



The NUUS

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

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 42

No. 4

April 2010

A Month of Sundays

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

April 4. (Easter Sunday) *Born Again: what does it mean to be reborn?*

What might we lose? What might we gain?

Rev. Leela Sinha

April 11. *Now that we know, what shall we learn?*

“Age can bring awareness, openness, curiosity, even playfulness. As a mature congregation (175 years old!), where might we grow next? When I was a boy of fourteen, my father was so ignorant I could hardly stand to have the old man around. But when I got to be twenty-one, I was astonished at how much the old man had learned in seven years.”

--Mark Twain

Rev. Leela Sinha

April 18. *Peace, Salaam, Shalom*

What is this thing called peace? How shall we find it?

Rev. Leela Sinha

April 25. *The Power of Music*

Organized by the Music Committee

Serendipity and Art Stuff with Sue Clark

Sundays March 28, April 11 and 18th, 12:00 to 1:30

We learn best by doing. Since we know we can each make marks on paper (dictionary definition of drawing) let's create. Come explore personal symbols, totems, dreams, wishes, feelings, mandalas, and happenstance. Give more room to your creative self and fun.

DRUMMING CIRCLE:

All are welcome to join The Drumming Circle, which will meet the 3rd Sunday of each month, 1:30-3:30, in the Sanctuary. All levels of experience are welcome. To be put on the email list please send an email to Hope Lewis at: woovle@earthlink.net with DRUMMING in the subject line.

Anne N. Ossanna

The Power of Music

The April 25th Sunday service will focus on the power of music in our spiritual lives, the power to heal, to inspire, to communicate deeply.

Presented by the Music Committee, the service will include readings, hymns, and special music by church members and the choir. Holly Weinberg will be guest pianist.

New Touchstone Circles

The first round of Touchstone Circles will be completed by the first week in April. There is a short waiting list for both the late spring six week circles. We expect them to run from late April through early June. If you are interested in signing up or just discussing the Touchstone concept, please contact Sara Huisjen (610-2872) or Evelyn Foster (667-5998).

Unexpected Grace

It takes a village.

Especially in smaller congregations, especially in tricky and difficult times, it takes a village. It takes a village to care for our children, it takes a village to maintain our building, it takes a village to do it all--and it takes a village to have fun.

What we are discovering together is that fun is good for us: it's good for all of us. It's good for us because it feels good, but it's good for us for other reasons, too. It helps us see each other. It builds our relationships with one another. It gives us more forms and places and cadences of communication. We start to see each other as three-dimensional people, rather than "the board president" or "that person with the kid who likes to sing" or "that person whose partner died recently". We stop being able to define one another and start needing to embrace one another.

And it sounds like a real live community lives here.

This year, we're doing our stewardship campaign a little differently from the way we've done it in past years. At the recommendation of the leadership council we are having a series of events and a celebratory dinner, rather than individual conversations. The dinner, and the events, will be put on by our village; if you haven't already been asked to help out, you might well be soon, and you will certainly be invited to come. Please do! On the night of April 10th at 5 PM we'll gather for an evening of great fun, with delicious food and desserts made by Jill Smith of Millbrook Company and Dawn Fortune (with an assisting crew), some music from the choir, some information about the fabulous things we've done, where we're going and what we need to spend to get there, and perhaps some surprises. We'll enjoy and share and eat, and then fill out pledge cards at the tables. All the tasks are being distributed, so that no one has to do too much.

The lead-up events are not required, and they are not what you might expect. What we'll be offering are a couple of workshops about finances and money in general. We've found that money is a hard discussion topic--harder than sex for a lot of

us. For sex we have UU curricula to help us get better at it. For money, we're mostly floundering. This is at direct odds with our powerful and ongoing desire for clear communication and transparency. At all levels of organization from committees to congregations to the UUA itself, we are calling for better process and interchange. We want to share what we are doing and find out what others are doing, especially in our institutions and governments, especially around finances. That means we all have to learn to talk and listen and understand about money--not only what is happening on the surface, but also what struggles and emotional influences we have; why we might be stuck, what makes us "good with money" or "bad with money" and what might help us when things aren't working.

The workshops are chances to get together and talk. With covenants in place for confidentiality and good, graceful communication, we'll take on the thorny questions about money that affect our whole lives. We'll do some exercises and share stories and suggestions; we'll talk fear and frustration and triumph and success...and if there is interest the workshops can continue after the close of the campaign. Communication around money is not a once-a-year thing.

Villages are connected. They share their lives with each other. They collaborate, they work together, they pull each other out of ditches and lend tractors and do barn raisings. In order to share the load, they have to tell each other about their lives, exchange tips, talk over fences.

We are not so different. We do some of that already. Our Caring Committee helps us keep the information flowing. Our Music Committee has helped us discover our penchant for fun. Our new technology: Facebook, website, email, Wednesday electronic updates--all help us keep in touch. And if we're going to be a village--that cares for our children, that maintains our building, that welcomes people in, that nurtures and honors our leaders and our elders--then we need to talk more and better. We're going to need to talk so

[Continued on page 3]

[Continued from page 2]

we can connect, so we keep knowing and loving and dreaming, and so we know what we need to do and can work together to do it.

We dream big. We dream big because we know what we have and who we are matters profoundly here. It's up to us; let's make sure we can fund our dreams so we can be who we are boldly in this world that needs us so much.

Come to workshops, have conversations, and come to dinner. Saturday April 10, at 5 PM. Come laughing and hungry and curious. Put it on your calendar, and call Peggie Geiger (288-2335) to tell her you're coming.

It takes a village. We're a village that likes parties. Let's have a party. See you there!

blessings,
Leela

We're having a party!

Celebrate our stewardship, and pledge for next year! Saturday, April 10 at 5 PM, come to the church. There will be music and laughter and a fantastic slideshow, delicious dinner, excellent company, and yummy desserts. We need to know what your dietary restrictions are so we can feed you well, and if you can't make it for some reason, we need to know that too. Please RSVP to Peggie Geiger (288-2335): tell her that you're coming (we hope!), or if you're not, and what if any food allergies or restrictions you have. We'll have your pledge card at the dinner so you can fill it out before you leave. If you have questions or would like to have a conversation about it beforehand, please ask! Call the church office (667-4393) or contact Leela by email or Facebook for an appointment.

Downeast Discussion Group

The April meeting of the Down East Discussion Group will be on Wednesday, April 14, 2010 at noon at the home of Karen and David Wilcock in Corea. The topic for discussion is "A Journey to Remember" (can be a trip or a life experience). Karen will lead the discussion. Bring your own sandwich. Beverages and dessert will be provided by the hosts.

Coffee Hour

We believe that coffee, tea, and thee are important for Sunday fellowship. Bill Clark is the lead coffee maker - Bill does not yet have his summer tour boat schedule, which may include some or many Sundays - Sue is gardening instead of kitchening. Help is needed. Please pitch in. Bill (and occasionally Sue) will be available to provide training for operating the dreaded dish washing machine - the machine is not a monster and is nowhere near rocket science.

Many thanks to those stalwarts who have helped his long winter - Evelyn Foster, Peggie Geiger, Jean and Don Martin, Sara Huisjen, Cynthia Perkins, Judy Rothrock, Matt Slater, David Towle, and Betty Massie, Dan Wheatley, and Kay Wilkins and Diana Cate.

Every year there are fifty-two opportunities to do something for the entire congregation - in the kitchen!

Bill and Sue

Lifespan Religious Education and Exploration

On Sunday March 7th eleven of us joined together to make our first RE Advisory Team meeting a great success! Thanks to all who attended and agreed to join with as members of the group. Remember, you are always invited to join us at any time! I would like to extend a special thank you to Flo Reed for watching children so that others could attend the meeting.

Pizza Party/Movie Night April 16th!



Come join us for Pizza, A Party & Movie!

As always, if you have questions, concerns, or would just like to say “Hi!” I hope you will get in touch with me. I am in the office, unless I have a scheduled meeting, from 12:00PM to 2:30PM every Wednesday and until 4:00 on Fridays. I am more than happy to meet at other times by appointment or by telephone. My home number is 990-2612. I will leave a note on the white board on the RE office door if I know that I will be out of the office for a planned meeting. If the weather is at all questionable please call me at my home to confirm that I’ll be in or to meet with me by phone.

Religious Education & Exploration Events

April 11 – Adult RE Committee Meeting!
This will be a short meeting directly following the service.

April 16 – Pizza Party/Movie Night!
Time: TBA

April 2010 Adult Education Offerings

All will be held at UUCE on Sundays from Noon - 1:30 PM, except that potluck Sunday’s Session will be cancelled if church is cancelled due to weather.

April 11 – Introduction to Art Therapy, Led by Sue Clark, 2nd of 3 Sessions

We learn best by doing. Since we know we can each make marks on paper (dictionary definition of drawing) let's create. Come explore personal symbols, totems, dreams, wishes, feelings, mandalas, and happenstance. Give more room to your creative self and fun.

April 18 – Introduction to Art Therapy, Led by Sue Clark, 3rd of 3 Sessions

April 25 – Beltane, Pagan Sabbat
Facilitators: Anne Ossanna and Mike Tansey

Everybody Eats

A free meal is available every Monday in Ellsworth, at St. Dunstan’s Episcopal Church, from 3 pm to 6 pm. Everyone is welcome to eat and enjoy the good vibes. We also need volunteers to prepare, serve, and clean up. We have two shifts: 11 am to 3 pm for preparation and 3 to 7 pm for serving and cleanup. Shorter shifts are also welcome. Everyone, UUs included, is encouraged to stop by to enjoy the excellent food and company and to think about volunteering some of your time. Go to the website: <http://everybodyeats4free.blogspot.com/> or see Martha Dickinson for more information.

Attention!

Easter Sunday-- April 4th.

There will be a special coffee hour in place of the regular first Sunday pot luck. Please bring small sandwiches, deviled eggs, pickles, olives, fruit, sweets, drinks (yummy treats).

Landscaping Is Underway

The end of winter Parish Meeting celebrated the early promise of Charles Bassett's daffodils - with some up to two inches tall. Spring is on its way!

We have set goals for the area north of the Sanctuary :

1. Establish, by outlining with rocks, a four foot wide curved path. Turn the dirt. Pack it down. Spread some small sized gravel.
2. Spread topsoil.
3. Start planting ground cover in April - the goal is no mowing.
4. Start kitchen composting with coffee grounds and veggies (no weeds).

Help is needed and gratefully accepted. We are looking forward to the spring cleanup day - outside! Tradition includes sweeping sand off the asphalt and generally raking leaves.

Happy dirt!

Sue Clark (chair) with Charles Bassett and Evelyn Foster

From the Hancock County Cultural Network

April 1: "Grow Your Own Organic Garden" evening courses in many parts of Maine. MOFGA, 568-4142 or mofga@mofga.org or www.mofga.org.

April 16: "The Yes Men" film shown (challenging corporate power and influence), 7 PM, Public Library, Blue Hill. Judy/Peter Robbins, 326-4405 or judy@robbinsandrobbins.com.

[Continued on page 8]

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of North Bay

WINE COUNTRY HOLIDAY

"Napa was as delightful as I had expected. What was equally important and somewhat unexpected was the profound connections I felt with my hosts and hostesses."

Carol Lim, Los Angeles

The UU's of Napa, California proudly announce a new season of our **Wine Country Excursions**. Again, we offer a variety of options for an inside look at one of America's most beautiful areas, internationally known for fine wines, gourmet dining and spectacular vistas.

There much to see and do in the Napa and Sonoma Valleys: e.g. wine tasting at renowned and boutique wineries; visits to art galleries and museums; exploring the natural beauty of our hills and valleys on miles of hiking and bike trails or by car on our highways and back country roads.

We offer two choices: Both start with comfortable lodging in members' homes with full breakfast (up to 3 nights). You can choose a 2-day "Wine Country Excursion," a guided, personalized tour conducted by one of our members--some with wine industry experience--or lodging and self-guided touring. If desired, we provide guidance, maps, etc.

The program runs from April through October. Our fees are below market rate for similar services and ***all proceeds go to our small fellowship***. For complete details contact: Tom Wilson (707-254-7443) or 2wilsons1dog@comcast.net

We look forward to sharing our lovely "home" with you!

From the Care Corner

Mike Tansey expresses his thanks to the congregation for the lovely celebration of life service for Mary Ann Solet on February 7th.

Diana Cate reports that Kay Wilkins back surgery went well and she went home the same day but is in a lot of pain even with medication at this time.

Karen Wigglesworth is back home after caring for her mother who passed away on 2/22. Karen was grateful for the time that she had with her mother and thankful for the support of hospice at the end.

Jenn Ryan lost a good friend, Tom Chase.

John Fink reports that Sally Bell is on full-time oxygen now and it is helping her feel more comfortable. The visit with a doctor in Boston went well and they will be going back to see him again.

Evelyn Foster celebrates 25 years of sobriety.

Tom Martin asks that our thoughts be with the people of Chile.

Election Committee Report

The Election Committee is pleased to report that the following people have agreed to run for office. *Further nominations can be made from the floor* with the permission of the nominee at the Parish Meeting on Sunday, May 16.

President:	Diana Cate
Vice President:	Beth Allen
Secretary:	Karen Volckhausen
Treasurer:	Don Martin
2 Trustee Positions:	Christina Gagliardi Cynthia Perkins Jenn Ryan

The Committee wants to express our thanks to the candidates for their willingness to serve our congregation.

Bob Dickens, Becca Gagne, and Judy Rothrock

Community Connections

If you had happened to be at the church on Monday, March 8th you would have found Sue Clark, our landscape committee chair and her loyal assistant Evelyn Foster lovingly protecting our hundreds of new daffodils with a little additional loam. These same daffodils, that will soon be lifting our spirits, were given to us and planted by Charles Bassett last fall.

Sara Huisjen and Cynthia Perkins found a bit of an unhappy surprise after the Pot Luck on March 7. They came out of a meeting after everyone else had left to find no one had cleaned up. Being Sara and Cynthia they rolled up their sleeves and took care of it all. Thank you, Thank you!

Thirty-eight (can you believe it) people have signed up for the St. Patrick's Day lunch planned by Peggie Geiger and Evelyn Foster. We will be having Celtic music performed by the group that practices together at the church and recorder music by Eileen Brennen. David Towle, our music man, has put this together for us. Wonder if he will have his accordion there too. I do believe we like to have fun together, especially accompanied by food.

Anne Ossanna shared her pictures from her trip to Africa after church on March 14th. About 12 people attended and had the chance to have good conversation along with the pictures. There might be a repeat performance since a number of people were not able to attend today and really want to see the show.

This column is a new addition to the NUUS. Provided by the new Board Portfolio Committee on "Community Building" (Anne Ossanna, Judy Rothrock, and Eileen Brennen). We welcome news from you regarding the goings on at UUCE that makes us the community that we are.

Help Organize Peace Earthwide!

The 16th annual HOPE (*Help Organize Peace Earthwide*) Festival will occur on **Saturday, April 24th, from 11 AM to 4 PM**, at the U Maine Student Recreation & Fitness Center in Orono. The keynote speaker will be Betty Burkes, peace educator & former president of the Women's International League for Peace & Freedom, USA. Performers include Zachary Field's Amazing Juggling, Emma's Revolution, and the Hope Festival Singers. Rob Shetterly will present his portraits & stories: "Americans Who Tell the Truth". Also included are All-Day Children's Activities, an Organizational Fair with over 70 social change groups, and a Mini Farmers' Market & Food Court with local producers. Workshops & Demos include: Cool Begins with You, Reducing Your Carbon Footprint, Reducing Home Energy Costs, Newspaper Seed Pot Planting, Plastic Bag Recycling Crafts, Recycled Clothing Fashion Show, Bike Clinic, Bee Workshop. For more information, see peacectr.org. The Peace and Social Action Committee of UUCE is a proud co-sponsor.

- Martha Dickinson, for PASA

Emma's Revolution

The Downeast Concert Collective & WERU FM are very excited to bring back **emma's revolution**, the duo of award-winning activist folk musicians, Pat Humphries & Sandy O. They will perform in Ellsworth to benefit WERU Community Radio 89.9 FM at the Ellsworth Unitarian Universalist Church on Friday, April 23rd at 7:30 P.M. Doors open at 7 PM. Suggested donation is \$15. Free for those under 16. Seating is limited and reservations are suggested by calling 469-6600 or emailing info@weru.org. For more information visit <http://downeastmusic.org/>

Happytown Farm Launches 2010 Community Support Agriculture (CSA) Program

In 2007 the UUCE organized with Happytown Farm to pre-pay for a summer long stream of locally grown vegetables and fruits, including greens, melons, potatoes, onions, tomatoes and more. As the frost comes out of the ground, year four is just getting started.

The CSA is a win-win partnership.

- The farmers benefit with certainty that their produce will be appreciated, going directly to consumers and paid for in the spring when farmers need to invest in seeds and other inputs.
- Buyers benefit with much fresher, healthier produce that is organically grown by farmers they know.
- The environment benefits with sustainable farming practices and dramatically reduced fossil fuels so often wasted trucking produce from California, Mexico and further.
- Finally, the community benefits by preserving family farms and open, rural landscapes.

Happytown Farm is offering a variety of membership levels from the 16 week – four person “veggie lovers” (\$400) to shorter commitments for fewer people. They are also offering CSF – community supported flowers.

It all starts around the fourth of July and continues well into autumn. Members receive a box of veggies at a pre-arranged place and time each week. Options include meeting Paul and Karen at the Ellsworth Farmers Market at the Maine Community Foundation, the Maine Grind on Main Street or at their farm.

Sign-up forms are available at church. You can also find learn more about Happytown Farm on Facebook, by calling the Volckhausens or sending them email at pkvolckhausen@escrap.com. They need members to sign up as soon as possible and commit funds by May 1st.

Treasurer's Corner

Everything You Wanted To Know About UUCE Finances But Were Afraid To Ask

Plate income continues to run 23.4% below budget or \$1,868 short at this time. Rental is still 4.5 % below budget or \$312. We need one or two more fund raisers to bring fundraising in as budgeted. We are short of the goal of \$5,000 by \$1,715.

Shortfall of income in these three areas will have to be added to the shortfall of pledge income which is still projected at \$10,462 which is \$6,462 above the \$4,000 budgeted. If this continues we will have to raise the shortfall line item to \$7,000 in next year's budget, meaning that we will have to raise \$3,000 in additional pledges.

For the first time in this church year, income fell below the projection of 66.67% to 64.66%. This is only 2% but with the large amount of prepaid pledges, this could be an indicator of the direction we could be heading for the next four months.

The bank deposits in February totaled only \$4,800, which is \$4,200 below the average required to cover expenses. This lowered our checking account to \$10,000 from the \$15,000 we had at the end of January.

On the positive side, expenses still continue to run below projection which is \$6,006 under budget. If the warm weather continues, our fuel cost could come in as budgeted. We have \$1,342 invoices that will be paid in March bringing the fuel cost to date at \$4,663.94. If the snow storms continue to pass by us, our plowing cost will come in under budget by \$1,000. This would allow us to grade the parking lot this spring. With the funds we raised for the UUSC Guest At Your Table, we have now raised or collected \$5,600.75 for charitable organizations this church year.

Between now and the end of June, we have several large expenditures: \$2,500 for property insurance, \$3,000 for the UUA and North East District dues, and \$24,867 in payroll. To cover these expenses, it will require an average of \$7,592 per month in income.

The Finance Committee is working on preparing the budget for the 2010/2011 church year. We will be looking at all aspects of our operating costs. We have asked all committee chairs to look

at their expenses and provide us with what they feel they will need to continue the positive programs that we experienced this year. If you have any thoughts or suggestions for the Finance Committee on the budget, please do not hesitate to contact me at 664-0309. Please plan to attend the Stewardship Dinner on Saturday, April 10th to learn more.

Don Martin
Treasurer

From the Leadership Development Committee

Opportunities in the Church

The Hospitality Committee is looking for people to be involved with setup, cleanup and providing food for potlucks and church events. We especially invite people new to our community, but of course welcome all. If you want to get to know more church members and attenders, while helping to sustain us (both literally and figuratively) in our journey, please contact Diana Cate (667-2901), Bill Clark (244-3051) or Marta Rieman (667-7584). Or feel free to use our email addresses in the church directory.

From the Hancock County Cultural Network

[Continued from page 5]

April 17: David Bacon speaks on the global economy and effects on immigrants and workers, 4:30 PM (tent), Unitarian-Universalist Church, 120 Park St., Bangor. PICA, 947-4203 or info@pica.ws or www.pica.ws.

April 25: "Winter's Doorstep" film shown (oil price spike and choices between heat and food in Maine), 7 PM, Peace and Justice Center of Eastern Maine, 170 Park St., Bangor. P&J Center, 942-9343 or info@peacectr.org or www.peacectr.org.

[Continued on page 9]

Message from the President

Beginning to wrap things up

In September I told you that your Board of Trustees was wrestling with very difficult questions. These include: “Who are we? What are we called to do? Who will we serve? What will that service look like? How will we be with each other? How will we present ourselves in the larger community?”

We read books. We talked. A lot, again and again. (We’re UU’s, after all.) We approached things from the front, all sides, and snuck up from the back. In the models we looked at we were supposed to answer these questions first and then come up with our action plans.

Well, we found our own way along the path and it turned out to be ... the walking backwards approach. The Board has created four little two or three or four person groups we are referring to as “portfolio clusters.” They aren’t really subcommittees because they don’t actually have tasks assigned. What they were charged with was developing concepts that could be implemented by the church as a whole.

The Stewardship cluster is moving forward the ideas reviewed at the Leadership Development Committee. This proposes creating an ongoing, year-round Stewardship Committee that would be charged with ongoing planning for fund raising, rather than being pulled together ad hoc, year after year for just the annual canvass. It would work in conjunction with the Finance Committee and other groups, and would focus on the shape and direction of our varied fund raising efforts over multiple years.

The Community Building cluster focused on the understanding that we are at our closest and best together when we are having fun. They would like to see activities organized that emphasize multigenerational fun. They would also like to find additional ways to publicly acknowledge the good we do with and for each other. They will work with Membership and other committees.

The Outreach group has some very exciting ideas to help us move into being a public church - one that is more visibly doing good in the world. It will build on our underlying principles, will involve our youth, avoid paternalism, and do this work in the spirit of solidarity with the people we are serving. We narrowed the list from several dozen possibilities to about a half dozen priorities, and they will work with Peace and Social Action to identify the strongest causes.

And, the Executive Committee will concentrate on the practical administrative details. It will serve as a filter rather than a decision-making body. This will give the Board more room to focus on the larger questions it will face.

In April we will refine the ideas we reviewed and work out how this work will be moved into the congregation. Before this Board is replaced by its new members in May it will have a work plan to pass on to that next Board and, most importantly, to the congregation. We will have a vision and a mission that we will ask the congregation to work with for a year. It can be reviewed and refined as needed, but it will finally be the path we have been seeking - and one that we will walk (forward) together on.

Yours in ministry,
Ruth A. Eveland,
President of the Board of Trustees

From the Hancock County Cultural Network

[Continued from page 8]

This month on the **Maine Video Activists Network**: Stories include an interview with former prisoner Bobby Delello on solitary confinement and Maine's legislation to limit the practice, a press conference on "Bring Our War \$\$ Home," and World AIDS Day, December 1, 2009, in Maine. Check out the MVAN web page or email craig@roundpointmovies.org for how to access these and other video stories each month.

From the Board

Monthly meeting, Thursday, March 11, 2010

Present: Ruth Eveland; President, Diana Cate, Vice-President; Don Martin, Treasurer; Karen Volckhausen, Secretary; Anne Ossanna, John Fink, Cynthia Perkins, Eileen Brennan, Judy Rothrock, Reverend Leela Sinha, Tom Grogan, DLRE&E

Also Attending: Jon and Jane Thomas, Christina Gagliardi, Beth Allen

Housekeeping.

The executive committee met last week to plan the annual meeting for the purpose of approving the budget, electing board members and officers and hearing committee reports. The date was set for May 16. Don Martin requested a policy on dealing with reduced rental rates since we get so many requests. The board approved a policy of not giving rental rate reductions with the caveat that special exceptions could be taken to the executive committee for a decision. Don asked the board for formal authorization for the Treasurer to withdraw \$7500 from the Maine Community Foundation funds for costs of hood purchase and installation with the understanding that we will fund raiser to replace it. The motion passed unanimously.

The Election Committee reported a full slate of nominees for the May election as follows: President- Diana Cate; Vice President-Beth Allen; Treasurer-Don Martin; Secretary-Karen Volckhausen; 3 nominees for 2 trustee slots- Cynthia Perkins, Jen Ryan, Christina Gagliardi. The floor will also be open for nominations.

The Stewardship Campaign will kick off with a dinner for all at church on April 10 starting with a non-alcoholic cocktail party.

Treasurer's report is included elsewhere in this issue.

Minister's report. Pastoral care is going well through a combination of phone calls and visits. Leela attended a retreat in February and more recently a Professionals of Color Conference which was very productive and included good conversations about moving toward a multi culture church. She looking for suggestions for someone who could do the Welcoming Congregations

program at UUCE. The discretionary fund has been adequate to date.

DLRE&E's report. The recent breakfast was a big success. Tom and Matt Slater were in New Hampshire to speak about youth programming. The first meeting of the RE advisory committee took place last Sunday; 11 people will be involved. A tentative date of April 16 for a pizza, get acquainted and movie night is being planned. There will be a new teacher training session on May 2.

The Portfolio Clusters. Executive, Stewardship, Community Building, and Outreach/Service, gave preliminary reports on their work. A refined report from each will be given at the next board meeting.

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