



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605
(207) 667-4393 www.uuellsworth.org

A Month of Sundays

(All services at 10:30 a.m.)

June 1. *Youth Service.* Our youth will offer reflections and music from their year, and we will honor our graduating seniors. Leela will serve as their liturgist.

POTLUCK

June 8. *Proud or Pervert? Reclaiming identity; reclaiming language.*

Language is a center of power. Who decides what we are? Who decides what it means?

This will be our GLBT Pride Month service.

June 15. *The Living Is Easy*

What makes life easy? Do we really want what we think we want?

This will be Leela's last Sunday in the pulpit until fall. She will be serving us at General Assembly in Florida and then taking her vacation in July and her study leave in August. The Worship Committee has done a tremendous job of finding talented worship leaders for the summer series. Please continue to join us!

June 22. *Celebrate Summer Solstice*

Join with UUCE's Green Sanctuary Committee and Pagans in an earth-centered celebration of our love and concern for our environment. Handfast with Mother Earth.

June 29. *Celtic Pilgrimage?* Memorial Day Recognition: Music and Readings selected by Leela. Members will lead the service

Leela's sermons are archived on our website. From uuellsworth.org, click on the menu item -- "Sermons and Minister's Blog" -- for access to podcasts and printable text copy of the sermons of Leela and of some of our guests as well..

New UU Summer Intensive! June 16-18

We're gearing up for summer—the pulpit is filled, the weather is warm, the garden is growing, and there's so much happening we're tripping over our feet to do it all. In the fast-paced spirit of summer, we're offering a three-session intensive New UU class during a single week. That's Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday the 16-18th of June, for three hours each night from 6-9 PM. If six weeks is too much, too uncertain, too long, too hard to schedule around, join us for a gallop through history, worship, theology, personal belief, and polity during this last week before the UU General Assembly. You can take all summer to absorb what you've learned and foster new friendships and then join in the new member ceremony this fall. We're experimenting with class formats--please register by calling the church office by June 9 so we know if we have enough people to run this course. We need a minimum of six to make it work. See you there!

Unexpected Grace

Ministry involves a lot of different tasks. We counsel, we write, we study, we meet with small groups, we speak to large groups, we learn a little about a lot of lives. We go to meetings, we facilitate, we administrate, we read and interpret budget sheets. We supervise staff; we supervise volunteers; we design worship and workshops, we teach classes, we do publicity, we do interfaith outreach and public witness in our communities. And then there are the little things, the sidelines, the things that make ministry, *ministry*. These are things that if we don't do them, we may be the only ones who realize it, but they affect everything else. Historically we have preserved handcrafts: woodworking, weaving, spinning, calligraphy, farming. Monastic orders especially have that peculiar mix of innovation and tradition to manage. Now, as we move into the electronic age, we preserve other things as well: home visits, letter writing on real paper with real ink, ritual for life transitions, and still, woodworking, weaving, spinning, calligraphy, music, knitting, art. As the world gets more complicated it's harder and harder to do these things and everything else: design a web page, then sit down for a two hour cup of tea, then hop on a plane to attend a conference on something-or-other on the other side of the continent. We somehow have to straddle the line between blind efficiency and unmindful meandering. These old graces are lulls, moments that bring clarity to otherwise stormy navigation. Doing them well forces us into discipline, into mindfulness, into attention and focus and quality and humbleness. The religious and the grandparents seem to be charged with soul-sustenance. Somehow we try to walk between everything: between generations, between differences, straight down the middle of the continua that make up our lives. We don't have to be ordained; we only have to seek the place where life and faith become one. Recently I have begun knitting again. It helps me concentrate. It keeps me patient. And it is one of the old graces.

In this summer season may we all find the charm of old graces.

Blessings,

Leela

Celtic Pilgrimage

Sunday, June 29 at 7 pm

Hugh Curran will give a slide show presentation of a pilgrimage he made recently to sacred sites in Ireland, Scotland and Northern England, focusing on places associated with Celtic tradition, including monasteries and hermitages founded during the golden age of Celtic spirituality (6th-11th century). In addition, he visited sacred places associated with Scotland and Ireland's megalithic periods (4000 BC). The pilgrimage began in Killaloe, at Lough Derg on the Shannon, Cong Abbey, Croagh Patrick in Mayo, Tory Island in Donegal & Armagh in Northern Ireland. Ancient sites included Navan (Emain Macha) and Newgrange (Brugh Na Boinne). In Scotland he traveled to Iona Island (founded by Columba) and then to Melrose & Dryburgh Abbeys and on through the English border counties to Lindisfarne Island and Durham Cathedral. He then journeyed to Whitby Abbey (founded by St. Hilda) and then back to Scotland, to Whithorn (Candida Casa) on Luce Bay where Ninian's Chapel and Ninian's Cave are located.

Hugh Curran lives in Surry and is a native of Donegal, Ireland. He teaches in the Peace Studies Program at the University of Maine. He also has an extensive background in Zen Meditation and sees many similarities between the Celtic tradition and Zen meditation practice.

Everyone is welcome to attend this program at the UU Church of Ellsworth, Sunday, June 29 at 7 pm.

Annual Parish Meeting Minutes

Secretary Anne Ossanna established that a quorum of members was present. President Kay Wilkins called the meeting to order.

1. Election of officers and members of the Board of Trustees - Tom Martin, chair of the Elections Committee, reviewed the candidates for officers and Board of Trustees. There were no nominations from the floor. A motion was moved to accept the candidates and was approved. The elected officers and BOT members are as follows:

Ruth Eveland	President
David Towle	Vice-President
Mary Ann Solet	Secretary
George Marcus	Treasurer (pro-tem)
Anne Ossanna	BOT - 2011
Judy Rothrock	BOT - 2011

Continuing members of the Board of Trustees are as follows: John Fink, Becka Gagne, Toby Manning. Bill Clark's position will be filled by the Board.

2. Acceptance of '08-'09 Budget - George Marcus could not attend today's meeting, Kay Wilkins read a prepared statement from George. The proposed budget was distributed to the congregation. The budget has a \$19,000.00 deficit, which can be met from the cash reserve (money used for operating contingencies) without tapping Maine Community Foundation investments. Unless we are able to increase our fund raising and/or cut expenses, the cash reserves to meet future budget deficits will have shrunk to 2K by the end of the next fiscal year. The purpose of the deficit spending includes \$13,000 for a Life Span Director and \$5,000 for an Office Assistant. Discussion followed about the necessity of a strong RE program, concern about cuts in the Worship Committee budget, recognition of the necessity of increased fund-raising to support our aspirations to serve the congregation and the community. The congregation voted to adopt the '08-'09 budget totaling \$132, 520, as presented.

3. Adoption of Safe Congregation Policy - Ruth Eveland distributed the revised policy for voting

members to review. The policy was approved unanimously. The congregation thanked Ruth Eveland, Bob Dickens, Bill Clark and Tom Stipe for their work on this policy.

4. Small Church Pilot Program - Ruth Eveland presented a summary of the new growth program. UUCE along with 5 other small churches from Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire will participate in this 3-year pilot program. The 4 areas of growth are: Numerical Growth (leaves), Maturation Growth (roots), Organic Growth (branches) and Incarnation Growth (fruit of the tree). Over the next few months the congregation will be invited to share personal ministry profiles as part of the program.

5. Committee on Ministry - Bob Dickens spoke briefly on the feedback from Canvass visits regarding the ministry in its broadest sense. He assured all present that their concerns are being considered carefully and when appropriate will be acted upon.

6. Other business - David Towle presented Kay Wilkins with a token of appreciation for the leadership she has provided over the past few years as President.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne N. Ossanna
Secretary

Membership Committee

Welcome to our newest members who signed the Membership Book on April 27: Stefanie Alley, Karen Volckhausen, and Charlotte Young.

Personnel

Minister

Reverend Leela Sinha: 667-4393
minister@uuellsworth.org

President of the Board

Ruth Eveland: 288-5727
president@uuellsworth.org

Religious Education Chair

Anne Ossanna: 565-2057

Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Choir Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301
lfunderburk@roadrunner.com

Invest Your Economic Stimulus Check in UUCE

You may have already received your tax rebate check. Given the last 2 digits of my social security number, I won't get mine until July. I'm sure the government wants me to rush out and buy some consumer goods. I'd rather use my check in a way that reflects my values. Consider contributing some or all of your check to UUCE. That's what I'll do with mine.

As you know, we need to invest in our children by funding a Religious Exploration program with a Director of Religious Education. There's much good that our church can and will do in the world and locally such as funding for the Minister's Discretionary Fund administered through the Emmaus Center. These are but two of many good uses of our checks. Share your thoughts and be as generous as you can be.

Kay Wilkins

Notes from the Giving Corner

Thank you to all the members and friends of UUCE for the generous pledges for our next fiscal year which begins July 1, 2008. At this time the total promised is \$86,227. This represents 77 pledging units. There are always a few pledges that come in after the canvass. If you haven't made a pledge yet or you would like to help raise this figure in some other way, please speak to any one of the visitors named in this article and they would be very happy to help you to do that.

By the time you read this the Parish Meeting will have been held and you know that despite our best efforts we face serious financial difficulties. We have challenged ourselves and hired the first full time minister in 52 years. Now we are ready to take the next step by employing a part time Lifespan Religious Education director and a part time administrator. I know you will meet the challenge.

Thanks to all of you who gave creative ideas, expressed personal concerns and took the opportunity to give constructive feedback to the visitors.

Many thanks to the committee: Peggie Geiger, Judith Rothrock, Sue Aubry and Kay Wilkins, and additional visitors Fran Stehman, Flo Reed, Sara Bushmann, Sara Hayman, David Towle, Mary Ann Solet, Mike Tansey, Betty Massie and Diana Cate for their dedicated work. Their efforts and your generosity support the future of UUCE.

Evelyn Foster, Stewardship Chair



Message from the President

Hoist With Her Own Petard

This is my last column as your president. It's been a wonderful, event-filled and very busy two years. There has rarely been a day when I haven't devoted some time or at least thought to the welfare of this congregation and my role in it.

So, now what? My intention is to work with others to help build a program of planned giving. First I'll need to learn a lot more than I know now about how such programs work. I expect that the Maine Community Foundation and the UUA will be able to teach me. I'll be part of the Finance Committee in that quest. I'll also stay on the Landscape Committee just because I love messing about with gardens. That's really spiritual work for me. Then there's Green Sanctuary – we rock! I'm one of the founding members of the Name Tag Posse. You'll learn all about us in another part of this month's NUUS. I'll continue to volunteer with Stewardship, too. I just love to canvass! I'll keep going to North Ellsworth Small Group Ministry. They are my "homies."

There have been many times in the last two years when someone has approached me here at church or in the community and asked me to serve on a board, chair an organization or assist with another activity, and my reply has been, "I can't possibly consider taking on any more work until my term of office as UUCE president has ended."

While that was sincere and saved me from certain burnout and stress, I'll have to admit, that sometimes I said that without really considering whether I'd ever want to do what was being asked of me. There are people who are going to remember that answer and come after me now.

This leads me to a general consideration of service to the church and community. I understand there are people who really get fussed if they are asked to participate and asked sometimes more than once. Can you believe I'm going to quote Nancy Reagan? "Just say no." A former member of our church once told me she wasn't going to come anymore because people kept asking her to participate and saying no

made her feel guilty. A friend of mine (an ex, actually) told me, "Guilt is optional." I try to remember that, with moderate success.

However, service to UUCE gives me great joy. Sunday services are a major part of my week. Next January and February when Diana and I are in Ft. Walton Beach, Florida, we'll attend the UU Fellowship of the Emerald Coast in nearby Valaparaíso. Showing up on Sunday morning matters, but for me, it's the other things, from greeting and washing dishes, to making name tags for newcomers which deepen my faith and help bond me to the many wonderful people I have met at UUCE. Before you say no when you are asked to get involved or do yet one more thing, consider what joy you might be passing up. I know my level of service is easier for me as a retiree than it was when I was a full-time worker with small children. I appreciate what the time-demands are for many of you, but also please understand. One of the perks of being president has been this bully pulpit. I'm giving this up, so forgive me if you feel I'm pushing you too hard. Just remember what I said about guilt.

In service,

Kay Wilkins, UUCE President

Meet the Name Tag Posse!

It will take three of us to replace her, and this is just one of Sue Aubrey's many tasks. Judy Rothrock, Fran Stehman and I will be making nametags. Ours will not rise to Sue's artful level, but we'll do our best to accommodate all requests. We'll focus on newcomers, of course, but we'll be looking over what the rest of you are wearing and may diplomatically (or not) suggest an upgrade. Sue trained us. We're ready to ride!

Kay Wilkins

Religious Exploration

Spring Greetings from the RE Program. As the buds burst forth in color and fragrance, we are winding down the program this year. The Senior Youth Group will close the program by leading the Worship Service on June 1st. RE classes will resume in September.

Fran Stehman has concluded her term as Chair of the RE Committee, we thank Fran for her leadership during this year of transition. We welcome Helen Kazura as the newest member of the RE Committee. Teaching assignments for the fall are as follows: Anne Ossanna - Spirit Play (ages 4-8), Nicole Leahy - Jr. Youth Group (ages 9-14) and Carol Rosinski - Sr. Youth (ages 15-18). We still are looking for volunteers for the nursery, so please see Anne Ossanna if you would like to work with the youngest members of our faith community.

Have a JOYOUS Summer!

Respectfully submitted,

Anne N. Ossanna

Concert

Four Shillings Short will be performing on Saturday June 13 at 7:30 PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth. Doors open at 7:00. This is a benefit for Community Radio WERU 89.9 FM presented by the Downeast Concert Collective.

Suggested donation is \$15 for the general public, \$12 in advance and for WERU members. Free for those under 16. All proceeds from this concert go to WERU 89.9 FM

Get advance reservations by contacting WERU at 469-6600 or info@weru.org. You can also just show up at the door.

Peace and Social Action Committee

Help Needed for Haitian Refugees

A local group of citizens and church people, now organized as Maine Refugee Assistance, has been helping Haitians seeking refuge in Canada by providing rides from here to Canada and a few days of local hospitality. Your help is still welcome in these areas as the need is ongoing and expected to increase as conditions worsen in Haiti. Money is also needed to help pay for phone bills, gas, and lodging. To make a donation, send a check made out to the Narramissic Valley Friends Meeting; put "refugee assistance" on the Memo line, and send to Margaret de Rivera, 23 Fish Point Rd., Orland, ME 04472. To help with driving and hospitality needs and for more information, please phone Margaret at 469-8972 or Martha at 667-5863.

Opt Out – Is It Working?

Some parents in Maine are concerned that their children are receiving mailings from military recruiters even though they have filed Opt Out forms with their high schools and have clearly expressed their desire not to be contacted by recruiters. For an article on the Pentagon's recruitment databases, see **Mining for Kids: Children Can't "Opt Out" of Pentagon Recruitment Database** at www.commondreams.org/headlines06/0117-12.htm. For instructions and a form to remove your information from the Pentagon databases, see the truth project website at www.truthproject.info. If you are concerned about this or if your sons or daughters have had this experience, please contact Martha at 667-5863. The Peace and Social Action Committee has a small project on Truth In Recruiting. We welcome others who would like to work with us.

Martha Dickinson

For the Peace and Social Action Committee

From The Board

Summary of the May 8, Meeting

Treasurer's Report

Treasurer George Marcus reported that he is pleased that our income has continued to be good, supported by strong plate and rental income. Expenses (except for heating, telephone) are generally within budget parameters. We will probably have a year-end deficit of about \$7400 much of it due to the non-recurring expense of Leela's moving cost, which was anticipated. Our estimated cash flow calculations show that at the end of this fiscal year our available cash in the bank will be approximately \$14,000.

Proposed Budget

George then presented a suggested 08/09 budget. He commented, "Of greater concern is the fact that with our annual pledge drive substantially completed, our pledging is at about the same level as this year as last (\$87,000) while we wish, at a minimum to include a RE Director (\$13000 in my budget) and an Administrative aide (\$5000 in my budget). The budget also reflects the increased cost of heating despite including an allowance for savings by roof insulation. I have not included most of the larger budget requests from committees. Still my suggested budget shows a deficit of approximately \$19,000. To clarify our situation further, that would mean that next year, in addition to using all available cash reserves, we would have to use about \$5000 from the Maine Community Foundation funds for operating expenses."

An extended discussion followed of both the particulars of additions and cuts to the proposed budget and the policy issue of continued deficit spending and implications of withdrawing operating funds from the endowment. Much of the discussion involved the critical need of a vital, professionally-led RE program to continue to grow the church and concern about communicating the issues before us clearly with the congregation. The board passed the budget as presented by the treasurer for presentation

to the congregation, provided that the deficit will be met from any and all sources other than the endowment.

Revised Building Rental Fee Schedule

Sue Aubrey prepared a rental agreement sample and requested feedback on it. The proposed rental fee schedule was also distributed and considered. The fees are comparable to St. Dunstan's on State Street except their sanctuary events schedule is \$300 instead of \$100. The reason for increasing our fees is that we are not meeting our costs, particularly our heating costs. The Board voted to implement the presented fee schedule with provisions for donating space as part of the social justice program, increase of minimum time to three hours and increase to \$300 for weddings (five hours), and member events are exempt.

Safe Congregation Policy – Ruth Eveland

The second of three possible introductions was accepted. Only one comment was received during the second comment period. The policy will now be presented to the congregation at the May 18, Parish Meeting.

Bill Clark's Resignation

Bill Clark's letter of resignation, effective May 31 2008 was received. It was accepted with regret. Filling the vacancy became an item for the June BOT agenda.

Goods and Services Auction

Peggie Geiger is willing to chair the Goods and Services Auction if the Board approves which, of course we did. The date is Saturday, October 4, probably a meal and then the auction.

Scribed by Leela Sinha

Edited by Kay Wilkins

Kitchen Renovation Update

Be sure you are sitting down before you read this entry. Some very generous anonymous donors have come forward and are purchasing a new Garland stove for our new kitchen. It will be delivered about May 28. Can you believe the generosity of our members? The new stove will have electronic ignition, eight burners and two ovens. Thank you to these donors as well as to all others who have come forward so generously. Our old stove has a new home with people who are very excited to have it. At this writing, work on the kitchen is on schedule and going well. We fully anticipate that the new kitchen will be ready for our June 1 pot luck at which we will celebrate.

Myanmar Relief Fund

During the May 18th service, in response to a special offering call initiated by the UUCE Growth Team and approved by the Board, the congregation donated a total of \$655 for the Myanmar cyclone relief fund being administered by the UU Service Committee. The UUSC is working with non-governmental agencies already on the ground in Myanmar, assuring that the funds will be well spent. If you wish, additional donations may be sent to:

Unitarian Universalist Service Committee
UUSC-UUA Cyclone Nargis Relief Fund
P.O. Box 845259
Boston, MA 02284-5259

Many thanks to all of you from the UUCE Growth Team.

Food Pantry News

UUCE is responsible for staffing Loaves and Fishes Food Pantry with volunteers for the month of **August**. Twelve community churches and organizations share this responsibility, each taking one month of the year. Every Monday, Wednesday and Friday during our month we need to have, at least, four volunteers on hand during the morning, to stock shelves, aid clients, sort through donated fruits and vegetables to assure freshness, and to sweep floors at end of morning open hours. Camaraderie with fellow church members and serving the larger community contribute to a joyful experience for most of us. This has been one of our important social justice endeavors over a number of years, perhaps our most sustained effort.

A sign-up chart will be going up soon in the community room. There are 13 days in August that we will require volunteers (4 for each of those 13 days). It is wonderful when members take one morning a week for the whole month or even a whole week as people have. I will, also, be talking with you individually to answer any questions you may have and to encourage you to sign-up. This is a wonderful opportunity to serve the community and have a fun time doing it.

Judy Rothrock, Coordinator

Art/Crafts Festival

As a fund raiser for the church, Mike Tansey is forming a group to hold an ART/CRAFTS festival sometime in the future. He is asking anyone who might like to help to see him after church or call him at 422-3564 or e-mail miketanseym@downmeast.net. This will be a juried festival for fine arts and crafts -- similar to those held at the Bay School.

So... why is that tree in the hallway?

In September, 2006 the Search Committee asked the congregation, "What are your feelings about membership growth?" Sixty-nine percent of you said you were favorable, twenty-four percent neutral and seven percent preferred the current size of the congregation.

So, we have been assuming that most of the church was interested in growth ... but what do we mean by that? Our congregation has been given a serendipitous opportunity to participate in a three year pilot program focusing on growth and vitality, and we have leaped on board. We are working with five other congregations in our new district, two from Maine and three from NH/VT. This is giving us access to the leadership and guidance of two skilled consultants from the UUA for a token of their usual fee, as well as support from other congregations who are working on the same process.

The Growth Team, as appointed by the Board of Trustees, is comprised of David Towle, Cynthia Perkins, Ruth Eveland, and Leela Sinha. We attended our first workshop in late April and began to learn about the different types of growth, and also to work out a preliminary plan to get the congregation informed and interested.

The first challenge is to help everyone understand about the different kinds of growth, and that's why there's a tree in the hallway. That tree is our depiction of the types of growth we will be considering. The leaves represent *numerical* growth, how many of us are there. The trunk and branches represent the *organic* growth, the institutional structures that support the living organism. The roots are the *maturational* growth, the maturity of faith and depth of spirituality of its members. And, the apples (or pears, or cherries) are the *incarnational* growth, and are the embodiment of our faith in the world.

We are going to tackle it all, but - don't panic - not everything right away. Since the essence of this process is to focus on the ministry/mission of the church the first task we will be asking of the congregation is to participate in an exercise we found very eye-opening and useful: developing a statement of personal ministry. We will be working on this during the annual Board retreat, and also making the tools available to anyone who wants to try this during the summer and fall. You can do it by yourself, or as a part of a group. The end result will be a one-sentence statement of how you will use your skills, talents and interests to make the world a better place. As the statements are completed they will be attached, as leaves, to the tree. You can sign it or not, as you prefer.

We'll have more information about the Leaves Project in the next NUUS. In the meantime, if you have any questions, ask a Growth Team member.

Obituaries

Frank Pollien died on April 27, 2008. Frank moved to Ellsworth in 2003 and was active in Faith in Action and the UUCE. At his request, there will be no memorial service. Donations in his name should be made to Faith in Action, P.O. Box 5072, Ellsworth ME 04605 or Maine Coast Memorial Hospital, 50 Union St., Ellsworth ME 04605.

Irving Forbes died on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, after a long battle with cancer. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Hancock Co. Homecare & Hospice, Mary Dow Cancer Center, or the Bagaduce Music Lending Library

Links for Kids

Did you know that the Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF) offers fun and interesting links for kids and their parents?

KidTalk Web page for kids

<http://www.clfuu.org/kidtalk/2008/05/index.html>

and

REsources for Living

[http://www.clfuu.org/quest/2008/05/index.html#](http://www.clfuu.org/quest/2008/05/index.html#REsources)

REsources

These two free links from the CLF's website allow families to reflect on matters from how to celebrate holidays to what it means to be a Unitarian Universalist. These two links are part of RE Express Plus, a monthly religious education email available by subscription from the CLF (free to CLF members). The two links mentioned above are open to the public, and free of charge.

A full subscription to RE Express Plus contains these two links, plus two more components every month:

1. CLiF Notes

A Curriculum for Families and Small Groups. Designed to be teacher as well as kid-friendly, CLiF Notes contain weekly lesson plans, stories, links to crafts, and more

2. A searchable, religious education index

Searchable index of activities and information that can instantly fill in a variety of gaps in a program.

3. KidTalk

4. Resources for Living

Feel free to use the entire pdf (attached) or an excerpt from the Microsoft Word document.

Beth Murray
CLF

Beth Murray

Church of the Larger Fellowship (CLF)
617-948-6150

Goods And Services Auction

Mark your calendar and plan to attend the 2008 UUCE Goods and Services Auction on October 4, 2008. It is not too soon to be thinking about contributing to this fund-raising event for our UU congregation. This year we can consider splitting the proceeds to help those who will be struggling with home heating costs – your thoughts are welcome about this idea.

We are also looking for another planner or two. Contact Peggie Geiger, Diana Cate, or Evelyn Foster, The UUCE Goods and Services Auction Organizers.

