



The NUUS

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

121 Bucksport Rd., Ellsworth, ME 04605

(207) 667-4393

www.uuellsworth.org

Volume 40,

No. 7 July 2008

A Month of Sundays

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

- July 6.** Bob Dickens and panel
July 13. Rev. Sara Hayman
July 20. Rev. James Yerkes
Surry
July 27. Rev. Peter Richardson
Retired UU minister, Rockland

Adult Ed Activities

1. Please join us for a poetry discussion evening of Mary Oliver's "Thirst," Wednesday, July 9th, at 7 p.m., at church. Bring your own copy, if you have one.

Mary Oliver was the Ware Lecturer at our 2006 General Assembly. This Pulitzer Prize winning poet writes about nature, grief, living, and spirituality. However, there is nothing pretentious about her poetry. She is simplicity and purity itself.

2. Save this date: July 13th, after Sunday services, is the first summer 2008 all church picnic at Woodlawn, behind the Black House. Bring your own picnic, whiffle balls, frisbees, etc. If you need more information contact a member of the Adult Ed Committee, Fran Stehman, Tom Stipe, Diana Cate, or Bob Dickens.

Yard Sale

The YARD SALE is almost here! Set aside JULY 25 and 26 (Friday and Saturday) to come and gather bargains galore.

Now, maybe you thought that by this time we'd have enough stuff, but NO! We still need your stuff too. Call John Fink at 667-7186 to set up a delivery time.

And we need YOU, too, to help setting up on Monday July 21 through 24. Can you manage a section for us? You could direct other volunteers in tagging and setting up books, clothing, toys, kitchen stuff, you name it. To find out more, call John or call Wayne Smith at 667-9482.

Caring Committee

July Birthdays:

July 6: Bill MacMichael
July 17: Patty Holt

Please save any cards that you receive that are "freebeeies" that you do not wish to use and consider donating them to the Caring Committee in September. Have a relaxing and rejuvenating summer.

Thank you!

Membership Committee

Karen Volckhausen

I would like to introduce myself as one of the newer members of the UUCE. I was born in New York, lived in New Jersey and Pennsylvania as a child then came to Maine as a young adult 46 years ago. My husband Paul and I have lived on the Happy Town Rd since 1978 where we built our very simple, solar/wood heated house and established Happy Town Farm now in its 28th year of operation. I have been the worker off the farm working as a family nurse practitioner in Bangor for the past 12 years, school nurse before that, hospital staff nurse before that, family planning nurse practitioner before that, undergraduate and graduate school at UM and a family planning nurse practitioner certification course in Buffalo, NY squeezed in there somewhere. I have spent many summers farming with Paul, many summers not farming at all and now am slowly but surely drifting back to the farm where I am in charge of growing and marketing cut flowers. You can see these flowers most Sundays on the altar. Many of you have are part of our CSA and enjoy our vegetables throughout the summer. I am blessed with 3 superb children who are productive, responsible citizens of this world, 2 of whom have gifted me with 3 amazing, beautiful and brilliant grandchildren. Visits to S. Carolina, NYC, and Vermont and a big family gathering in Maine every summer are joyful events we look forward to every year. Most of the rest of my life is taken up with El Salvador solidarity work which has been an inspirational and life changing experience. I am an active member of 2 sister city projects and recently retired from the national board of US/El Salvador Sister Cities. I travel to El Salvador as frequently as time and money allow.

I returned to the UUCE after 25 years, craving a spiritual community and with serious intent to spend a year exploring again what UU is before

making the decision to rejoin. Originally I was attracted to UU's commitment to justice in this world for both the earth and the people on it. I still treasure that aspect but also love the freedom of religious expression that liberal religion embraces. I have found a wonderful community here of caring, welcoming people. I have found a spiritual presence in this church which moves me to my core. So with great joy I rejoined the church in May accepting it as my church for life. I look forward to working with and knowing you all better and my increasing involvement in church life as my work life winds down.

Directories for 2008-2009 have been printed. Pick one up the next time you are over at the church. Look for them on one of the tables to your right as you walk from the Sanctuary to the Community Room.

Please make the following changes in your copy:

Leadership & Tasks (inside of front page):
Religious Exploration: Anne Ossanna 565-2057

Page 5: email for Kathy Combs:
kathcombs2@roadrunner.com

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.

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

- Martha Dickinson, your webcaretaker

Star Gazing with Janine

For ages, humans have looked up at the night sky, at something so much bigger than us, and asked still-familiar questions: "What is out there? What does the starry sky mean? Can it help us or hurt us? Are we alone?" I invite you to bring your curiosity for two nights of star gazing July 30th and 31st. During those two nights, we will view major constellations, learn their names and learn how to easily locate them. We will also view other objects such as nebulae, and discuss what is happening in them. These two sessions will be designed as a tour of our celestial sphere, and any questions you may have as we go will be discussed as a group. The class is limited to 10 people. You may choose to come to both nights or just one, but when you sign up, please make it clear which night or nights you will be present. If you have binoculars and a tri-pod, please bring them both, as it is hard to view sky objects with hands that are unsteady. If you have your own telescope, you are invited to bring that as well. The class will start at 9pm behind the Black House, during which time we'll set up our equipment (please be willing to share with others that don't have their own). We will star-gaze until midnight both nights, so bring warm clothing!

To register, please call or email Janine at kivarocket@yahoo.com, or 359-2483. Please include a phone number, email, and the dates you will attend in your message.

Does Your Committee Have a Web Page?

Church committees are encouraged to have a web page so that your mission statement, meeting times, and any other information is easily available to everyone in the congregation. To see a few examples, go to the uuellsworth.org website, look for Committees on the menu on the left, click on Committees. Scan down the list of committees and click on Green Sanctuary to see their web page and then go back and click on Peace and Social Action to see their web page. To build your committee's webpage, email web@uuellsworth.org or phone Martha at 667-5863 to get started and/or to talk about layout. Then you can email her with your initial information and updates. The purpose of these web pages is to help us all communicate better!

Remembering Bill Stone

Friends of Bill Stone will gather on July 6 at the Officer's Club/Schooner Club at Schoodic Point. For more details call 963-7844.

Message from the President

Message from the President

I have been a part of this congregation since October of 1993. Other than my family and my profession, I have never had a commitment that lasted this long. So, why? Part of it is that this is the first time I have lived in one place so long, which has made such a commitment possible. However, there must be more to it than proximity.

I was, as most of you have heard, very involved in the Unitarian church in which I was raised. Participation in the church was important to my parents - not just attending, but serving on the board and other committees and going to a variety of functions. I absorbed the concept that the rewards were greater if you had a true stake in the process. As president of the youth group for two years I learned an enormous amount about leadership, and about how it was most successful when the group could find a common goal and work together toward its accomplishment. (This was not easy with more than a dozen Unitarian adolescents ... not just herding cats, but cats with hormones!)

As a member of this congregation I have seen much change. Many of those who were members when I came have moved, died, or made a transition to another spiritual home. We have heard many voices from the pulpit, professional and lay. We have built a large addition and now a new kitchen. ***Nevertheless, it is still my church. It is my church because I choose to make it so.***

Every day, every week, every month, every year I choose to stay and to stay involved. My internal needs are met and/or challenged - often enough. My friends are a pleasure - and there are new people to meet. The work we do together is very satisfying - although occasionally frustrating. I have never expected perfection - although I have tried to do my part to make things as good as possible.

Our church is what we make of it. It is no more than that. That is why it requires all of us to be involved. Each one of us, regardless of how long we have been together, has a voice to offer. Each one of us has a heart to share and limbs (some working better, some problematic) to help with the many tasks that keep us moving along. Some jobs are more complicated, but all the jobs are equally important to our being together. A few words with someone at coffee hour, helping fold the newsletter, teaching a class, meeting in a small group, giving our minister your thoughts on her sermon, serving on a committee, working at the food pantry in August - all these actions help to form and maintain our community.

From our former minister, Harry Meserve:

*“Community is a condition
where one is accepted and accepts,
where one is needed and supported,
where one loves and is loved,
where one sorrows and hopes,
where beyond all confusions
we see the stars.”*

It doesn't happen magically or perfectly, we just have to keep trying. It is worth it. Thank you for being with us.

Ruth Eveland,
President of the Board of Trustees (again)



From The Board

Treasurer's Report

George Marcus expressed concern about the church's finances: "I still believe that at the end of the 08/09 fiscal year there will not be any cash available to meet probable operating deficits. This means that unless strong steps are taken, we will have to use the endowment funds (now at about \$159,000) to meet operating costs". (NOTE: the budget presented by the board to the congregation, and approved, provided that the deficit will be met from any and all sources other than the endowment.)

He suggested that a long-range planning group be convened to review this situation and, that at this time, no serious fiscal commitments be made unless we have a clear idea of what should be done.

But the congregation in its comments and vote on the 08/09 budget seemed ready to take some risks, and we are in the midst of interviewing for RE Coordinator and office assistant. By hiring Leela we've invested in adult's needs; if we don't invest in our children what does that say about us?

In July the Board will organize a group to look at financial planning and put together a task force with the skills and commitment to look at finances. Long-range planning is a board function. Church member Flo Reed, who heads a non-profit organization, has volunteered to help with fund raising. As an example of what we can do together David reminded us of how the new kitchen came about. A chance remark was overheard that "I'll give \$2000 if matching funds come from the congregation."

Minister's Report

Leela reported that the growth team is doing phenomenal work, and the Committee on Ministry is looking at connecting with folks who haven't

been here for a while. And it seems word about our church is getting out.

She told us about her "meditation on \$20,000 or ways to earn it." She came up with quite a few: a huge rummage sale, 4 grants at \$5000 each; perform 1000 weddings at \$200 each. And we added a few more to the list.

Building Use brochure

We reviewed and approved the new brochure and discussed requesting a deposit to cover costs if renter fails to lower thermostat, etc.

Procedures Manual

Tom Martin has done a lot of work on it himself. Judy and Cynthia, who have worked on it too, will get together with Tom and report back to the Board.

Board Retreat

The focus of this year's Annual Board retreat, on August 30th, will be on visioning and clarifying our mission.

Policy Manual

The church does not have a policy manual; never has had one. We do now have a safe congregation policy and Board would like to see a building use policy to cover how the building can be used, how we decide when two or more apply and there's a schedule conflict. It might include having a committee member attend any program it sponsors which features someone from outside the congregation, to represent the church's interests in case there are problems.

Mary Ann Solet,
Secretary



Final Kitchen Update

As of this writing, June 13, 2008 the new kitchen is finished except for some trim work. By the time you are reading this, that too will be completed. This has been such a satisfying project because of the support from this church community. One last big **thank you** to all of the very generous donors who made this kitchen renovation possible. Your generosity and trust has been beyond expectations. Thank you too to all who shared their good ideas, wisdom and support.

The professionals who did the work are to be commended and without hesitation can be recommended should you need work done. They include:

Ray Eaton, Design Consultant at Home Depot,
667-1986

Scott Howell, General Contractor, 460-5303
Ed's Electric, 667-4827

Ray Plumbing-667-5536

During the process of the renovation some needed system upgrades were done. Be sure to notice that a rust filter has been installed on the water system so that our toilets no longer look so dirty and our drain system has been unplugged. Our electrical circuits have been updated and we should have no problems with that.

Thank you to all who had a part in this major project. It shows there is no limit to what we can do together when we set our collective minds to it. Enjoy!

Food Pantry News

LOAVES AND FISHES FOOD PANTRY COMMITMENT

Staffing the Loaves and Fishes food pantry during the month of August is one of our major Social Justice activities. We need at least four (4) people three days a week during the month, every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. It requires about 3 hours each day of the 13 days the pantry is open in August—that is a total of 52 volunteer commitments. Many people volunteer several days during the month. This is truly “feel good” work. There is a large sign-up poster board in the community room. If you have any questions please talk with Judy Rothrock (244-3520). Judy will be asking for your assistance during coffee hour or by phone.

