunteers. Thank you!

I have been back in the office for a few weeks now, slowly returning to the rhythms and patterns of minister here at UUCC. This past week was the first board meeting. As the meeting progressed, I could not help but marvel (as is now my pattern) at the dedication of the leaders in this congregation and the generosity of the membership.

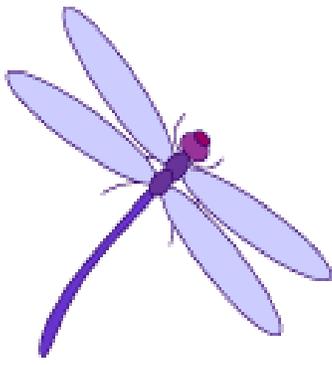
There are three particular items on my mind today that demonstrate this congregation's commitment to being a healthy, vital and dynamic religious institution. Two of these items come directly from that board meeting. The third is from the membership committee.

- ◆ Last June the congregation voted on a budget and gave the board authority to adjust it based on final pledge numbers. The items approved by the board in the current UUCC Budget include many tasks that will serve to create fiscal health through solid practices and clearly delineated responsibilities. These items include adding an audit of the financial records, hiring a bookkeeper for payroll, giving your staff and minister raises, setting aside money for web design and an event sexton. Supporting the work of the fundraising and stewardship committee with fiscal resources all add up to a clear message—fiscal responsibility is important at UUCC. Voting in a financial chair for the first time in several years only serves to further endorse that message.
- ◆ The decision to embark on safe congregation work with the voting in of a task force begins the important work of building into the fabric of this congregation policies and practices that will ensure the safety of all members and visitors. This task force will look at everything from fire codes to keeping our children safe to creating accessible safe buildings to looking at how we welcome people of all races, ages, ability levels, sexual orientation and beliefs to developing and institutionalizing practices that will create a culture inclined toward sexual health. The task force will engage the congregation with hard questions along the way and present policies for congregational approval. It is a three year journey. It is important work.
- ◆ In the spring of the year, the membership committee made a decision to produce a new UUCC picture directory and a program book for visitors and members. Both items are essential tools for building a community where everyone knows your name and where visitors have resources to help them in the process of getting to know who we are.

All of these items are part of the process of functioning as a program size church. It is good work. It is hard work that I now know this congregation is very capable of achieving.

I look forward to walking alongside you. I look forward to an exciting year of deepening our shared ministry.

In faith, *Carie*



From the desk of Rev. Carie Johnsen
Re: office hours effective September 7th

Mondays 11:00 – 4:00
Tuesdays 1:00 – 6:00 (not available on the 4th Tuesday)
Wednesday 11:00 – 4:00 (not available on the 1st Wednesday)

Please call ahead to confirm availability. Rev. Carie will also make appointments outside these hours upon request.

Thursday is Rev. Carie's Sabbath. Please note she does not return phone calls, read or send emails. She will respond to pastoral care emergencies.

Pastoral Carie Emergencies - please contact Carie on her cell phone at 508-221-5295 and leave a message.

Director of Religious Exploration

Another awesome year of faith development and religious exploration (RE) is nearly underway! This year will include as always Young UU Worship and age-specific RE classes at 9:15 and a Time for All Ages and Spirit Play at 11. Our seventh- and eighth-grade youth will engage in our Coming of Age program, a year of spiritual practice and faith articulation. This year this program will begin and end with the congregation playing a part in the rituals of the event. Our senior youth will again put their faith into action with Peace Jam. And, this year, the Faith in Action Committee is partnering with Religious Exploration on Faith in Action to bring our generations together in service to others.

Speaking of multi-generations, Carie and I will continue to work with the Worship Committee to offer, we hope, innovative and engaging multi-generational worship throughout the year. Nurturing community and communal exploration of faith is our goal—plus it is fun.

We have a great team of volunteer teachers, wonderful nursery care providers, and an engaged RE Committee ready to help make this year enjoyable for our children and youth.

But RE is not just for kids, Helen Zidowecki continues her important work as our adult RE coordinator. A number of programs are in the works for this year.

Our RE Dedication is September 19th at 9:15. All will gather in the sanctuary then go together to their classes after a Time for All Ages. I am eager to see you all.

(For more information on this year's program, please pick up an RE Prospectus from the information desk in the hallway outside the sanctuary. There is also a copy of the Prospectus posted on the RE Bulletin Board.)

Yours in faith,

Karen

Religious Exploration Retreat

Please mark your calendars now for the Religious Exploration Retreat, Sunday, August 29, 4 to 7 p.m.. Join us for an exploration of Curriculum Mapping for our Children and Youth followed by a dinner to celebrate our commitment to our religious exploration program.

Leadership Training Opportunity

Members of the UUCC community will have an excellent opportunity this fall to learn about the skills necessary to being a lay leader. The UUA Northern New England District office will sponsor three day-long seminars at the Bangor UU church called "Harvest the Power: Developing Lay Leadership."

The 12-part program covers a wide variety of topics, and helps answer the question, "Who can and should be a leader in the congregation?" The answer is that almost everyone can lead, but in many congregations only a few step forward. Leader burnout is a major issue throughout the UU denomination, and the best way of avoiding it in our own church is to encourage and empower new leaders.

The three Saturday sessions will be held Oct. 16, Oct. 30, and Nov. 13. Because of the integrated nature of the workshops, participants should plan to attend all three sessions. Car pooling will be available and encouraged. Lunch is provided.

Leading the workshops will be UUCC board members Terry Cookson and Doug Rooks, Cathy Elliott from the Bangor UU church, and Margrit Thomas from Waterville. Becky Gunn, minister of the Bangor church, is the coordinator. This team represents volunteers who attended a first-ever Harvest the Power training in New Hampshire last April.

The UUA is offering a single registration fee per church to encourage as many members as possible from the 12 congregations in central-eastern Maine to attend. The training will be of great benefit to new and current board members and committee chairs, and also to other members of the congregation interested in leadership.

Registration for the Bangor sessions will be available soon, and in the meantime, SAVE THE DATE.

For more information, contact Doug Rooks at drooks@tds.com, or call 724-2759

~ President's Column ~

Greetings!

One of the most glorious summers in anyone's memory is coming to a close, and the time for new church beginnings is upon us. I, too, begin as the incoming president of the church board. This fall will signal many other changes for me as well, with my last child heading off to college and wider horizons. Like her, I am excited with the challenges ahead; a bit nervous, but raring to go!

This summer saw several wonderful well-attended services at UCC-if you made it to any, I'll bet you were glad you did. We also offered "Spirit Play" for the congregation's children and many summer visitors as well. These lay-lead services display the vibrant and inclusive nature of our church-something we should be proud of.

Already we have several fundraising ideas planned for the coming year under the able leadership of Bruce Bierce and Judy McCown of the Fundraising Committee. A UCC cookbook is even in the works! Contact Roberta Record rrecord@2002.yahoo.com or Judy McCown at jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net if you have a delicious recipe to share.

We hope the coming year will be one of spiritual growth and wonderful community for those who attend UCC of Augusta. I will try hard to meet those of you I don't already know-so if you see me before or after the service, please say "hello!"

See you on September 12 for Ingathering Sunday!

Board Meeting

**September 13th
6:15 p.m.
Fellowship Hall**

Leadership Retreat

*Saturday, Sept 11, 2010
Time: 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.
Who: Church Leaders*

*For more information contact Sheila Comerford
at: president@augustauu.org*



The Caring Committee is looking for volunteers. We are in the process of developing a list of volunteers that can be contacted when a need arises. The time/resource commitment would be short and specific to the need. In addition, we are looking for people to volunteer to be on the committee - again the time commitment would be minimal. Please email your interest in either volunteering to be on the list of "helpers" or as a member of the committee (or both!) to Faith Madore @ fmadore@myfairpoint.net or Jill Watson @ jwatson223@roadrunner.com. Thank you for all the support when one of our own needs help.

Social Activities Committee is up and running! If you have any ideas for some fun activities this year, please contact Cheryl Clukey at 441-0337 or cheryclukey5@yahoo.com and Linda Conti at 622-1059 or lindaconti@myfairpoint.net.

FunRaising

Co-Chairs: Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce

UCC COOKBOOK

We hope you will contribute a favorite recipe and a title suggestion for the UCC Cookbook. We also ask that you write a sentence or two about your recipe. Forms are available on the Fundraising Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. Please use that format. Recipes may be placed in the folder on the Bulletin Board or given to Roberta Record. For more information or to have a form sent to you, please contact Roberta at rrecord2002@yahoo.com or Judy McCown at jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net.

Georgian Supra - Fundraising Dinner Saturday, September 11th, 6:30 pm To be given by Marty and David Thornton

We hope that you will join us for a Georgian Supra. After spending six years living in Tbilisi, Georgia (country of) we grew to love the people, the country, and the food!

A supra is a "table". A Georgian table will often have up to 10-15 different dishes (or more). Our table will offer you two breads (cheese filled and corn), spinach pate, egg-plant with walnuts, mushrooms baked in clay pots, sliced tomatoes and cucumbers, dill pickles, pork kebobs, chicken with either garlic or walnut sauce and with luck, a sampling of Georgian wines. And something special for dessert! During dinner you will hear Georgian Folk music.

After dinner we will share with you one of our favorite movies, A Soldier's Father. This wonderful movie was made in the mid 1960s when Georgian filmmaking was at a high point. This poignant story is set in WWII as a Georgian father sets out to find his son who has been wounded in battle. All Georgians know this movie and it is a country wide favorite.

This dinner is for 10 individuals and the reservation deadline is September 1st. Price per person is \$25. Dinner will be held at our home in Hallowell at 18 Mayflower Road.

Proceeds from the Dinner will be donated to the church

For more information or to make your reservation, please contact Marty Thornton at 512-2587 or email marty.thornton@gmail.co

*Unitarian Universalist Community Church
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Office News.....



Mark you Calendars!

Administration Office will be closed Monday, Sept 4th & 6th for the Labor Day weekend. Regular office hours will resume on Tuesday, Sept. 7th.