



The Flaming Chalice

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

November 2009

Worship Services

Sundays at 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m.

November 1st

The Unseen Guests at Our Table

Rev. Carie Johnsen

For more than thirty years, Unitarian Universalist Service Committee has worked with Unitarian Universalists to build lasting connections to UU principles and support the movement for universal human rights. The Guest at Your Table tradition is a simple and meaningful way to incorporate "faith in action" into your life.

November 8

Ambassador of the Light

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Twenty-six miles off the shore of Rockland, at the entrance of Penobscot Bay, sits the barren granite outcropping Matinicus Rock. In 1856, in the absence of her father, fourteen-year-old Abbie Burgess became the lighthouse keeper. Despite weeks of the hurricane force winds and waves thundering against the light towers, this *Ambassador of the Light* kept the flame burning bright so that others might see. This service is a present day reflection on how her story might inform ours?

November 15

To Be Determined

November 22

A Communion to Warm the Soul.

A Multigenerational Worship Team

This traditional communion service will be co-created by a Multigenerational Worship Team.

Co-Leaders - Rev. Carie Johnsen and Karen Fisk, Director of Religious Exploration

Team Members - Christine, Sedona and Morgaine Little, Mary Perkins, Diana Sully, Ida Gammon-Wilson

November 29

Finding Peace with the Holiday Spirit

Rev. Carie Johnsen

As we enter the holiday season, some of us may once again be bumping up against rituals, traditions, celebrations and songs which challenge our theology. This service will offer a chance to reflect and consider ways to reconcile the paradoxical nature of our holiday spirit.

Minister: Rev. Carie Johnsen

President: Debbie Mattson

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

revcariejohansen@gmail.com

<http://www.augustauu.org>

Minister's Hours: Monday-Wednesday 11 am-4pm

Next newsletter deadline is November 16th. Please submit newsletter articles by email to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org

A Faith Journey...

As Unitarian Universalist we affirm seven principles and sources, the first source of which calls us to draw from our *direct experience of that transcending mystery and wonder, affirmed in all cultures, which moves us to a renewal of the spirit and an openness to the forces which create and uphold life*. Whether creating or attending service, we come together with our diverse ideas, hopes and needs in our common quest for deeper meaning, purpose and wholeness.

In calling me to be your minister, you invited me into your midst and extended to me both the privilege and responsibility for creating a weekly worship experience that is insightful and inspiring, participatory and transformative, creative and spiritual, diverse yet dependable. The greatest portion of my time each week is committed to this task of meeting the diverse spiritual needs of this dynamic congregation. The mechanics of creating a rich worship experience is one thing. The mystery of the hour is a holy other.

As the minister I seek to gather together various prayers, readings, rituals, traditions, personal voices, stories and wisdom under one theme, message or worship idea. The challenge each week is in choosing what will be included and what will be left out. With a diverse group it is impossible to meet all the needs all of the time. It is unfeasible to use all of the great ideas all of the time. It is impracticable to use all of the voices and experiences all of the time. So in the end, I have to decide what best enriches the theme, mood and message of the each worship service itself.

To this end I invite you to talk with me about how you can bring your personal insight into the holy act of co-creating transformative and inspiring worship experiences. Your voices, hopes and wisdom are an important part of knowing what exactly will renew spirit and uphold life. Although I will not be able to bring every idea or everyone into worship this year, each and every piece of music, reading or personal story shared will inform the big picture and shape the worship that is offered. And for that I am deeply grateful.

In Faith, Carie

The Worship Conversation

On September 26th the pianists, worship and music committee gathered for a Worship Arts Retreat. Together we explored the question, "What is Worship?" This conversation expanded to the congregation over the next three weeks.

Below are some of the responses to the question what makes worship meaningful.

It comes from the heart. It has both individual and collective meaning that guides the congregation to be inspired towards peaceful goals.

It includes some deep quiet and some heart felt sharing of real life.

It celebrates nature with ritual and reverence and responsibility rather than saccharin.

It includes people sharing carefully crafted but real stories of personal experience.

It is crafted with love and hope and faith.

It is open to creativity, new ideas and experiences.

I like being hit with my own biases, causes awareness and growth.

It is dedicated to honoring religious freedom and tolerance; grounded in UU principles and values in the liberal thought tradition.

*It is gentle and supportive; helps my heart to open
worship is strong in holding us to a higher standard—invoking our better angels.*

It is participatory; people of different talents, backgrounds, beliefs, offer themselves in the worship service. It is not a one women/man show.

It is filled with love, thoughtful words, caring actions, beautiful images and hope.

All of this is just the beginning of what will be an ongoing worship conversation. For all of you, who entered the conversation, let me say thank you for sharing. May the conversation continue. My door is open and you are welcome to send me an email or leave a message on my phone.

President's Column

A couple weeks ago we did not have the cash to pre-buy heating oil at a reduced cost to our congregation. We needed a little over \$10,000. I sent out a request hoping that some of our members could advance their pledges to cover this expense. Many people responded within the week and we had the cash available. We bought our heating oil for the year at a cost of \$2.29/gallon. A great price and savings to our church!

I am grateful that we have a congregation that can be asked to step forward when needed. The request may be for money, pastoral care, ministry to the greater community, public statements of a liberal religious voice, stewardship of our buildings, hospitality to our congregation, leadership and worship roles, assistance with religious exploration. Every time a request is made, one or more people step forward.

A thank you goes out in this newsletter to the individuals that paid part or all of their pledge in advance. Thank you for your quick response and generosity with your financial resources.

A thank you goes out to every individual in the entire congregation. You are the identity of our church, generous with spirit and love.

Debbie Mattson
President, Board of Trustees

New Committee Descriptions

As part of the changes in the UUCC Bylaws approved by the congregation in June, the Board of Trustees agreed to revise and re-publish the descriptions of committees that were previously contained in the bylaws.

The change was made so the committee descriptions could be presented in a more consistent format and updated more frequently than could be done through the bylaws. New descriptions of most of the 18 UUCC committees are now complete, and are available through the church office, on the website, and are posted on the Church Leadership bulletin board.

Three committees – Long-Range Planning, Ministry, and Nominating – remain as described in separate articles in the bylaws.

The Aesthetic and Music committees are now also recognized as separate committees.

A list of current committee chairs and members of each committee is also being prepared.

Douglas Rooks, Board Member at Large
Stephanie Ralph, Clerk

Board News

As of December 1st, the UUCC will be changing the locks on all doors and issuing keys on an as needed basis. After the 2nd service, on November 15th, the Committee on Ministry will hold a Town Hall Meeting in the Sanctuary, to discuss the changes to our policy and the new process for obtaining keys.

Fall Work Day— Saturday, Nov 14th at 8:30 a.m.
Rain date: November 21st.

We need volunteers for yard work, minor interior maintenance and cleaning. Please pass on the gym and join us for a morning of aerobic maintenance!

Please sign up in the fellowship hall or Email Marilyn Dunn at Maine2007@hotmail.com.

Greetings from the Aesthetics Committee

Help us keep our coatroom tidy.
We know have a few storage baskets to help contain odds and ends. Please feel free to use them. We also have a new lost and found basket. Any unclaimed items will be donated to Good Will at the end of each month. Let's work together to maintain the beauty and integrity of all of our buildings.

The Rev. Carie Johnsen will be away at Minister's Convocation Nov . 11th – 16th. This collegial gathering for spiritual nourishment and intellectual exploration will take place in Ottawa, Canada

From the Director of Religious Exploration

Building Beloved Community Takes Action

I had a wonderful conversation recently about the word “tolerance” in reference to what we teach in Religious Exploration. The person I was talking with said tolerance, or putting up with something, is not our goal; acceptance is our goal. And I full-heartedly agree: acceptance is a lovely goal. Acceptance means to let someone in, to regard something as right and true, to believe in it. But not all in our world fits into my beautiful and sacred realm of acceptable. “Tolerance” has its place and makes it possible to live in a benevolent if not beloved larger community; tolerance allows for co-living in peace.

There are many aspects of our society, culture, and individual people that are really pretty much unacceptable to me. But the unacceptability does not branch into “intolerable” and therefore worthy of protest and activism. In other words, I will tolerate certain aspects of life because—although they do not fit into my belief system—they are not reprehensible enough to protest against. Let’s see, not composting or not having a library card or doing your child’s homework for him or her fit into the tolerate realm. I don’t think those are good ideas, but everyone has a right to choose their path. If I meet someone who does not believe in Marriage Equality, for instance, I may say why I do, and they may say why they don’t, and we may part ways each convinced we are right. I don’t accept that person’s point of view, but I will sadly tolerate it, because that person has convictions I cannot change no matter what I say and I can respect that person and still love that person for all that is worthy of love within them. But, at the same time, I am also going to work to promote “No on 1,” because I believe in civil rights.

So, yes, in our Religious Exploration program, we teach tolerance and we strive to help our children and youth understand and articulate their own belief systems so they can build the community they dream of. And we teach that building that community is not a passive venture, building the beloved community takes action.

I have of late heard quite a bit about the behavior of our children during fellowship hour. I consider “tolerance” and “acceptance” and “taking action” when I hear these concerns.

Children love to run and play and generally create a wild rumpus. There is so much that is good and wonderful about that energy, that verve, that will to explode into a wondrous world. The difficulty arises when a wild child nearly unsettles an elder who is not so sure on their feet as they used to be. Or when a game of tag bursts into the sacred space of our sanctuary. Our children’s energy is totally acceptable, but infringing on individual safety and boundaries is not. That awareness of others and of boundaries is a wonderful thing to nurture.

So, the children, youth, and adults of the Young UU Worship created together a Fellowship Hour Covenant to help awaken awareness. Here is what we decided we would exercise:

1. **Respect for all people:** Walk indoors and be aware of who is around you so that everyone feels safe and secure. When outdoors, stay on the church property, enjoy the fresh air and sun, and be aware again of who is around you especially if you are running.
2. **Respect for the church:** Treat the sanctuary as sacred space: no playing in there, no loud voices in there. And any room you enter, be aware of other people and respect the quiet that might be there.

We also designated some areas particularly good for the children to play. One is on the lovely grassy and safe yard behind 71. This is a perfect place to run and jump rope and enjoy make-believe together. Another good place is at the play-doh table in Fellowship Hall. And a third is in the game room beside the coat closet, where board and card games are waiting for any children who want to play.

The other thing we talked about was the parents’ responsibility to monitor their children and youth from 10:30 to 11, during Fellowship Hour, to ensure their safety and the safety of others. I will further say it is our community’s responsibility also to help keep our children safe, and to gently remind them to slow down, or use indoor voices, or simply say hello. It does take a village to raise a child.

Boisterous, playful energy is totally acceptable, let’s help our children keep that energy in safe, tolerable spaces and let’s all work together to help each and all of us keep our sacred spaces sacred. We are building this beloved community together.

Yours in faith, Karen

It’s 10:30, do you know where your kids are?

A gentle reminder that parents are responsible for their children during Fellowship Time. Please pick up your children from Religious Exploration Class at 10:30 and be aware of your children’s activities during Fellowship.

Children under four are welcome in the Nursery. Children older than four have options of playing in the game room (beside the coat room), at the play-doh table in Fellowship Hall, and outdoors in the play space behind 71 Winthrop Street.

We urge you to help keep our children safe by monitoring their whereabouts and their activities.

Thank you,

Karen

Faith in Action for October: ONE HEN

Our October Faith in Action Project is to collect at least 100 quarters to fund a micro-finance loan through Kiva.org.

Micro-financing is way for many people to contribute a small amount of money to pool as a larger loan to a hopeful entrepreneur. The entrepreneur then has an opportunity to start a business venture that will move that person from subsistence living to independence and hopefully even abundance.

Kiva’s motto is “Connecting people through loans to alleviate poverty.”

Our hen represents the one hen that a boy in Ghana bought with a micro-finance loan from his village. Profits from selling eggs from his hen allowed him to buy more hens, and hence earn more profits. He eventually paid for his own education, attended college, and built the largest egg farm in his area—employing many people from his village.

By collecting quarters, we also hope to help someone’s dream of making a decent living come true.

Thank you from the Religious Exploration Program

UUCC members attend Pastoral Care Conference

On September 12, Rev. Carie Johnsen, Terry Cookson, Marty Thornton, Stefanie Barley, Hannah Faulkner and Melanie Lanctot had the privilege of attending an all-day pastoral care training at the Second Congregational Society Unitarian Universalist in Concord, New Hampshire, led by the Reverend Karen Foley of the First Parish (UU) of Concord, Massachusetts. Karen Fisk attended a training specifically for directors of Religious Exploration. Among the topics we explored were caregiver attitudes, helpful caregiver guidelines, self-care, Holmes' significant life events scale, understanding and managing crisis, personal losses, the tasks of grief work, and limits & boundaries. We came away with expanded knowledge, awareness and enthusiasm.

Stefanie Barley found additional meaning in our trip to Concord, N.H., where her maternal grandmother, Georgie French Magenau, had been an active Unitarian Universalist. In the 1960's Georgie's memorial service was held in that church's lovely octagonal sanctuary. At the conclusion of our workshops, Stefanie, Melanie and I visited the house in Concord where Stefanie as a little girl spent many happy hours with her grandmother.

Here is how you may reach individual members of our UUCC caring team:

*Stefanie Barley 623-2824 or stefbarley@myfairpoint.net
Judy McCown Bierce 897-3683 or jsmbierce@myfairpoint.net
Hannah Faulkner 293-9377 or hannahuu3@fairpoint.net
Ida Gammon-Wilson 1-800-384-3866 or idagammonwilson@yahoo.com
Melanie Lanctot at 685-3350 or Mlanctot@roadrunner.com
David Rand at 622-3067 or Iamdavid3000@yahoo.com
Ministerial Associates: Terry L. Cookson 557-2557 or tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com
And Marty Thornton 512-2587 or marty.thornton@gmail.com*

We provide some caring services. Contact us to learn more.

Stewardship Conversations at the UUCC

Stewardship is the growing, nurturing, promoting, and building of gifts, call, and spiritual vocation. Instead of a usual "fundraising" effort, this year the board has approved an approach that could be called "Beyond Fundraising". Plain old fundraising is simply designed to raise sufficient money to cover annual budget expenses, and usually doesn't generate much enthusiasm. Stewardship campaigns, on the other hand, certainly involve raising money, but are intended to accomplish much more. Stewardship can facilitate growth, not just numerical, but also maturational growth toward who we want to be, individually and as a congregation.

Stewardship is done in the context of UUCC's mission and ministry, can address people's spiritual need to give back, can serve as a way of putting faith into action, and shows congregants the difference their financial contribution will make. As one of the Co-Chairs of the Annual Budget Drive, I will be creating a team to help on various aspects of the Stewardship effort throughout the church year.

~ Cheryl Ring, Canvass Co-Chair

Why We Give

- Gratitude
- Adds meaning to life
- Like to help people
- Support Unitarian Universalism
- Believe in mission
- Because someone asks
- Others?

COMMUNITY NEWS



Wednesday, November 4th
The Day After the Election
6:30 p.m.,

The Rev. Carie Johnsen will open the doors of the sanctuary for members of the Unitarian Universalist Community Church, campaign workers, and the citizens of the greater Augusta, Kennebec County Community to gather.

Regardless of the outcome of the vote on Question 1, we will gather to shine the light on love. As a people of faith, we will gather to hold up and affirm our vision of marriage equality. Sustaining the light of love, affirming the worth and dignity of all committed relationships and building strong stable Maine families will be carried on in our hearts, in our lives and in our actions.



Please bring a candle, your family, your partners, your friends, your neighbors, your visions and your stories.

CALLING ALL SCRABBLE PLAYERS

At last spring's UUCC Service Auction, Debbie Mattson and Nancy Fritz provided an auction opportunity for folks to pay \$10 and participate in an afternoon of playing Scrabble, enjoying some refreshments, and laughing a lot! The time has come to make good - so, Debbie and Nancy invite those who purchased this event to 11 King Street on Sunday, November 22, from 2 to 4 p.m. We welcome and encourage many others to join the fun. Cost is \$10 (all proceeds go the church fundraising efforts). Bring a Scrabble board if you have one. We'll provide refreshments and prizes! So that we do better planning, please RSVP by leaving a message for Nancy at 621-9743 or sending an e-mail to nfritz@roadrunner.com

Day of Mindfulness
Saturday, November 14
9 - 3 PM

Meditation Practices and a Mindful Pot Luck Lunch

Children and their parents are invited to join our practice from 9 - 10 AM

With some family meditation practices & some yoga.

Childcare available from 10 - 12 during the video of Thich Nhat Hanh's talk from the August 2009 Retreat.

Adult practice extends into the afternoon.
Bring a cushion, if you like to sit on the floor.
Chairs will be available.

You may want to bring a blanket for Deep Relaxation.

Questions? Contact Marty Souleby phone (685-9270) or email: martysoule@gmail.com

FUNDRAISING NEWS.....

The SQRARE DANCE on October 16th was fun! We had enough people for two squares. The caller, Walt Bull, would not take compensation for his time and talent, which allowed our profit to be \$92.00. Thank you to Stephanie and Larry Ralph for their part in making it happen.

The next fundraising event will be a PIE SALE to be held Saturday, November 21st, at Longfellow's Greenhouse in Manchester. It will begin at 8:30 am. If you would like to bake pies or help at the Sale, please sign up in the Fellowship Hall or contact Marty Thornton at marty.thornton@gmail.com or Judy McCown at jmbeirce@myfairpoint.net.

Continuing thanks to Charlene Cleven for donating money from the sale of her lovely HAND MADE CARDS. These can be purchased in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour.

Elder Lunch

Please join us the second Sunday of each month
for our Elders Lunch.

The following dates have been scheduled:

Nov 8th

Dec 13th

Jan 10th(2010)

Feb 14th

Mar 14th

A Poem from Alice Gifford

All Hallows' Eve

The leaves are falling
Milkweed pods have split
The robber winds carry the silk away.

Night falls, small ghosts and goblins
Are drawn as wasps are drawn
To fallen apples.

All Saints Day will follow,
And then All Souls. The wind
Carries the voices of the dead.

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Book of Remembrance: The Unitarian Universalist Community Church History Committee introduces the Book of Remembrance of people who have been part of Unitarian Universalist community in Augusta over time and are now deceased. The entries to date were in the display case on October 25, as part of the Holy Days of Fall -- *Samhain/Halloween, All Saints Day, All Souls Day, and the Mexican Days of the Dead*.

We all become part of the fabric of the congregation as we participate in its activities. By our presence, we have an impact on this community and on the people we meet here. Let us remember those who are no longer with us because of death. Their influence remains part of the fabric of this community.

The History Committee has identified over 50 people in the Augusta Unitarian Universalist community who have died since the time of consolidation, or 1992. We are in the process of collecting material for the memory book, such as obituaries, funeral and memorial services, remembrances from congregational life.

Please help us create the Book of Remembrance. Leave items that you may have for the History Committee in the church office, or in the History Committee box on the piano in the Fellowship Hall, or by the History Committee Room on the second floor of the Annex. Please write your personal remembrances of people, especially in the context of the congregational life. We look forward to your sharing with the History Committee and the larger church community. Identify the contributor – You—and indicate items that you want returned. Thanks.

Activities in the last month. The History Committee met on October 8. In addition to ongoing cataloging of materials, activities in the last month included:

- *Worked with the Ascetics Committee to have the Cecelia Club acknowledgment hung near the piano; the plate of the Winthrop Street buildings hung in the Fellowship Hall, pictures that can be hung around the buildings.

- *Provided the time lines of our congregations as a resource for a course she is taking.

- *Added historical notations under UU Connections in the September newsletter and contributed to the display regarding UUCC and the Unitarian Universalist Association.

History Committee We still have boxes of scrapbooks from All Souls and Winthrop Street congregations to catalog so that materials will be accessible. Space to work uninterrupted over a period of time and more people involved would enhance our progress. *Krista Zidowecki* has joined the History Committee and taken on some projects. *The meetings of the Committee are the Second Thursday of the month, 10am-Noon. Please join us for the meeting on **November 12** in the Annex Olsen Room.*

HALL DISPLAY CASE

Have you ever wondered about the displays in the glass case in the hallway? Where do they come from? Who decides what to put into the display case? Who do you contact with ideas for a display? Presently, the displays are largely the ideas that arise from other things that are going on in the church community, and may relate to the topic of a Sunday service. However, there is no “grand plan” for the displays. Your ideas are welcome, along with your assistance in developing the displays. The display starting on November 1 will be the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (UUSC) to coincide with the theme of the Sunday Service.

The display area is becoming more of a community project. When a theme is announced, please feel free to contribute items that you may have. For example, for the UUSC display, please add things you may have related to the work of that organization. Identify the things that you contribute so that people may talk with you about your contribution. Contact the church office or *Helen Zidowecki* with suggestions and contributions.

WELCOMING CONGREGATION AND HETEROSEXISM

Wednesday, November 18, 6:30-8:30 pm

Fellowship Hall

Helen Zidowecki and Maggie Ricker

UUCC is certified by the Unitarian Universalist Association as a Welcoming Congregation related to sexual and gender diversity. Why and how did we take this step? Regardless of the outcome of the vote on Marriage Equality, heterosexism is still prevalent -- and that harms all of us. What does that mean for us individually and as a congregation?

A Memorial Service for Don Paul Sommerfeld will be held on Saturday, October 31, 2009 at 3:00 p.m. at Unitarian Universalist Community Church. This service is being arranged by friends of Don Paul's at UUC. The family will also plan a memorial for the spring at Ferry Beach.

Faith in action Team News

Faith Madore, Mary Perkins, Helen Mckendry , Phil Brzowski and I , Jenny met today for 30 minutes or so ,to discuss what we'd like to do this year. Here are 3 projects we can help with which would directly impact people and greening our church life.

Begin Green Sanctuary program; help to get the process off the ground in our church

Help build Cony Village's Habitat for Humanity house. I drove over to Cony Village to see the house. It is framed, just the bones though. Roof may be on by now and only a bit of siding was done. It's built into a banking, allowing for a daylight basement . It certainly looks like it needs zipping up before snow comes. More to come.

St. Mark's Episcopal Church (Summer St. across from our Annex) Public Meals
Participate in serving , cooking.....

Buy shelves (to be placed in our Annex kitchen and cellar) to help St. Mark's Episcopal Church store food for the public meals served in their parish hall to the community. They are also starting a program to distribute diapers etc.

Carie mentioned to me that the plate at the Sunday services could possibly go toward this project in January.

Jenny McKendry, Chair Faith in Action Team

October **Share the plate** with the Unitarian Universalist Association totaled \$651

HARVEST POTLUCK SUPPER FRIDAY, NOV 20TH VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.

Please contact Cheryl Clukey at 441-0337
for more information

Concert will follow.

Kennebec Folk Society Presents

An Evening of Contemporary Folk Music

featuring

Colleen Sexton and Lynn Deeves

November 20 at 7:30 pm

Venue:

Unitarian Universalist Community Church
69 Winthrop St.
Augusta, ME 04330

Tickets: \$10; \$20 family maximum

Press contact: Michael Conley 622-2945
mconley@mainetourism.com

For more artist information, please go to:

www.colleensexton.com
www.lynndeeves.com



Unitarian Universalist Community Church
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Augusta, Maine 04332-0008

Our Administrative Office is open:
Mondays and Tuesdays 8 am-4 pm and Saturdays 8 am-12 pm
71 Winthrop Street, Augusta, ME 04330

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

Who? Different people each week
What? Two people to fold Orders of Service
When? One hour on a Saturday beginning at noon or later
Where? Committee Room or Fellowship Hall

Please donate an hour of your time on a Saturday to fold and place inserts in the Orders of Service. This will allow our Administrator to focus more energy on those areas to which she brings special skills, such as creating our newsletter and updating our comprehensive church database and website. Please go to the bulletin board in the Fellowship Hall and sign up soon on the Order of Service Volunteer sheet. For more information, call Julie in the church office at 622-3232 or Hannah at 293-9377.