



The Flaming Chalice

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

February 2010

Worship Services

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

Feb. 7th *Partnering with Our Neighbors*

Rev. Carie Johnsen

UUCC Faith-in-Action Committee

Around the corner and down the street, St. Marks Episcopal Church cares for the economically disadvantaged citizen's of Augusta with free public supper, a clothing bank, a food bank, an essentials pantry and a women's shelter. The Faith-in-Action committee will join Rev. Carie Johnsen in the pulpit to lift up the simple question, "How can we be good neighbors?"

Feb. 14th *Sacred Conversations: Sexuality and Faith*

Rev. Carie Johnsen

In this service I will extend a conversation already underway in our religious exploration classrooms where the curriculum *Our Whole Live* engages young people in education that celebrates sexuality as a sacred life-giving life-affirming gift. One that is central to our humanity and integral to spirituality.

Feb. 21st *For the Love of Boundary Setters*

Rev. Carie Johnsen

Setting boundaries is equally as challenging as respecting the boundaries set by others. Both are vital for being in dynamic and healthy relationships and beloved community. Let us examine how this act of being clear about who we are and what we can do is a gift to self and a gift to others.

Feb. 28th *To Endeavor in the Face of the Impossible*

Rev. Glenn Turner

UUCC Minister Emeritus

A sermon inspired by a novel by Margaret Drabble who believed that happiness was a by-product of our efforts to live our lives with devotion and depth. She commented in an interview that she liked "fairly happy endings," and in the novel I read, her characters "go in for continued effort" when things are less than "happy." When I watch friends and family struggle with the issues that arise in life, I realize again and again that though we may wish we/they were happy, what we all deal with may have little to do with "happiness" per se. It has everything to do with how we meet those issues.

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

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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 **February 15th**. Please submit newsletter articles by email to Julie Pelletier, UUCC Church Administrator at admin@augustauu.org



A Faith Journey...

As I prepare for the January 31st New Member Ceremony, I find myself in a familiar and comfortable place. This act of welcoming visitors and new members into our midst is a privilege I have enjoyed for years. During my five years on the staff team at my home congregation as the Membership Coordinator, I grew into the role of membership ministry. Greeting visitors and witnessing their discovery of a spiritual community they can call home is exciting. Helping them to integrate into the congregation and become a recognizable part of church life is rewarding. I like sharing our faith. I like growing our faith.

One of the questions new ministers are often asked is “Will you become a member of the congregation you serve?” I have pondered this question. I have engaged my colleagues in conversation, asking them about their practices of membership and asking why they make the choices they make. In the end I had to make my choice. In the spirit of transparency and full disclosure, I would like to share with you my decision.

No, I will not become a member of Unitarian Universalist Community Church. I will continue to hold my membership in my home congregation.

In accepting the call to be the Minister of UUCC, I accepted a role in this community that has me set apart. I am with all of you but I am not part of you. It comes back around to the task of having strong ministerial boundaries. To engage in a healthy, vital and dynamic ministry, it is wise to have clear social and professional boundaries. Membership would blur those boundaries and confound my relationship with all of you.

Membership confers belonging—a privilege, I believe, Ministers are unable to fully hold. As the settled minister of this congregation, any membership status would be compromised. Ministers do not have the privilege of voting. Equally, at the membership meetings, Ministers are limited to the task of ministry and not that of a participant. Any status of membership would be in name only, not in practice.

When the annual stewardship canvass begins in March, I will fully participate by receiving a stewardship visit and making a substantial pledge. Some might ask, “if you’re not a member, then why do you pledge?” I pledge because I am committed to the life of this congregation. I trust in you and believe in the mission and vision of this community. I am committed to your success; I choose to be a steward in this church.

In the end of it all, I am pleased to be your Minister. It is a blessing to serve you.

In faith,

Carie



NEW MEMBER Ceremony

If you are considering **MEMBERSHIP** at Unitarian Universalist Community Church, please set up a time to visit with Rev. Carie Johnsen. A New Member Ceremony has been scheduled for Sunday, January 31st at both the 9:15 and 11:00 services. During this ceremony the new members will be invited to sign the membership book. This special ceremony celebrates the religious commitment of new members and offers the congregation an opportunity to bring a warm welcome to all new members. You can reach Rev. Carie at revcariejohnsen@gmail.com or 508-221-5295 or 623-3663.

Building Your Own Theology with Rev. Carie Johnsen

January 27th, February 10th & 24th, March 10th & 24th, April 7th

We are meaning makers. We are co-creators. We live in a community of meaning makers and co-creators.

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.

Participants are encouraged to make a commitment to attend all six sessions. Short readings and reflections will be given for the off weeks. At the end, participants will be invited to share their credos with the congregation at a service in May. This is optional. To plan accordingly, we are asking participants to please sign up for this course by calling Julie at 622-3233, sending email to admin@augustauu.org or sign up in fellowship hall on the bulletin board.

Share the Plate The generosity of this congregation is remarkable. May our giving be contagious!

Oct.	Unitarian Universalist Association	\$651
Nov.	Unitarian Universalist Service Committee (\$617)	
	Guest at your Table Boxes (\$625)	\$1242
Dec.	Family Violence Project	\$551 plus numerous gifts for two families
	Bread of Life	\$520
Jan	UUSC – UUA Haiti Relief Fund	\$1921.09
Total Giving:		\$4885.09

Board Highlights - Jan. 1, 2010

From the Clerk

- Board will hold Town Meetings following second service on February 7th and March 7th
 - February 7th – Serving of alcoholic beverages on Church premises, especially by rental groups led by Deb Mattson and Mark Rolfe
 - March 7th – Status of postponed building plans led by Doug Rooks and Nancy Fritz
- Board plans to look into bonding the Treasurer
- Board will invite guests to February meeting to talk about upcoming canvass and adult religious exploration.
- Board reviewed the 2009 to 2014 Five Year Plan adopted June 2009

The Board of Trustees has scheduled 2 Town Meetings, one in February and one in March. The purpose of Town Meetings is to exchange information, ideas, and needs. They are not designed for decision making or debate.

Please plan to attend the February and March Town Meetings immediately after the 2nd service:

During the February 7 Town Meeting the Board will be asking for your thoughts about the development of an alcohol policy. The need for this policy came to our attention as we considered the various uses of our buildings as we rent and the congregation gathers. The Board will provide you with information gathered from other churches that have alcohol use policies and information about our insurance policy.

During the March 7 Town Meeting the will be asking your thoughts about buildings, calling your attention to our 5 Year Plan.

Please attend and bring your ideas and curiosity.

From the Director of Religious Exploration

Success in religious exploration is not measured by the amount learned, but by the small connective moments that help us all grow.

Setting time aside to really think about what we want, what we dream of, what we envision is a true luxury and an essential factor in making dreams become reality.

Every few years the Religious Exploration Program via myself and the Religious Exploration Committee takes the time to vision for RE. Two years ago we worked together to create this vision statement:

We seek to have our children, youth, and adults:

- Grow in faith
- Realize their individual worth and potential
- Integrate the Principles into their daily lives

Understand and enact Faith in Action

We invite you, all of you, to join us for a Visioning Luncheon, January 31, from noon to 2, in the Fellowship Hall, for an opportunity to say hello to each other, break bread together, and vision for the future of Religious Exploration.

What do we want in the realm of religious education for ourselves, our children, our youth, our adults? What values do we hold most dear that we want to hold up for exploration? What goals do we want to reach and how could a vision help us see toward those goals?

Bring your ideas, your ideals, and your dreams and join us for a visioning luncheon. (Please contact me about childcare needs, dre@augustauu.org.)

Yours in faith,

Karen

ADULT PROGRAMMING NOTES

Independent Film and Luncheon /Dinner Series

The Adult RE is sponsoring a monthly luncheon /dinner film series. Films will be held as a luncheon at the church or as a dinner at a church member's home. The focus of the series will be to both entertain and increase viewer's awareness of religious, social and political concerns that affect our community today. Some films will be documentaries while others will be movies with a religious, social or political theme. All films will encourage you to think about what you value. An opportunity to discuss the film, its messages and their implications will follow. If you enjoy the PBS series "Front Line", "American Experience", "Point Of View" (P.O.V.), "Independent Lens" or the independently produced films shown at the Railroad Cinema in Waterville and the Morning Star Cinema in Brunswick, you will enjoy this film series.

Our first film, "For The Bible Tell Me So" will be shown at the church on **Sunday, Feb. 28 from 12:15-3PM**. The movie profiles five Christian families and how they deal with having a Gay or Lesbian child. Two of the more prominent families interviewed are Dick Gephardt, a former Republican presidential nominee candidate and Gene Robinson, the current openly gay Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese in New Hampshire. Other films will include "Jesus Camp", "Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit", "Knee Deep", and "Root Of All Evil". Other films will be influenced by viewer preference and suggestions. If you have a film suggestion, are interested in helping with a church film or would like to host a film at your house please contact Tom Waddell at 512-5382 or email me at us1863@roadrunner.com.

Small Group Ministry: Various times

Kathy Kellison (445-4415, dehaana@fairpoint.net)

Discussion of spiritual topics, personal sharing and shared ministry to the church and wider community.

***Ongoing Groups** of 8-10 meet at times and locations decided by the groups. See the UUC website for an idea of the session format and the variety of topics used.

***Open Group 3rd Sunday** after each service. This gives experience of Small Group Ministry. Topic will be from the morning's worship service.

February 21 March 21 April 18 May 16

**Elders Lunches, 2nd Sunday, Noon-1pm,
Fellowship Hall**

Dan Sorenson

(685-3681, sokarldan@roadrunner.com)

*Informal conversation and a connections.

*"Elder" is self-defined. *Lunches are delicious!

February 14 March 14 April 11 May 9

**Looking at Later Life – Gifts, Challenges,
Celebrations in the Wisdom Years**

**2nd Sunday of the month, After Elder Lunch,
1-2pm, Sanctuary**

Come to Elder Lunch and to stay. Sessions are also open to others who have not attended the Elder Lunch. Applicable for multiple ages.

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.

More details in Newsletters.

See the Adult Religious Exploration Bulletin Board in the Hall by the Sanctuary for more information and evolving programs.

**Goddess Continuing: 1st & 3rd Sundays, 12:15-2:15
pm, Olsen Room in the Annex**

*Explore the richness of the feminine deity and earth-based spirituality. Men & youth are welcome.

*Experience Small Group Ministry Sessions, Guided Meditations, Creative activities.

*Celebrate cycles and seasons, with a session to understand the celebration and a session for celebration.

Participant are invited to bring personal reflections on celebration and goddesses.

February 7 & 21 Mask-making/Native American tradition *Mary Perkins, Ida Gammon-Wilson*

March 7 & 21 Spring Equinox

April 4 Sharing Goddess Resources

April 18 & May 2 Beltane

May 16 Goddess and Life Cycles

June 6 & 21 Summer Solstice

**Continuing the Welcome: 1st Monday, 6:30-
8:30pm, Fellowship Hall, Helen Zidowecki**

When we voted to become certified as a Welcoming Congregation by UUA, it was understood that we would also look at areas of intentional welcoming. We held a session on Heterosexism in December. Sessions will use various resources, such as: *Weaving the Fabric of Diversity* (Privilege, Ableism, Racism, Ageism, Classism), *Caring Congregation* Workshop (mental health)

February 1 Privilege: Who and when we have it, and how we use it *Helen Zidowecki*

March 1 Ageism *Roberta Record, Helen Zidowecki*

**Biblical Dialogue—Making Sense of Our Roots:
3rd Monday Evenings, 6:30-8:30pm,
Fellowship Hall**

Helen Zidowecki, Coordinating

February 15 "Unitarian Christianity" by William Ellery Channing. See Helen for copies. Also Open discussion of approaches to the Bible and UUs, such as specific curriculum, focused series, book discussions. Bring your interests.

March 15, April 19, May 17 Programs to be announced, based on planning February 15.

COMMUNITY NEWS

FUNdraising

The next FUNdraiser is a Dessert Theater on Friday, March 19th. Dessert by candle light from 6pm to 7pm in the Fellowship Hall and "Accomplice" (a murder mystery) at the Gaslight Theater in Hallowell at 8pm. Theater tickets are \$12 adults, \$10 seniors. (Gaslight Theater gives us \$1 for each ticket we sell) Dessert will be paid for by donation. We encourage people to make **early** reservations with us. Forms for this are on the FUNdraiser Bulletin Board in the Fellowship Hall. Please mention this to others. We hope you can come. ~ Judy and Bruce, Fundraising Chairs

Fundraising Suggestion - Your input is requested

Don Bell has proposed a fund raising program that has proved very successful at his brother-in-law's church in Massachusetts. After three years they are realizing \$5,000 profit annually.

The program involves selling shopping cards to church members at face value with the church receiving a commission on each sale from the vendor. This is done through the Great Lakes Scrip Center (GLSC), which is a national company that represents more than 600 retail brands.

For example a \$25 card would return:

Olive Garden	9%	\$2.45
LL Bean	17%	\$4.25
Shell Gas	2.5%	\$0.63
Home Depot	5%	\$1.25
American Airlines	8%	\$2.00
Barnes & Noble	9%	\$2.25
Lowe's	4%	\$1.00

Card sales from local businesses could also be arranged.

The cards could be sold in the Fellowship Hall during coffee hour and much of the other work would be done on line. The project would require initial "seed money" and a core of dedicated people to sell, order, and distribute the cards and to perform book-keeping duties.

As fundraising chairs, we would like to have your thoughts on this project. It will require substantial planning and ongoing commitment. Is it a program that you would favor and support? Please email us or talk with us about this ~ Judy McCown and Bruce Bierce

(ismbierce@myfairpoint.net or Bbierce@myfairpoint.net)

"The Social Activities Committee presents a night of Swing Dance!"

Swing the night away! On Saturday, January 30th, from 7:00 to 9:00 PM, come Jitterbug to your favorite big band sounds, plus a few Waltzes and Fox Trots thrown in for good measure! A beginning East Coast swing lesson will be taught from 6:30 - 7:00, to include the basic East Coast step, and a cool move or two. Don't just sit there; get up and dance! Catherine Smith will instruct and lead a fun-filled evening in the Fellowship Hall. This event is sponsored by the Social Activities Committee. Beverages will be offered, as well.



UU Family Talent Night **Sat. Feb. 27th.**

Social Activities Committee will host a program of music, dance, comedy, rap, etc., and we need folks of all ages to take part. Sign up in fellowship hall. FMI Stefanie Barley, youth talent, and Charlene Clevon, other participants. Show at 7:30, refreshments and no admission. Invite your friends and families.

Directory Updates:

Lara Dionne
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623-3097
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Lorna Doone
41 Richmond Mills Road
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Anne & Dylan Voorhees
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622-9040
Annabelle.voo@gmail.com

Augusta Food Bank News

There are many ways we at the UCC can help the Augusta Food Bank. The Food Bank is located at 9 Summer Street at St. Mark's Church.

- Donate money. \$15 will buy 100 pounds of food for the food bank.
- Donate non-perishable food here at church. All donations are appreciated but currently needed are a variety of cereals, dry milk, and boxed mac and cheese.
- Donate your time. Daytime volunteers are needed, both weekly and monthly.
- Contact 624-1365 or augustafoodbank@gmail.com for more information.
- Register your Shaw's Rewards card. Please note that Shaw's has streamlined their Community Rewards program to benefit the Augusta Food Bank. Rather than collecting your Shaw's receipts, you need to register your Rewards card. A percentage of your purchase will go towards the Food Bank. Registration is a one time process.

Go to www.shaws.com

Click on the **Learn** tab and choose **Community Rewards**

Click on the **Shoppers Login or Register with your Shaw's Rewards Card** link

Once you've logged in, click **Sign Me Up**

Use your Shaw's Reward card to sign up for the program

Enter the Augusta Food Bank's community rewards ID # 49001019168 to start contributing. Contact Shaws at 1-877-932-7948 if you encounter any issues.

Many Thanks!

Sarah Schultz-Nielsen

UCC Rep to the Augusta Food Bank



Peaceful Heart Sangha **Mindfulness Meditation in the tradition of Thich Nhat Hanh**

Our meditation is open to all.

We practice in the sanctuary 6:30 - 8 PM on Mondays and Wednesdays.

Come and join us any time. No prior experience necessary.

In February we will begin a **practice including children**
from 5:30 - 6:15 on the first Monday of the month.

Childcare will continue to be available from 6:15 - 8:15 on that day.

On third Mondays we usually have an introduction to practice from 5:30 - 6:15; however, this will not happen in February.

On fourth Mondays we have a recitation of the 14 Mindfulness Trainings at 5:30. This will not happen on January 25 because there will be a recitation with the wider Order of Interbeing meditation community at our church on Saturday, January 30. All are welcome.

We will gather to share at the end of our January Intensive Practice on Saturday, February 6, 9 - 12 followed by a potluck vegetarian lunch.

In February we will have a Maine Sangha Trip to Blue Cliff Monastery in NY from February 12 - 15 open to anyone who is interested in learning more about this practice. We will be joining them for Tet, the Vietnamese Lunar New Year celebration.

HISTORY COMMITTEE

Thanks to Helping Hands and Backs on December 27, the History Room moved from the second floor of the Annex to the old office on the first floor! The help was greatly appreciated. Thank you so much!

Sunday, March 28 Between Services on your calendar for the “Opening” of the History Room! See what we have: Pictures – Books – Timelines – Artifacts -- and much more! The Annex itself is a rich part of our history, having served as a parsonage, housed a day care center and offices, and now used for RE, the History Room and meetings. If you have never been in the Annex, that is an added reason to mark the date. Refreshments will be served.

Communicate with the History Committee in the designated tray in the Committee Room (by coat room). We are looking for:

- media articles about the church and its members,
- your questions about the history of Unitarian Universalism in Augusta,
- material about members who have died for the Memorial Book.

Let us know if you have things to donate to the history collection.

The Wayside Pulpit was introduced to North American churches—Unitarian and a total of 12 denominations—in 1919 by a Unitarian minister in Brighton, MA. These were “wayside sermons, liberal messages that would make people stop, read, and search their conscience.” The Unitarian Universalist Association website carries over 800 sayings that have appeared over the years, with the last series being published by UUA in 2006.” We have over 100 of the original posters in the History Room, and have downloaded the UUA collection so that it is available for you to pursue. They are now called “Quotations from the Wayside” and we plan to share a few in each in newsletter.

Quotations from the Wayside: Action and Activism

“Everyone is taking a stand these days and so there is a lot of standing around.” James Bevel

“Where there is so much to be done...there must be something for me to do.” Dorothea Dix

“Liberty is not permission to withdraw from the world’s battles.” H.L. Short

“May your life preach more loudly than your lips.” William Ellery Channing

“There is no limit to what can be accomplished if it doesn’t matter who gets the credit.” Ralph Waldo Emerson

The next History Committee meeting is **Thursday, February 11, 10am-Noon**. We have various projects that you may work on at other times. Contact Helen Zidowecki, hzmre@hzmre.com or 207-582-5308.

DISPLAY CASE (Hallway by Sanctuary)

The Displays are evolving. Please share your ideas and contribute. The displays that have been envisioned for the next few weeks are:

January 17- 31 Small Group Ministry. You are welcome to write a note about your experience with Small Group Ministry and add it to the display.

February 7-28 Aging and Ageism. This connects with the Later Life series on Feb. 14 and the Ageism session on March 1 (See Adult Programs). Please add things that relate to aging and prejudice around age: songs, cartoons, sayings – positive and challenging.

Contact: Helen Zidowecki (207-582-5308, hzmre@hzmre.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
(207)622-3232

Rental Keys



If you are in need of a key for an upcoming event, please be sure to contact the office during regular business hours to sign up for a key. This should be done prior to any events. If you hold a monthly or bi-weekly meeting and are the Chair, or back –up person and feel you need a key, please come to the office to fill out a key application. Please do not contact anyone to let you into the buildings. All meeting should have prior approval through the administration office. Thank you for your support in this matter.