



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 41

No. 6 June 2009

A Month of Sundays

(All services except June 21 at 10:30 a.m.)

June 7. *All on the Same Boat Now*

Dr. King's famous quote is a marvelous compass for community living. How would our connection, our interrelationship, our communication thrive if we really truly believed we were all working to the same successful end?

Potluck after service

Rev. Leela Sinha

June 14. *Oh, Freedom!*

June 19th is celebrated across the country as Juneteenth, the anniversary of emancipation in Texas. There's theoretical freedom and equality, and then there's what really happens. What makes the difference? This will be Leela's last sermon until fall, as she leaves for the UUA General Assembly the following week, and moves from there into her summer schedule.

Rev. Leela Sinha

June 21. 10:15. Summer Solstice Service.
Drumming, Hand Fast Ritual, Storytelling, Music,
Meditation, **Potluck**

Anne Ossanna

June 28. A Modified Quaker Service

Marta Rieman

Leela's Schedule

In an effort to provide more pastoral care, Leela is shifting her schedule. Thursdays will no longer be in-church office days. Instead, Leela is available to make pastoral care visits to homes, hospitals, nursing facilities, etc. If you would like a Thursday visit--you don't have to be sick--please call the church office ahead of time at 207-667-4393 or email Leela at minister@uuellsworth.org, and she will schedule a time with you. If you need to reach her on a Thursday, email is still the best way to contact her. She will check email as often as possible. We're trying this as an experiment until Leela leaves for GA in mid-June, and then she and the board will reevaluate.

Leela's summer schedule:

Leela will go from General Assembly straight into two weeks of study leave, followed by four weeks of vacation, followed by two weeks of study leave, which brings us to August 25. She will be in New York for one final training (after which she will be able to offer life coaching as part of her pastoral repertoire while she works on certification) through the end of that week but will be available by email and through the church office as she usually is when out of town. She will return to her regular schedule after that.

Unexpected Grace

This is the moment of shift, the moment of change, the moment of settling in. Decisions made, graduations graduated, classes completed, preparations prepared, this month we rest all our weight on this new foot and step forward. We love each other deeply. We wish each other well.

For our high school and college seniors, we send our hearts and hopes with you into the world. We have done what we could; we have loved you as well as we knew how. We see in you strength and wisdom and beauty beyond measure. We want to know about you. Use email, blogs, Twitter, Facebook, MySpace, text messages—tell us how you will keep in touch, let us learn. Know that you always have a place here among us, and that we continue to be your community no matter where you are, and we continue to love you.

For our summer workers, the ones among us whose high season is just beginning, our support and strength are with you, too. Even when we don't see you we know you are there, we revel in our shared connection, we worry, we hope, we wish you well. If you are sad or tired, discouraged, frustrated, flat-out angry, or if you are thrilled and celebrating: remember us. Call us. Email, Facebook, write a note at 3 in the morning when you can't sleep. Your church is still your church. Keep us posted. Let us be with you.

For our winter workers, our children, our youth, and many others, those whose high season is just ending, let us renew your spirit. Let this community be part of how you return to center, re-ground your spirit, connect and recharge. Be glad and rejoice with us in our shared embrace. Come home, and help us help you feed your soul. Revel in the summer's variety of services; enjoy picnics and organize beach parties. Where better to relax than in the place that calls you to be your genuine and best self? We will rejoice in your company.

The coming of summer makes shifts for all of us, even those whose work is not obviously affected. Our lives are still our lives. The solstice and the coming of the sun open up our spirits, remind us to

go visiting, to sit still outside, to relax. Where winter is a turning-in, summer is a coming forth. Let us all come forth, sink our feet into the earth and lift our hands skyward, for this is the continued miracle of the earth, always turning, sun and moon always rising. In this season of solstice let us take a moment, let us recommit, and let us rejoice. Anything is possible. Let it be so. Let us make it so. Let us make it so together.

blessings,

Leela

COMING ATTRACTION

Ashley Bryan, of Little Cranberry Island, noted poet, artist, author of numerous children's books, and world renowned supporter of improving schools in places suffering from a lack of facilities, teachers and equipment, will be our speaker on July 5. Stefanie Alley, Little Cranberry neighbor and friend of Ashley, is helping to organize the service.

Personnel

Minister

Reverend Leela Sinha: 667-4393
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Church Office

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Religious Exploration and Education

presenter, you are hereby most warmly invited.
Please contact Sonia at dre@uucellsworth.org.

Greetings All,

As we prepare for next year's programs there are some changes to the folks serving on our RE committees. First off, many heartfelt thanks to outgoing chair of our youth RE committee, Ann Ossana, who is looking forward to part-time RE teaching and getting back into the sanctuary on Sundays. Ann, we appreciate all that you have done and continue to do for our community, you are a gem. Nicole Leahy has graciously accepted the role of chair of the Youth RE committee. She will also co-teach the older youth next year with Matt Slater and has signed on to the Adult RE committee as well. Go Nicole!!! Bob Dickens has also volunteered for both RE committees and we are grateful for his enthusiasm and insight in shaping a solid lifespan educational program. Last but certainly not least, welcome, welcome, welcome, Christina Gagliardi, to the Adult RE committee. Christina has jumped right in with energy and motivation. Our 2009-2010 Committee line-up is currently:

Youth RE committee

Nicole Leahy(Chair)
Carol Rosinsky
Becka Gagne
Bob Dickens

Adult RE Committee

Diana Cate (Chair)
Bob Dickens
Tom Stipe
Kathy Combs
Jonathan Thomas
Christina Gagliardi

Nicole Leahy

If you would like to get involved in our RE program as a committee member, regular teacher or special

Youth Religious Exploration Program

The year has flown by so quickly, it is hard to believe that we are nearing the end of our school year programs for children and youth.

PLEASE NOTE: Our last scheduled day of RE and nursery care is **JUNE 21st**, when we will celebrate the Summer Solstice. There is no nursery or RE coverage during the summer months. Our program will resume at the beginning of September.

June 7, 14, 21:

- **Nursery:** with Helen Conway, in 'Harmony' classroom.
- **Children:** with Anne Ossanna, in 'Truth' classroom.
- **Jr. & Sr. Youth:** with Carol Rosinski and Nicole Leahy, in 'Acceptance' classroom.
Come see the beautiful new mural!!

A gentle reminder to the following folks to please return the completed teacher info folder back to me ASAP.

- Matt Slater
- Becka Gagne
- Anne Ossana
- Carol Rozinski
- Beth Allen
- Val Frey
- Sarah Hayman-Huisjen

Next year's programs are looking to be very exciting as we focus on peace and social justice in all our age groups. The younger kids (4-7 y/o led by co-teachers Sarah and Val), and the older kids (8 – 12 y/o led by co-teachers Ann and Carol) will be following engaging and creative curriculum from

UUA called *'In Your Hands.'* The teen group (13-18 y/o led by co-teachers Nicole and Matt) will be charged with the task of envisioning a *'Peace Village,'* complete with attention to city planning, social welfare, medical rights, animal rights, arts and science, environmental and political concerns. These teens will be challenged to provide constructive solutions to concerns brought to them by members of the congregation (this means YOU!!) using the 7 UU principles as their guide. This promises to be an exciting year all around.

We are very fortunate to have gotten confirmation that Helen Conway has agreed to return next fall to be our primary Nursery care provider. Helen has done a wonderful job this year and we are so lucky to have her.

Please take a moment and thank Helen, Ann, Carol, Nicole and Sarah for their outstanding work with our children this year! We literally could not have done it without them. You gals are awesome!!!

Adult Education

We have been blessed this year with the wonderful gifts of time and energy from our fellow parishioners in bringing a stimulating and engaging Adult program. Thank you to Sarah Hayman-Huisjen - Dartha Reid - Karen Wigglesworth - Diana Cate, Jon Thomas - Martha Dickenson - Bob Dickens - Bill Conway - Anne Dickens -, Peggy Strong and Judith Toland for sharing of themselves. If I have left anyone out, I apologize - you too have our many thanks!!!

I am hoping to arrange for several single day offerings for Adult RE over the summer, so keep on the lookout for postings. I am in contact with a woman who would like to lead a *'Spiritual Biography workshop'*; if this sounds interesting to you, let me know and I'll see if I can make it happen.

There are currently several great programs in the making for next year...

- A series of classes on Paganism to be offered through the year, organized by Ann Ossana
- A book discussion on the community building best seller, *'Me to WE,'* led by Sonia Turanski
- Diana Cate is working on an idea for a new history class
- Christina Gagliardi is investigating the Adult curriculum offered through the UUA
- An evening panel on substance abuse and harm reduction healing modalities organized by Bob Dickens
- A series of traditional and alternative healthcare talks, featuring a host of local providers

All in all, many exciting things to look forward to in the upcoming year. In the meantime, may each and every day be filled with gratitude for all that we receive and all that we, in return, have to share.

Aloha (love) and *Mahalo* (thanks),

Sonia Turanski, DRE

GOODS AND SERVICES AUCTION

Plans have been made for the Fall Auction. It is on the UUCE calendar for Saturday, Oct. 3. Jerry Miller, last year's auctioneer, has promised to donate his services once again.

We will need planners and workers. Please contact Marta Rieman of the Leadership Development Committee to offer your time and talent.

Last year we brought in \$5,000.00 with half of that amount going to the Hancock County Thaw Fund.

It is time to think about what you would like to donate.

Membership Committee

By the time that you receive the June NUUS, the 2009 UUCE Directory of Members and Friends should be available for pick up at the church. If you cannot locate the copies, be in touch with Caitlin Tunney in the church office. Anyone who would like a “home delivery” should contact Karen Wigglesworth or Dorothy Jordan, Caring Committee Co-chairs.



UUCE Down East Discussion Group Winter – Spring Schedule 2009

The Down East Discussion Group is open to all and welcomes new members. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. Bring a sandwich for yourself. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the host of the month. For directions or questions, please call the host of the month.

Wednesday, June 10, 2009
Host: Richard Thurston (546-2235) Steuben
Picnic and Planning Meeting

Caring Corner

I want to express my heartfelt gratitude to everyone who has offered their condolences and support to me after the untimely death of my dog Joe. Your kind words have meant so much to me. I also wish to thank the skilled and compassionate vets and veterinary staff at the Acadia Veterinary Clinic and the Eastern Maine Emergency Vet Clinic who worked so hard to try to save his life. Joe was my walking companion, my confidant and my best little buddy and I will miss him very much. Please give your furry loved ones an extra hug and kiss for me in memory of Joe. And thank you again for your kindness.

Planting for Plenty

Plant Potluck!

Now that Memorial Day weekend has come and gone, most of us have most of our gardens planted.

Did you end up with too many plants? Extra tomatoes? Surplus peppers? Bring them on Sunday, June 14 and we'll put them out in the community room, free for the taking. Take what you can use (come prepared with containers!) and share what you can't. Let's help everyone's garden thrive!

Summer Solstice Celebration

**June 21, 2009
10:15 a.m.**

*Drumming, Hand Fast Ritual,
Storytelling, Music and Meditation*

**Potluck immediately
following the service**

*Please bring drums and a dish to
share*

From The Board

Board Retreat

Rev. Karen Brammer, our NNED consultant, facilitated a retreat for the board at Diana and Kay's house May 8 & 9. Important priorities for the weekend were to focus on bonding and developing trust and to create a board mission statement that would help guide us through the coming year. Mission accomplished! We feel strong, together and realistic about the work in front of us. Below is our covenant with each other.

We, the Board, commit our care and strength to love and inspire one another for the vitality, harmony, and growth of our faith community. Only then will we be the Downeast beacon of liberal religion.

Board Meeting, May 14

Attending: Board members- President Ruth Eveland, Vice President Diana Cate, Treasurer Don Martin, Secretary Karen Volckhausen, Cynthia Perkins, Eileen Brennan, Toby Manring, John Fink, Anne Ossanna, Judy Rothrock
Also attending were Minister Leela Sinha, Evelyn Foster, Bob Dickens

Housekeeping:

Bob Dickens has been researching what fire protection we need to be safe plus the costs. Our priorities are a heat detector and a hood suppression system. The most important right now is the detector. Low end price is \$1065. The board passed a motion to buy the detector as soon as the money is found.

The board approved the formation of an administrative subcommittee consisting of the officers who will meet monthly between board meetings to take care of housekeeping matters that do not need the whole board's attention. This is on a trial basis and will be added to the by-laws next year if successful.

Ruth Eveland and Fran Stehman were approved as delegates to the General Assembly.

A policy for dealing with disruptive people was reviewed and approved. It will be posted on the website.

Minutes and policies will soon be in an easily accessible place in the office and all members of the congregation are invited to read them at any time. Leela requested approval to spend one of her days scheduled at church visiting parish members. Approval was given.

The Forest Moon nursery school will not be operating next year. If anyone knows of someone who would like to run a weekday nursery school at the church, please contact the board.

Budget process

Budget review is proceeding and almost completed. The board recommitted to bringing a balanced budget to the parish meeting on May 24. We will review the approved budget in 6 months.

Respectfully submitted by Karen Volckhausen,
Board Secretary

Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry

SUMMER MUST BE HERE!

It is time to be thinking about our commitment to Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry. UUCE staffs the Food Pantry during the month of August. We provide 4 to 5 people every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. This is a rewarding and fun opportunity for our congregation to put its principles and values into practice. A sign-up sheet on a colorful yellow poster will go up in June. Many generous members, who know the rewards and fun of this commitment sign-up for more than one day during the month. The total needed is 52 to 65 three hour commitments for the month. Consult your calendars, figure out when your visitors are coming (maybe they'd like to help, they have in the past), and then sign-up. Any questions please contact Judy Rothrock at 244-3520 or talk with me at church on Sunday.

Message from the President

Being “In Right Relations”

When we called Leela Sinha to be our minister, one of the things we agreed to do was to work through the Committee on Ministry to develop a document to be called “Principles of Congregational Ministry,” which was what other people refer to as a “covenant of right relations.”

The Committee on Ministry talked a bunch about it, and came up with some language that was pretty much what we thought we needed, but ... as with many such documents in our congregation, we never completed it. There was some attempt at “wordsmithing” it, but we ended up parking it until ... when? when we actually need it? Well, we need it, now.

The primary purpose of such a document is to spell out how we will behave with each other. We commit to working together, respecting each other, supporting each other, sharing, communicating, celebrating, and accepting responsibility. This doesn't seem as though it should be that hard to write up, does it? It is, generally, pretty much the way we actually do behave with each other.

What it does, however, is make us all agree to something together. We all, together, agree.

It is possible to do, I am sure. The Board, at its retreat at the beginning of May, used the Personal Ministry exercise format and developed a statement for it to use. It says, “We the Board, commit our care and strength to love and inspire one another for the vitality, harmony, and growth of our faith community. Only then will we be the Downeast Beacon of liberal religion.” (I hope you like that as much as I do; it still gives me a good shiver.) So, the Board agreed to this. Together.

And, a week ago, at our meeting with the five other churches in the Planning for Growth group, our team committed to getting our congregation “to make an active declaration of community through simple covenant.” We're not looking for a full mission or vision statement, we just want our congregation to agree on a statement. It may seem

like small potatoes, but it would actually be a big step for us.

This kind of statement would help us all focus on the fact that we are choosing to be with each other. We aren't made to come to church, certainly not this one. We come because we want to. When asked, members repeatedly say that the primary reason they come is to be in relationship with the others who also come. So, what we are looking for is a simple sentence or two actively saying that we are in relationship, sort of (as David Towle pointed out) like a wedding vow - to be in relationship as long as our love lasts.

I don't mean to appear to be browbeating people over words all the time (you will note that I am not haranguing you about those leaves this time). But for me words are terribly important. I can't just accept a feeling without needing to attach some words to it. I think many of us are this way, although I'm also sure that everyone is not, and that is fine.

For those of us who need the meaning such words bring, can we do this? Can we create a vow, “an earnest promise or pledge that binds one to a specified act or mode of behavior,” to express our desire to be in right relations? Think of the power this would bring. For instance, do you remember what it says at the end of the Declaration of Independence: “...we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes, and our sacred Honor.” They meant it and they lived it and we have all benefitted from this simple statement. It gave them enormous power to do the terribly hard work they believed they needed to do.

Let us benefit from such a vow, a pledge, a commitment. Let us “make an active declaration” to each other. *Let us commit to being in relationship, with all the struggles and rewards that offers.*

Yours in ministry,
Ruth Eveland,

Treasurer's Corner

For the first time this church year, our net ordinary income on the Budget Report moved into the minus column (\$2,890.08) and I had to transfer \$10,000 from our savings account into our checking account to cover expenses. That brings the savings account down to less than \$7,000.

Pledge receipts from April were only \$3,876 instead of the \$8,000 projected. Remember it requires \$7,500 each month to cover payroll and benefits. Operating expenses run approximately \$3,000 per month. You can see how easy it is to get into a negative situation.

Responses from our mailing of pledge statements have been positive so far in May. We had a \$2,400 deposit from the Sunday May 3rd collection plate. Fortunately, a payroll of \$15,000 and an insurance premium of \$2,500, and Leela's costs for GA are the only large expenses we have for May and June and we should be able to cover them from pledge receipts and savings.

Remember that next year we will not have money in the savings account to cover expenses when cash flow is short. If pledge receipts do not improve in May and June this year, we will have the \$8,000 to \$10,000 shortfall in pledges that I have projected. I am projecting a shortage of rental income of \$3,000. Income from the plate should come in as budgeted at \$8,000. Fund raising will come in \$2,214 short of our goal of \$6,000. Unless cash flow between now and the end of June improves, the board will have to pass a resolution to borrow approximately \$10,000 from the Endowment to cover expenses for the month of July. Hopefully, we will receive pledge receipts in July to cover August expenses. If you would like to make an early payment on your 09/10 pledge, I encourage you to do so. You would need to indicate 09/10 in the memo portion of your check. This would certainly help cash flow in July. Please call me if you have any questions about making an early payment.

I wish this report could be more positive. However, as treasurer, I live with the responsibility of having to pay our expenses each month and I need to be as realistic about our financial situation as possible. Hopefully, by the time you read this article, we will have an approved balanced budget

that all of us can support and live with this coming year.

Don Martin
Treasurer

News About Our NUUS

How to get the NUUS on your computer

Some folks believe that getting the UU newsletter on line means that someone will email the NUUS Letter to them. Not true. The newsletter will not be emailed. To receive the newsletter, follow these steps:

1. Go online and go to the UU church web site: www.uuellsworth.org
2. Look in the left margin of the web site for the link that says 'newsletter' and click on it.
3. A series of dates will come up: March 09, Feb. 09, Jan. 09, etc. Click on the date that you want, and that newsletter will come up.
4. You can now read the newsletter on your screen, or if you prefer you can print it. You have the option of printing just one page, or several pages, or printing the entire newsletter. Just follow the print directions.

Dusty Bailey is no longer working with the NUUS Letter. All emails regarding the NUUS Letter including information about getting the NUUS from the church web site instead of regular mail should go to our office administrator, Caitlin Tunney. Her email is caitlin@uuellsworth.org. Also, please CC the email to Peggie Geiger at peggiegeiger@hotmail.com because she helps organize the mailing list. If you need to call Caitlin at church, her working hours are 1 to 5 p.m. on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday.