



The Flaming Chalice

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

July 2009

Summer Worship Services Sundays at 10:00 am

Sunday Summer Services

- June 28** "Celebrating the Longest Day of the Year with Music and Poetry" ~ Service led by Annie Voorhees
- July 5** "After the Celebration": Independence to Interdependence" ~ Service led by Helen Zidowecki
- July 12** To Be Announced
- July 19** Non-Violent Communication Practice Group. "NVC—A Language of Life"
- July 26** Service led by Karen Allen
- August 2** Rise Up and Call Her Name Participants, "The Goddess Speaks"
- August 9** A Service of Gratitude and Mindfulness ~ Service led by Chelsea Ray=Schuemann
- August 16** To Be Announced
- August 23** "Hymn Sing" ~ Service led by Carie Johnsen and Annie Voorhees
- August 30** "Poetry Appreciation" ~ Service led by Carie Johnsen
*Please bring a poem to share. Our service will be created by the poems we share together.
- Sept. 6** Labor Day Weekend Service To Be Announced
- Sept 13** Multigenerational Service: Water Gathering ~ RETURN TO 2 SERVICES, 9:15 and 11 am.
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 to 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.

Interim Minister: Rev. Lee Devoe
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, leedevoe@aol.com
<http://www.augustauu.org>

This is our last newsletter until September. Updates will be emailed periodically

President's Column

Interim is an in-between time. For us, it is a time in-between settled ministries. Does that mean that an interim ministry is an unsettled ministry? I think the answer is yes and that is good. It is a time to have the ground plowed and made ready for future growth.

Interim is by definition temporary. June 7th marked the end of our interim ministry with Reverend Lee Devoe.

This interim period has been full of paradox:

- We are standing still in self-examination and, at the same time, reaching for the future.
- Most poignantly, we embrace a minister whose job is to leave us.

Are we stronger as a result of this pause in time, this interim period? My answer, and I think your answer is a resounding “yes.” Yes, we are stronger.

In these 3 years:

- We have told our stories with boldness and are stronger in our willingness to speak and listen deeply as we engage in problem solving.
- We are now the stewards of three buildings, 2 have been beautifully renovated in this time of pause. The renovations enhance our worship & our ability to come together in fellowship, strengthen the Religious Exploration programs, and better support the administrative work of our employees.
- We have marshaled our resources. We have completed this fiscal year in the black and you will be presented a balanced budget for the 2009-2010 Fiscal year.
- We are ready to receive a settled minister, our first called minister as a congregation of Unitarian Universalist. We called Carie Johnsen as our settled minister during the May 17 Congregational meeting. The excitement and hopeful anticipation during meeting matched that of a tent revival meeting. And, yes, we are re-vitalized and ready!

During this interim period we have continued business as usual—Sunday worship and fellowship; Religious Exploration for children, youth and adults; board and committee work; and all the various ways we provide ministry to each other.

Certainly this pause, this interim time, has not been idle. We have worked with hand, heart, and head to prepare for our future, our future that is embedded in a faith tradition that we are now the stewards of and are proudly carrying forward.

Thank you, Lee, for standing with us during this interim time. Thank you for your ministry to us as a community and to us as individuals. You have helped strengthen us; you have helped prepare us for our future.

We are grateful to you and to each other.

I am honored to be a member of this congregation.

Sincerely,

Debbie Mattson, President
Board of Trustees

Helen Zidowecki has agreed to provide us with ministerial services this summer until the arrival of Carie on August 15. In this capacity, she is available to be the minister for funerals and provide ministerial supervision of the ministerial associates, Marty Thornton and Terry Cookson. Thank you, Helen, for your willingness to give to us your care and many talents as a minister.

Introducing the Pastoral Care Associates

Transitions can be a time of spiritual challenge and growth, whether those transitions are painful or pleasant. Facing these challenges can be easier and more fulfilling when shared with an empathetic listener. Pastoral Care Associates (formerly known as Ministerial Associates) are trained in empathetic listening. The new Pastoral Care Associates for UUCC are Marty Thornton and Terry Cookson. This summer we will be available to help with questions and transitions, under the guidance of Helen Zidowecki. In this interval between Lee's departure and Carie's arrival, feel free to contact us.

Marty Thornton: 512-2587 or marty.thornton@gmail.com

Terry Cookson: 557-2557 or tlcnaturalhealth@yahoo.com

Helen Zidowecki: 837-7040 or hzmre@hzmre.com

Rise Up and Call Her Name

Rise Up and Call Her Name, A Woman-honoring Journey into Global Earth-based Spiritualities that provides an opportunity to learn about goddesses from a variety of traditions around the world. This introduction to goddesses includes cultural background as well as the characteristics and focuses of the goddesses, with singing, activities, and rituals. The Goddess is not for women only -- the course is open to women *and men* and older youth. (If men are involved, gender-specific time will be included in the sessions.)

The entire curriculum is 13 sessions, 2 hours each. We will start this summer and do some of the planning as we go. The Session topics are:

Session 1	Beginning the Journey	Sessions 6-8	Asia
Session 2	Tools for Traveling	Sessions 9	Pacific Islands
Sessions 3-4	Africa	Sessions 10-12	Americas
Session 5	African America	Session 13	The Return

The times that were most convenient for the group that met on June 14 were Thursday evenings 6:30-8:30 pm and Sunday after service, or 11:30am-1:30pm. We are going to have the first couple of sessions on Sundays, and continue the planning from there.

The schedule at this point is:

July 5, 11:30-1:30pm 1.Beginning the Journey

July 12, 11:30-1:30pm 2.Tools for Traveling

If you have not already done so, please sign up on the registration listing on the Adult RE bulletin board at church or contact me.

In addition, the **Sunday service on August 9** is titled The Goddess Speaks. I am hoping that the service will evolve from the sessions. Please let me know if you would like to assist with the planning, whether or not you take the course.

Looking forward to seeing you over the summer. May the Goddess be with you.

Helen Zidowecki, 582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.com

NONVIOLENT COMMUNICATION TRAINING

Once again a training in Nonviolent Communication is coming to Augusta on August 15 and 16, with an hour and a half introductory session the evening of August 14. Nonviolent Communication, a model developed by Marshall Rosenberg, is a unique approach to communication based on the human needs and feelings that underlie all behavior.

Rosenberg's work began during the 1960s civil rights era, seeking to teach a means of developing empathy as a basis for communication rather than the models of blame, judgment and criticism we have all learned so well. Rosenberg has spent the past 30 years traveling around the world providing education in this model and mediating conflicts in world "hotspots". Nonviolent communication is sometimes called "compassionate communication" as it seeks to enable people to connect with the needs in themselves and others in order to inspire a compassionate response.

We are fortunate in having Peggy Smith, the only certified trainer in Maine, who is willing to come to Augusta to offer a Level 1 training at the reasonable rate of \$100.00. If you are interested contact me at hcranewing@localnet.com or at 685-3804 or Terry Cookson at 557-2557 and we can provide you with registration materials and answer any questions you may have about this rich opportunity.

PRACTICE GROUP CHANGES

All our lives we have learned to blame, criticize and judge - others and ourselves. The study of Nonviolent Communication (NVC) provides a guide for learning another, more compassionate, model to practice listening for feelings and needs - our own and others.

The group that has been meeting twice a month to study and practice Nonviolent Communication has concluded. While some members will continue, a new group will be starting in September. This group plans to meet the first and third Wednesdays, 10:30 am-12:30 pm. It is helpful to have at least a Level I training before starting the group, if possible. Contact Helen Wing (hcranewing@localnet.com, 685-3804) if you are:

interested in participating in this NVC group,
interested in joining an NVC group but cannot do it at the planned time,
or would like more information about NVC

SUMMER SERVICE

Join us on Sunday, July 19 for "NVC: A Language of Life," presented by members of previous NVC Practice Groups.

RESOURCES

Nonviolent Communication: A Language of Life, Marshall B. Rosenberg, and *Nonviolent Communication Companion Workbook*, Lucy Leu, Puddle Dancer Press.



From the Director of Religious Exploration



Carie Johnson and I are talking by phone, already discussing the coming year with enthusiasm. I so look forward to her arrival and all she has to offer our community!

And I am looking forward to the next Religious Exploration Year, which begins September 20th with an RE Dedication before we go to our new classes for the year. I have a lot of thoughts for the new year and a lot of excitement about the potential of our wonderful children and youth, and our awesome adult volunteers. Thank you for this!

Over the summer, we will continue to provide childcare in the nursery. For the summer, children 6 and younger are welcome to play in the nursery with the youth care providers and each other. Our care providers are Hilary Gove, Grace Burnett, Katie Gilbert, Zoe Fisk and Marie Donisvitch.

I am happy to say many adult leaders have already expressed enthusiasm for continuing their ministry with our children and youth through volunteering in the RE Program. If you have been a member of the church for at least six months and have interest in working with the RE Program, please contact me.

Here is a basic outline of upcoming Sundays.

June 21-Sept 6: One 10 am service with child care provided

Sept. 13: Ingathering Sunday

Sept. 20: RE Begins

Yours in faith, Karen

PS: If you have any RE Curriculums or books borrowed, please return them to me so I can inventory all for the coming year.

WISH LIST for RE

Pillows and cushions for the classrooms

Fabric

Old calendars/magazines of nature subjects or multicultural people

DRE Wins Scholarship

This spring Karen applied for and won the Veridan Fund for Religious Education Excellence Scholarship. This scholarship is awarded to a participant in the UUA Religious Education Credentialing program in order to undertake a significant professional development experience. This \$3,000 annual prize is given through the generous contributions of the family, friends, and colleagues of the late Rev. Norma Veridan to honor Norma's life and ministry, and through the ongoing support of the UUA. The VREE Fund was established according to Norma's wishes to provide scholarships to religious educators who strive to strengthen religious education in our UU congregations by advancing their professional development to a new level of expertise, as outlined in the UUA Religious Education Credentialing program.

In Karen's letter of gratitude to the Veridan Family, she wrote:

I am honored to be the recipient of the Norma Veridan Fund for Religious Education Excellence Scholarship for 2009. I am humbled to have my own work associated with the great work and devotion of Reverend Veridan. I hope to uphold her high standards of excellence as I continue to expand my knowledge of religious education, leadership, and Unitarian Universalism.

My work has allowed me to connect with people in ways that affirm and uphold the principles of Unitarian Universalism. At the same time, my work has allowed me to be creative, thoughtful, and strategic in how we share the many paths of religious education available to us. ... I have held hands in grief, listened in times of need, and sung out in times of joy. I have worked hard, very hard, and I will continue to do so because I care—and this work gives back to me as much as I put into it.

I will use the scholarship to take two graduate courses online from Starr King School for Ministry: *Organizational Systems Thinking for Religious Leaders* with Helen Bishop (Fall Semester) and *Unitarian Universalist History* with Emily Mace (Spring Semester). These classes will help me reach my goal of achieving Religious Educator Credentialing—Master Level. They will also help me deepen and broaden my knowledge of our faith and of how congregations work. I chose these particular courses because I want to help our community continue to thrive and expand its reach and, at the same time, never forget from where it came and why those roots are important.

My plan is to share what I learn from these classes with my congregation and with fellow DREs in our district.

I am so grateful for this opportunity, so grateful for your family's support, so grateful for the example of the Reverend Norma Veridan, who lead the way for so many of us who value religious education.

Calling all Youth

**Combat the doldrums of summer with political activism.
Stay in touch with friends, have great get-togethers and do something
really important.**

Add something interesting to your college applications!

You probably realize that in May Maine passed a law to allow same sex couples to marry. Several anti-gay groups have joined together to try to repeal that law through what's called the People's Veto process. It will be on the ballot in November.

Hundreds of people throughout Maine are coming together to defeat that referendum. I was hoping *YOU* would be interested in being part of a youth group that would work to save same sex marriage in Maine.

I am contacting the Civil Rights/Diversity Teams at local schools and asking them to be part of this effort as well. We will be doing FUNdraisers and phone banks all summer long. You would be working with a group of similar aged youth from Kennebec County.

I would also like to see a campaign to encourage 18-year old seniors to vote this November. But I would leave the 'how' of that to your creativity.

Please call or email me if you have interest in being part of this youth group. I look forward to working with you!

Maggie Ricker

207-623-9943

email: Maggiesway@aol.com

Marriage Equality in Maine

Maggie Ricker

On May 6, 2009, LD 1020, An Act To End Discrimination in Civil Marriage and Affirm Religious Freedom was passed into law in Maine. The bill enjoyed roughly 60% support from both the Maine House of Representatives and the Senate. Governor Baldacci signed the bill within an hour of its passage. There was serious laughing, crying and hugging in the halls.

However, even before the celebrating had stopped three organizations submitted requests to the Secretary of State to initiate a People's Veto Referendum; with the intention of overturning the new law. The opposition has to collect just over 55,000 signatures on their veto petitions to qualify to hold a referendum. It is generally expected they will meet this criteria. Depending on the timing of when they secure the necessary signatures, the referendum will come before Maine citizens either November 2009 or June 2010.

This past spring, many phone banks and Equality Maine/Kennebec County meetings were held in our Fellowship Hall. There were evenings when we spread out through every room in the Fellowship Hall and the Annex. (my apologies to the Meditation Group!!) Two things that liberals in Kennebec County seem to do well is talk and eat! The Kennebec County team made over 25,000 phone calls! We attained our goal of identifying 3,000 same sex supporters who are registered voters and had promises of 1000 calls to legislators. During the debate in both the house and senate, legislators commented on the huge volume of calls and said they appreciated the respectful tone of the callers as well as the personal stories people shared with them.

That's the good news. The bad news is we are being asked to identify 9000 pro-Marriage Equality voters before the November election. This is a huge task and will require 3 times the volunteers we had in Part I. Four members of UUCC are active on the Equality Maine Kennebec County Leadership team: Terry Cookson, PJ Jenkins, Tom Waddell and Maggie Ricker. This is a great number to represent our church, but it really doesn't fulfill our obligation to be active in this critical campaign. We will need more people.

This volunteer recruitment activity will occur at the same time Helen Zidowicki and I will be trying to drum up members for the Welcoming Congregation Alliance. It would be a wonderful time for UUCC members to begin a new year of faith in action by stepping up to the plate to put into action your views on respect for same sex couples who want to be married. While it's good to *support* equality for the LGBT community; it's even better to *work* toward securing that status of respect and dignity symbolized by the word 'marriage'.

Last but not least, on July 25th, the Kennebec County Team of Equality Maine will be holding a fundraiser at UUCC~ an old fashioned **New England Bean Supper** (with entertainment!). Please put that date on your calendar and plan to attend. I hope you have the best of summers and I will be talking with you soon!



Greetings from the Social Committee

The Boothbay Summer Playhouse is presenting “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat,” a lively musical featuring, among others, our own Doug Barley as one of Joseph’s brothers.

There is one matinee performance - on Sunday, July 5th, at 2 PM.

If any of you would like to gather at church around noon, drive as a group to Fort Edgecomb where we can have a picnic lunch overlooking the bay (bring your own food and drinks), and proceed to the theater to see the show, please let me know.

There will be a discount on the tickets – usual price is \$19, but they’ll give us a group price of \$16 per person. Each person is responsible for paying for his or her own ticket.

Please let me or Cheryl Clukey know immediately if you’re interested, and we’ll order tickets. Doug says that performance is filling up fast, as it is the only matinee being offered for this show. (See below for contact information)

Thanks –

Stefanie Barley and Cheryl Clukey, Co-Chair of Social Activities

Stefanie Barley:

207-623-2824 or 207-841-3922
stefbarley@myfairpoint.net

Cheryl Clukey:

441-0337
cherylclukey5@yahoo.com

Evening of Meditation
For Children, Teens, Families, Everyone...
Monday, July 13 from 6:30 - 8

Meg Dellenbaugh, a member of Thich Nhat Hanh's Order of Interbeing, will facilitate the evening. She is a member of the Open Heart Sangha at the Yarmouth UU church. She leads adult and children's groups at Thich Nhat Hanh's Retreats.

Questions? Call Marty Soule 685-9270

Are you seeking greater

Peace

Calm

Happiness

In this fast paced, stressed out world?

Come join the UUCC Peaceful Heart Sangha for
meditation and a fresh approach to life

Every Monday - including during the summer - year round - 6:30 - 8 PM

Childcare every first Monday 6:15 - 8:15

Some Mondays at other sites this summer, so give a call if you want to be sure.

Introduction to Meditation - every third Monday at 6:00

Other times, if requested

Questions? Contact Marty Soule, 685-9270 or martysoule@gmail.com.

***Unitarian Universalist Community Church
P O Box 8
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

Mailing Address: P O Box 8, Augusta, ME 04332-0008

Administration Office Hours will remain the same for the summer except for:

Saturday, July 4th ~ CLOSED. Will reopen on Monday, July 6th.

Saturday, July 11th ~ CLOSED. Office will be open Friday, July 10th from 8am-12pm

Saturday, July 25th ~ CLOSED. Office will be open Friday, July 24th from 8am-12pm