



The NUUS

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

Volume 45
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December 2013

A Month of Sundays and Special Services

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

Sunday, December 1st. *Beginnings.* This will be the second service to focus on our Doctrine of Christian Discovery project and will discuss the birth of a new relationship between the State of Maine and the four Wabanaki Tribes which live in Maine. Those of you who have been following the “Baby Veronica” case in the news will be aware of the inadequacies of the Indian Child Welfare Act (ICWA). These represent a continued playing out of the Doctrine of Discovery.

Maine is the only State in the Union which has created an Indian-State Child Welfare Truth & Reconciliation Commission. It is designed to help Wabanaki adults taken as children by the State and placed in foster care outside their own culture (an insidious form of ethnic cleansing). It addresses issues of trans-generational trauma and works with both the taken and the takers to effect some kind of reconciliation.

Anne Funderburk and Bob Dickens

Sunday, December 8th *True Gifts of this Season*
& Bill Clark, Worship Associate

Rev. Sara Huisjen

Beneath the commercial shine and busyness of this holiday season, there’s a rich, fertile darkness and a quiet sense of expectant waiting that might reach us all, reminding us again of the *true* gifts of this season. How is the mystery and wonder of life and light alive in you? What gifts will you choose to give and receive in this season?

Sunday, December 15th. *Holiday Music Service.*

In the midst of the holiday season, we celebrate winter, the birth of children, and Beethoven's birthday, using the talents of the congregation with solos by several members.

Jim Fisher and Stephen Berger

Saturday, December 21st at 2 pm *Into A Deeper Hope: A Blue Holiday Service* Rev. Sara Huisjen

The holiday season is seldom easy for people who are grieving the loss of loved ones, lonely or struggling with an illness. With music, poetry and the ritual lighting of candles, this intimate, simple service will make room for people to gather in a supportive & uplifting way. Come as you are, and take refuge in this season in the gentle embrace of fellowship with others.

Sunday, December 22nd

Who Built the Stable?

Rev. Sara Huisjen

Beloved author and illustrator, Ashley Bryan, first imagined this question while riding through the hills of Africa. Years later, he wrote what he called a “Nativity Poem” by the same name. This sermon and service will invite folks to reflect on how the acts of love and kindness we endeavor to take help change our lives and this world for the better. What tender shoots of courage and love are you nurturing in yourself, in this season?

Tuesday, December 24th at 6pm A Light in This World: A Christmas Eve Service

Rev. Sara

Huisjen & Eileen Brennan, Worship Associate

UUUCE Choir will sing!

Rev. Alfred S. Cole wrote this Christmas meditation: *Into the bright circle of life and light which is the Christmas season we have come, to warm our hearts and minds at the cradle of the child.* With song and story, with candlelight and silence, we will recall together the hope and mystery at the heart of this holy season.

Ministry Matters

by Rev. Sara Huisjen

I’m recently back home after visiting my older brother and sister-in-law in Texas. I was there for five days at my brother’s request. He needed some moral support for himself & his wife as they move through a difficult time, a time fraught with the weightiness of a slow, uncertain recovery. Severe depression is a heart-breaking and debilitating condition. Although progress is being made, it’s clear, too, that there will be no quick fixes or a prompt return to life as it *used* to be. There will only be finding a way forward into each new day as it comes.

While there, I learned it’s unlikely that the two of them will make it to Maine for Christmas as they have in years past. My sister-in-law, especially, feels badly. Knowing her well, I had arrived prepared to convey a message from our whole family here in Maine: It doesn’t matter, is what I said. None of it does. A big Christmas celebration, we all agreed, can be skipped entirely this year, or observed at some later date when they *can* be here. Sending her usual Christmas package filled with goodies and gifts is also unnecessary even discouraged. What matters most to all of us is that she and my brother continue to let us know what we can do to be there for *them*—maybe another quick trip to TX in the new year? Sending brief and encouraging text messages each day? Putting cards in the mail that will carry our love and hope and continuing prayers for healing and a full recovery?

What will you do, I wonder, to be there for the ones you love this holiday season?
 Who will you think to invite into your heart and home?
 How will the spirit of gratitude and joy come alive in you?

The words of a holiday blessing written years ago come to mind:

*May the candles we light this holiday season remind us of the glowing love within the heart.
 May the carols we sing uplift our spirits and renew our hope and vision.
 May the special moments we spend with family and friends strengthen the bonds of caring between us,
 at this time and throughout the coming year.*

Bright blessings on you & yours,
 this holiday season and always,

Sara

Lifespan Religious Education



Greetings from the Carl Stehman Wing!

November was a very busy month for RE. Thanks to everyone who came to the Guatemala Fundraiser Dinner. Through your generous support we raised over \$800.00 for the service trip to Guatemala this summer. RE also hosted the Empty Bowls Fundraiser in November and raised over \$300.00 to benefit the non-profits we as a faith community voted to support. We also coordinated a well-received multi-generational worship service entitled "Outlawing Jelly Beans and Other Injustices" and have partnered with PASA to offer "Guest at Your Table".

There will be a Multigenerational Winter Solstice Celebration and Bonfire on Friday December 20th from 6:00 - 8:00 pm (Inclement weather date will be December 21st). I do hope you will join us for this family friendly evening and we honor the darkness and celebrate the return of light.

Many thanks to the following who taught RE classes in November: Bill Clark, Jen Ryan, Jody Murphy, Bob Dickens, Rev. Sara, Molly and Shawn Mercer.

December RE Calendar

December 1st: Finding Peace through Gratefulness with Molly and Shawn Mercer. Potluck Sunday. Anne returns from vacation at 9:00 am.

December 8th: Finding Peace through Gratefulness. Guatemala Service Trip Meeting at UUC of Bangor.

December 15th: Children's Choir will perform during Worship Service. Finding Peace through Gratefulness with Molly Mercer and Anne Ossanna. RE Committee Meeting directly after worship service.

December 20th: Winter Solstice Multigenerational Service 6:00 - 8:00 pm

December 21st: Inclement Weather Date for Winter Solstice Multigenerational Service 6:00 - 8:00 pm.

December 22nd: Finding Peace through Gratefulness with Molly and Shawn Mercer. Parent/RE Coordinator Individual Meetings.

December 29th: Hogwarts Downeast New Year Party - Parent/RE Coordinator Individual Meetings.

Woyaya - Anne

Important News from the Committee on Ministry

CALLING OUR MINISTER

As those of you who attended the October Parish Meeting know, the Committee on Ministry is recommending that UUCE move towards inviting Sara to be our Called Minister. She is currently serving us in the capacity of a Contract Minister. Please refer to last month's NUUS article to review the differences between the two. We feel this change offers us the chance to deepen our commitment together, with more investment from either side, something like a marriage.

We invite you to be on the lookout for opportunities we will provide you to be involved in this process between now and the January Parish Meeting when this will come to a vote. There will be "Wanted" posters in the community room in November, to allow you to imagine what your desires may be in regards to ministry at UUCE, and two meetings (Sunday 12/8 without Sara and Sunday 1/12 with Sara) during which you will be able to engage in the process. We are hoping it will be lots of fun, and want the congregation to have a chance to explore this new relationship before the vote. One important piece of information you need to know is that if <90% of the congregation are in favor of this change, the minister will not stay.

So mark your calendars for **Sundays 12/8/13 and 1/12/14** to join the Committee on Ministry in our discussions about this important issue! We hope to see many of you there.

Adult RE

A Look Ahead.....

In January 2014 we are sponsoring three offerings: Rev. Sara's Build your Own Theology Series (Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4; Lelania Avila's The Toolshed of your Heart (Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8:30); and Hope Lewis will debut our new Stories series (Sunday, January 19)

Rev. Sara will offer Build your Own Theology in 8 sessions on Thursday afternoons from 2 to 4, beginning on January 9 and continuing each Tuesday through February 27. Steve Berger will assist.



Lelania Avila will offer Create your own Toolshed of the Heart (in 2-3 workshop sessions) Tuesday evenings from 6 to 8:30, January 7, 2014, January 14 and January 21.

This workshop is a hands-on creative exploration of the Toolshed of Your Heart. Lelania will briefly share her concept of the "Toolshed of My Heart," a three dimensional depiction of the tools she has cultivated over the years to bring peace into the world. She will offer a framework for building a solid toolshed, as a place to store and reflect upon the tools available to us all in our daily lives. Together we will make time to discover what

tools we want in the Toolshed of our Hearts, including tools that we already use, as well as new ones we'd like to master. We will construct a three-dimensional piece of art as part of our exploration and expression.

What you can be thinking about to prepare:

Lelania invites you to show up with your open heart and mind and jump in wherever you are! However, if you'd like to be thinking about the Toolshed of Your Heart and what it might look like in the three dimensional realm, and why you'd want to explore this topic in the first place, perhaps begin by thinking about what "Peace" means to you. Consider this quote by Thich Nhat Hanh: "We all have the right to suffer, but none of us has the right not to practice. Our responsibility as humans is to transform our suffering in order to transform the suffering around us."

We will be exploring the mind-body-spirit connection, as well as the interconnections between personal health and well-being with planetary health and well-being. What is your Bliss? What's "Light's On!" for you? How do you nourish yourself?

Also, if you can set aside some time in the days between workshop meetings to allow yourself to play with your art piece as well as time to reflect, the time we are together during the workshop may be more fulfilling. There is, however, time built into the workshop schedule for reflection, creative expression, and sharing.

Participants are encouraged to bring:

- ❑ a journal/notebook/paper and something to write with
- ❑ open heart and mind
- ❑ any collage materials you'd like to bring (when you think of "The Toolshed of My Heart" do any images come to mind?) Consider decorative papers, magazine images, photos, greeting cards, as well as fabric, watercolor paints, and found objects.

About the Instructor:

Lelania Avila lives with her family in Northeast Harbor, where she homeschools her two children, Rosie and Haji (13 and 9) and enjoys the nightly meals her husband, Kyle prepares. Regular trips to her heart's Toolshed inspire her to breathe mindfully throughout the day as she mothers, practices Kundalini yoga and meditation, and NVC (Non-Violent Communication). She celebrates her creativity through her calligraphy.

www.heartcraftcalligraphy.com.

If you have any questions about this workshop, please contact Lelania: 276-9377 or info@heartcraftcalligraphy.com.



Sunday, January 19th, 11:50: **Our Stories: Sharing the Legacy**

The first in a series of occasional discussion groups that will begin with the wisdom of ancient stories and open the door to sharing our personal experiences. On this date, we look at our place in the world. What have we been given by those before us, and what will we leave for those who come after us?



Evolution's Edge - Unrolling the Carpet of Being continues through Dec. 18th on **Wednesday evenings, 6:30-8:30**

With Paul Weiss here at the Unitarian Universalist Church in Ellsworth

Unrolling the Carpet of Being will follow up on last year's Evolution's Edge series. This program will give us more opportunity to cultivate and to reinforce, in community, our capacity for conscious loving

presence through a variety of supportive exercises and meditations, and conscious, presence-based communication. We will not review all the material of last fall and winter, but we will refer to it as needed as we build together and avail ourselves of a community of presence.

These classes will help us to cultivate and translate into our daily life our capacity for:

- * positive emotions and positive states of mind
- * more focused and sustained attention
- * more integrated mind/body energy states and more aware participation in our physical health
- * cognitive/behavioral skills that open us to deepening *presence* in our relationships and in our spiritual life

Like last year we will begin with a half hour of gentle qi gong that helps to ease us into a relaxed, alert, and open presence of mind and body. This is a free public offering, although for those who are able a donation of 5-20\$ is suggested which helps the Whole Health Center to continue this kind of work. For any questions contact the Whole Health Center at 288-4128 or info@thewholehealthcenter.org

From the Board

UUCE BOT Meeting, November 14, 2013

Present: David Wilcock, President; John Fink, Vice president; Karen Volckhausen, Secretary; Don Martin, Treasurer; Trustees- Tom Martin, Peggy Strong, Evelyn Foster, Eileen Brennan, Steve Berger; RE Coordinator- Anne Ossanna; Reverend Sara Huisjen

Congregational comment

None

RE Coordinator's report, Treasurer's report, Minister's report

See elsewhere in the NUUS

In addition, Anne would like to get Board approval for UUCE's hosting of a tweens (ages 10 to 14) conference here in March, There will be approximately 35 children, 2-3 DRE's and 2 chaperones.

After discussion of logistics **motion made and seconded to approve hosting the tween conference. Motion carried.**

Y update

They have done an excellent job cleaning the carpet. No crises.

Report from Fiscal Matters Committee

A productive meeting was held Tuesday, November 12. .

Peggy requests that we put transfer of funds to MCF on the Board agenda for next month.

Evelyn sent Board members an email about her concern about raising enough money to pay bills and raise salaries vs. the precedent of giving away so much money to charitable causes.

Extensive discussion with varying positions followed. It is clear that we are locked into our budget for this year and equally clear that we will be reviewing fundraising and charitable giving for the next year.

Where should the one time money go?

The Board reviewed both projects already accomplished with existing funds and recommended expenditures.

Motion made and seconded to spend the one time money for the recommended projects. Motion carried with two nays

Fundraising

FMC discussed a task force that would set up several fundraisers and then disappear.

In addition:

Motion made and seconded that Don be in charge of getting rid of the tables in whatever way seems best.

Motion carried.

Housing issue

The 6 wooden chairs in the Tidewater room are falling apart and dangerous. The Aesthetics Committee met and would like to have permission to borrow 6 chairs from the sanctuary and get rid of the old chairs.

Motion made and seconded to remove chairs and borrow 6 chairs from the sanctuary. Motion carried

Housekeeping

January 2 is the Board social and potluck at Evelyn's house. We will see another portion of the DVD on vibrant congregations. .

The preceding is a summary only of the board meeting. To review the full minutes, contact Alison Stevens, church administrator.

The next Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, December 12 at 6 PM in the Community Room. The first 15 minutes is reserved for congregational comment. All are welcome

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Volckhausen

Board Secretary

Treasurer's Corner

Our Endowment with the Maine Community Foundation third quarter statement reported that our beginning balance as of 1/1/13 was \$147,748.27 and that the balance as of the end of 9/30/13 was \$161,934.36. This provides us with earnings of \$14,186.09. The earning are very good at 9.5% and we hope that they will continue at this rate.

Treasurer's Report:

Total income for October was \$22,642.35. This was \$13,603.87 more than the total expenses for this month which was \$9,038.48. Total income was high this month because it included \$9,558.87 raised from the Auction. Total income through October is \$61,337, 42.28% of budget which is 9.28% more than the year-to-date percentage of 33%. These figures will have to be adjusted after we decide how much is to be contributed to charity.

Total expenses for the same period were \$36,421.90, 25.11% of budget which is 7.89% less than year-to-date percentage of 33%.

Pledge Income for October was \$10,585. Total pledge through October was \$37,347 or 40.88% of budget, which is 7.88% more than the year-to-date figure of 33%.

Plate income for October was \$623.48; this is \$254.67 less than last month. Total plate income through October was \$3,390.54 or 42.38% of budget, 9.38% more than the year-to-date figure.

Total income from the Auction was \$9,558.87; this figure should reach approximately \$10,000 with the funds added in November. Total fundraising through October is \$12,040.09 or 80.27% of budget. These figures do not include Empty Bowl.

Rental income for the month was \$1,735 for a total through October of \$5,677.00 or 31.8% of budget. Rental income other is \$1,677 or 30.49%. These figures are positive.

Expenses were \$9,038.48; total expenses through October were \$36,421.90 or 25.11% of budget or 7.89% less than the year-to-date figure. Expenses continue to run low as we enter the winter months with fuel, electricity and snow plowing costs accruing.

Don Martin, Treasurer

The News from the Peace and Social Action Committee

The Guest at Your Table program will end on Sunday, December 22. Boxes and envelopes for donations will continue to be available in the hall until that date and can be returned to the church office before the final Sunday if preferred.

Guest at Your Table has been an important part of the Unitarian Universalist Service Committee and congregational culture since it began in 1975. Each year since, involvement in Guest at Your Table has grown — strengthening UU connections to our shared principles and helping to challenge injustice throughout the world. UU congregations in the United States and around the world participate in this important annual tradition. They come together, learn about people directly connected to human rights work, and raise funds to support this work. Together, members of these congregations inspire people to join UUSC and help raise funds to support our shared vision.



The Ellsworth Farmers Market is holding a weekly market in the UUCE Community Room on Saturdays 9:30 to 12:30 until Christmas. The schedule will then change to the first and third Saturdays, same hours, January through April.

January 4 and 18

February 1 and 15

March 1 and 15

April 5 and 19

Returning to UUCE!!!

The Ellsworth Farmers Market again will be having a winter farmers market at UUCE **every** Saturday morning from 9:30 to 12:30 starting November 2 through December 21 then the first and third Saturday, January through April, same hours. There will be a wide variety of products available including vegetables, meat, eggs, cheeses and other dairy products, baked goods, fiber arts, pottery and more. Come check it out!!!

Peace and Social Action and Adult Education will sponsor the 2013-14 UU “Common Read”

This year’s book is *[Behind the Kitchen Door](#)* by Saru Jayaraman (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2013)

Blending personal narrative and investigative journalism, Jayaraman shows us that the quality of the food that arrives at our restaurant tables depends not only on the sourcing of the ingredients. Our meals benefit from the attention and skill of the people who chop, grill, sauté, and serve. Behind the Kitchen Door is a groundbreaking exploration of the political, economic, and moral implications of dining out. Common Read groups are encouraged to let *Behind the Kitchen Door* inspire follow-up action, such as advocacy for just working conditions for restaurant workers, as part of a commitment to ethical eating.

On a local level, PASA members encourage UUCE members and friends to read the book and discuss it. This will be a useful continuation of the work we have been doing in both immigration and ethical eating. Since Hancock County is such a tourist economy, this subject touches close to home.

There will be a series of three classes on Sundays at 12:00, November 10, 17 and 24. Copies of *Behind the Kitchen Door* will be available for purchase at the PASA table on September 29’s Committee Fair.

To join the study group, see Karen Volckhausen, PASA or Stephen Berger, Adult Education.

For more information on “Common Read” see: <http://www.uua.org/re/multigenerational/read/index.shtml>

PASA meets the third Sunday of each month at 9 AM in the Tidewater room. Visitors are welcome!!!

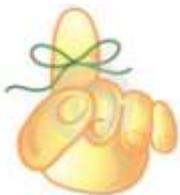
Fix It Report



John Fink with the assistance of Don Martin has been very busy with minor repairs around the church. The toilet paper dispenser in the handicap bathroom has been repaired. The fan in the front bathroom has been serviced. The plug on the piano humidifier has been replaced. The cabinet in Alison’s office with the lost key has been opened. The broken lock on the history file cabinet has been opened. A piece of trim on the podium was re glued. Bulbs that light up out outdoor sign have been replaced. Replaced the ballast in the light in the community room and the fluorescent bulbs in the kitchen, community room and Carl Stehman wing. Also, Jill our cleaning person has painted the heating unites in the Sanctuary.

If you are willing, there are still more minor repairs to be done, see Don Martin if you are interested in helping out.

A big thank you to Jill and John for their good work. Don Martin



Mark Your Calendars

BUILDING YOUR OWN THEOLOGY: Volume 1, Introduction, by Richard Gilbert

An 8-Week Class at UUCE to be offered in the new year!

Facilitated by Rev. Sara Huisjen & Stephen Berger, Co-Chair of the Adult R.E. Committee

Thursday afternoons, January 2nd – February 28th

2:30- 4:30pm in the Sanctuary

To register, please email or contact Rev. Sara at sara@uuellsworth.org, or 610-2872 by **12/27**.

There's room for *up to 15 people* to participate and registration is required.

Each participant must have a copy of the *BYOT Vol. 1, Introduction* Book.

(Books can be ordered on-line or by calling the UUA Bookstore at 800-215-9076.

Based on the assumption that everyone is their own theologian, this classic Unitarian Universalist adult education program invites participants to develop their own personal credos, the fundamental religious beliefs, values, and convictions that inform and direct the living of their lives.

We hope you will join us!

Sara & Stephen

Flowers for the Sanctuary Altar

Please consider donating Flowers for the Sanctuary Altar on occasion.

There is a "Flower Sign-up Sheet" at the front table or on the Hannaford Sales Table every Sunday.



Last year one person was responsible for all the Altar flowers and this was a big job, made more so when the garden flowers stopped blooming! The Aesthetics and Membership Committees decided to give others the opportunity to memorialize or otherwise honor a friend or loved one with their donation of flowers.

If you choose, your donation will be announced at the Sunday service and a notification will be placed in the weekly Sunday Bulletin. Please write your information on the sign-up sheet. You can also email or call the UUCE office the week before on Tuesday or early Wednesday and Alison will see that your donation is appropriately noted in the Bulletin.

We don't have a set procedure, but we will try to be alert to the names and information each week to see that they are properly published.

Two new members!!!

Lisa Whittemore is an enthusiastic new member of our church. After attending just a short while Lisa not only asked to join UUCE but has volunteered to be on the RE committee and to teach a six week unit in the spring. For many years she was active in the UU congregation in Evanston, Illinois having become a UU in her twenties.

Widowed for 17 years, Lisa has one daughter of her own who lives near Washington, DC. and has an adoptive relationship with two other daughters. Before moving to Ellsworth she lived in Deer Isle for 16 years where she did volunteer work whenever possible while battling a disabling medical condition. She is thrilled to have found medical help here in Ellsworth and in nine months has experienced great improvement. Lisa swims at the YMCA and uses a trainer. After living an isolated life for a long time in her own words is 'starting life over'. She lives with her little Bichon Fries' in her new home that is in the Tinker Hill Estates on Bayside Road. Lisa has a Master's degree in education and a second MA in counseling with a specialty in addictions. Her varied background includes being an education director, teacher, union president, business owner and adolescent therapist. She loves doing art work with children. We are very pleased that she is finding a place here among us at UUCE.

Mary Haynes has chosen to become a member of UUCE because of its emphasis on nature-'its earthiness' and because its 'people don't make rules of belief for others'. Mary was raised Episcopalian but after two years studying the religion of her husband converted to Judaism and affiliated with Beth El temple in Bangor. We are happy that she has found a fit in our spiritual community.

She grew up in the Catskill Mountains of upstate New York. She graduated from Hartwick College in Oneonta N.Y., received a Master's degree from Hollins College in Roanoke Va. and her doctorate from University of Maine. She is a clinical psychologist and is the clinical director at Community Health and Counseling Services in Bangor. She is also the owner of Mike's Country Store in Ellsworth.

Mary was married to Eddie Povich until his death several years ago and like Eddie is avidly interested in politics. She has one daughter, son-in law and three grandchildren.

Twenty years ago she was one of the founding members of the Next Step Domestic Violence Project and also helped to create Hancock County Restorative Justice Project for Adult Offenders. Today as well as working, she volunteers at the library, hikes, enjoys cooking and baking and spending time with her family. She is enjoying life in her new downsized home on Westwood Drive next to Woodlawn.

The Membership and Aesthetics Committees

UUCE Community Share

Here is a new opportunity for you to seek help, offer your work or product or make some request or announcement—our UUCE family personal page of sorts.

Write a brief description of your message and send to the editor of NUUS (lfunderburk@roadrunner.com) by the third week of each month.

Did you know?

You can buy dump stickers when you do your grocery shopping with your Hannaford shopping cards!

UUCE Community Share continues.....

Would You Enjoy Some Extra Help?

small jobs around your home
fall cleanup
drive you to appointments or on
short trips
do your errands for you
Please call me-- Dan Wheatley-667-
1398

Need fall planting or cleanup work in your gardens.

Let me do the job for you!
Call Vicki Fox:
422-2324 home/215-205-9949 cell
VickBrick@mac.com

UUCE Seeks Musicians for December 15th Service



Bring us your voices, your flutes, your dusty violins. The December 15 UUCE Sunday service will be mostly musical, featuring members of the congregation of all ages and musicianship.

Please contact Jim Fisher (jimfisher101@gmail.com) or Stephen Berger (sbergernh@roadrunner.com) if you would like to participate in the service. Let us know what you would like to perform and what audio

or musical support you will need. The sooner we know, the more likely we are to work you into the program.

FIREHOUSE SALE!!!

We have ordered new light weight folding tables, they should be delivered soon. We will be offering our old tables to the congregation or their friends for \$10.00 each. What a deal! Our goal is to sell them as quickly as possible. If you are interested, please contact Don Martin, we have 16 tables to sell.

A Holiday Note from Colleen Prentiss

Saint Nicholas – Patron Saint of Children, Sailors, and Maidens
Celebrated Around the World on December 6th



Nicholas was born during the third century in what is now the southern coast of Turkey. His wealthy parents died while Nicholas was still young. Nicholas used his whole inheritance to assist the needy, the sick, and the suffering. He dedicated his life to serving God and was made [Bishop of Myra](#) while still a young man. Bishop Nicholas became known throughout the land for his generosity to those in need, his love for children, and his concern for sailors and ships.

Children around the world know and love St. Nicholas—for he brings gifts and treats. Nicholas gave in secret, alert to others' needs, and expecting nothing for himself in return. It is this selfless generosity which seeks only the good of the other that made Nicholas' gifts the gifts of a [saint](#).

Where St. Nicholas is prominent, his day, not Christmas, is the primary gift giving day. Parties may be held the night before and shoes or stockings left for St. Nicholas to fill during the night. Children will find treats of small gifts, fruit or nuts, and special Nicholas candies and cookies. St. Nicholas gifts are meant to be shared, not hoarded for oneself.

A simple celebration at home provides an opportunity to tell the story of St. Nicholas, a man of faith, goodness and generosity, who gave in secret to those in need. Encourage children to identify a kindly "Nicholas deed" to do for someone else. Have children fill their shoes with pieces of carrot or bits of hay for his white horse or donkey. Place shoes outside bedroom doors or on the hearth. See that an edible treat and a simple gift appear by morning.

In our home, we celebrate by telling the story of St. Nicholas and/or looking at a book on the Saint. Charlie then picks out one of his toys that he wants to leave for St. Nicholas to take, and ultimately "recycle" into a new toy for someone else next year. We leave the toy on the table with carrots. In the morning, the old toy is gone and a new one is under a cloth. A poem, written specifically about Charlie is also there – hinting at what toy is under the cloth. Treats from Europe/Mediterranean (exotic food we don't ever buy/eat) are wrapped in tissue, along with tangerines and three gold coins (real, not chocolate). Actually going out and doing a "Nicholas deed" will be talked about and added to our family celebration.

The real St. Nicholas is so much more than the familiar secular holiday symbol of Santa Claus. Celebrating St. Nicholas provides a corrective to an over-emphasis on the acquisitive, materialistic aspects of Christmas celebration. Celebrating [St. Nicholas Day](#) is appropriate in any church as it brings together young and old in a happy focus on this incredible saint. It is also a superb opportunity to reach out to those who do not attend any church.

If anyone is interested in helping formulate what a St. Nicholas Celebration could be like at our Church, please contact me at anytime. Though, St. Nicholas Celebrations are predominantly Christian, the Spirit of the Celebration is what matters, and I believe, can be adapted for our Church. More info can be found at stnicholascenter.org.

Thank you so much,

Colleen Prentiss 374-5919

Personnel

Contact Information

Minister Rev. Sara Hayman Huisjen: 610-2872 (cell) sara@uuellsworth.org	Religious Education Coordinator Anne Ossanna: 565-2057 anne@uuellsworth.org
Church Office (T, W, Th, F, 1:00-5:00 P.M.) Alison Stephens: 667-4393 office@uuellsworth.org	Music Director Wayne Smith: 667-9482 wayne@mrlanguage.com
President of the Board David Wilcock: 963-2950 president@uuellsworth.org	Newsletter Editor Lance Funderburk: 276-3301 lfunderburk@roadrunner.com [Submit articles by the 15 th of each month]

Board of Trustees

President: David Wilcock, davidwilcock68@gmail.com	Vice President: John Fink
Treasurer: Don Martin	Secretary: Karen Volckhausen
Trustee: Eileen Brennan, to 2015	Trustee: Tom Martin to 2015
Trustee: Flo Reed, to 2014	Trustee: Stephen Berger to 2016
Trustee: Evelyn Foster 2016	Trustee: Peggy Strong to 2014

Committee and Task Force Chairs

Adult Education: Stephen Berger	Leadership Development: Bill Clark
Aesthetics: Linda Laing	Library: Paul Reid
Auction: Peggy Strong	Lobster Bake: Anne Ossanna
Fiscal Matters: David Wilcock	Membership: Nancy Avila/Mardi Thompson-George
Building Maintenance: Don Martin	Committee on Ministry: Marta Rieman
Coffee Hour: C. J. Lavertu,	Music: Haydee Forman
Caring Committee: Stephanie Alley and Linda Barsanti	Outdoor Chapel: Position open
Charitable Giving: Peggy Strong	Peace and Social Action: Karen Volckhausen
Choir: Haydee Foreman	Potluck: C. J. Lavertu
Flowers: Aesthetics and Membership Committees	Sunday order of service: Send to: office@uuellsworth.org
Green Sanctuary: Kay Wilkins	Small Group Ministry: Rev. Sara Huisjen
History Committee: Wayne Smith	Stewardship: Don Martin
Kitchen: Position open	Ushers: Jon Thomas
Landscaping: Karen Wigglesworth & Vicki Fox	Web Pages: Peggy Strong
Loaves and Fishes: Sue Clark, Nina Turner, Dartha Reid	Worship: no chair – B. Dickens, C. Rosinski & S. Berger
RE Chair: Position open	

December 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 Worship Service POTLUCK Sermon discussion after potluck (BR)	2 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 2 –7:30 Violin lessons (S) 7:00 St. Augustine	3 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30-9 pm Acadia Choral Society	4 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 7 p.m. Coyote Group	5 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12 pm Al Anon	6 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 6:00 AA	7 9:30 – 12:30 Ells.Farmers Market (CR)
8 HUNGRY SUNDAY 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 Worship Service Congregational Mtg 2- 5 DownEast Aids Network	9 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 2 –7:30 Violin lessons (S) 7:00 St. Augustine 7-9 Downeast NVC	10 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30-9 pm Acadia Choral Society	11 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 7 p.m. Coyote Group	12 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12 pm Al Anon 6-8pm UUCE Board Mtg.(CR)	13 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 6:00 AA	14 9:30 – 12:30 Ells.Farmers Market (CR)
15 9 – PASA mtg. 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	16 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 2 –7:30 Violin lessons (S) 7:00 St. Augustine	17 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30-9 pm Acadia Choral Society	18 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 6-10 Downeast Audubon 7 p.m. Coyote Group	19 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12:00 Al-Anon	20 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 6-8 Winter Solstice 6:00 AA	21 9:30 – 12:30 Ells.Farmers Market (CR) 1:00 Blue Holiday Service (S) 6-8 Solstice rain date
22 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service	23 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 2 –7:30 Violin lessons (S) 7-9 Downeast NVC 7:00 St. Augustine	24 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12:00 Al-Anon 6 pm Christmas Eve Service	25 Merry Christmas	26 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12:00 Al-Anon	27 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 6:00 AA	28 9:30 – 12:30 Ells.Farmers Market (CR)
29 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service (plate split)	30 YMCA -6-6:30, RE 2 –7:30 Violin lessons (S) 7:00 St. Augustine	31 New Year's Eve YMCA -6-6:30, RE 12:00 Al-Anon 6:30-9 pm Acadia Choral Society				

Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
121 Bucksport Road
Ellsworth, ME 04605

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The NUUS

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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

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We covenant to affirm and promote:
The inherent worth and dignity of every human being;
Justice, equity and compassion in human relations;
**Acceptance of one another and encouragement to spiritual
 growth in our congregations;**
A free and responsible search for truth and meaning;
**The right of conscience and the use of the democratic process
 within our congregation and in society at large;**
**The goal of world community with peace, liberty and justice
 for all;**
**Respect for the interdependent web of all existence of which
 we are a part.**

