



The NUUS

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

Volume 47

No. 5

May 2015

A Month of Services in May

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

Sunday, May 3rd

Oh We Give Thanks

Rev. Sara Huisjen, Worship Leader

UUQ & Choir sings! *1st Sunday of the Month Potluck*

Robin Lovrien, Worship Associate

“The heart that gives, gathers.” “Giving is a gift to yourself.” “Generosity gladdens the soul.” How does being generous make you feel? On this Stewardship Sunday, we’ll explore and celebrate the many ways in which *your* generosity strengthens and enlivens our church community.

Sunday, May 10th

Our Grandmother’s Prayers

Rev. Sara Huisjen, Worship Leader

Special Music with Heidi Powell & Richard Hsu

Amy Fiorilli, Worship Associate

On this Sunday that celebrates mothers, we’ll reflect on the power & wisdom of the grandmothers in our lives and the world. Come reflect on your own experience and learn more about the “Thirteen Indigenous Grandmothers,” an international alliance of women elders formed in 2004 who’ve dedicated their lives to prayer and education as a means to strengthen the human family for the next seven generations.

Sunday, May 17th

How To Find Who We Are and What We Are Called To Be

Rev. Becky Gunn, Worship Leader

So often we are in the state of ‘lost’ being unaware of who we really are and what our ‘call’ is. Listening is the first step - pausing and giving ourselves a chance to hear our soul speak. Over the course of our lives we may have many different calls, but each call begins with awareness.

Rev. Becky Gunn is a recently retired minister who served the Bangor Congregation for six years. Before that she was an interim minister in Boulder, Colorado. As she began her new phase in life she traveled this winter to explore her next destination. She believes at this point that she will locate in Prescott, Arizona reconnecting to her Western roots.

Sunday, May 24th A MEMORIAL DAY SERVICE

Jim Fisher & Bob Dickens, Worship Leaders

We gather to honor men and women that gave their lives for this country. First known as Decoration Day, the Memorial Day tradition is a time to visit cemeteries and memorials, decorate grave sites, picnic on the lawn and thank our ancestors for their sacrifice. We will commemorate Memorial day with words, music and reflections of war and peace.

Sunday, May 31st Our Spiritual Pilgrimage to New Orleans UU Youth & Rev. Sara Huisjen

ANNUAL PARISH MEETING – Vote on 2015/16 Budget & Board Elections

Over the April Vacation week, Rev. Sara traveled with 12 UU youth, including Iris Aripotch, to New Orleans and volunteered with the Center for Ethical Living and Social Justice Renewal. Come hear what this Service Project and Spiritual Pilgrimage meant to them!

Plate Split Sunday

Ministry Matters



This past month, first at the Spring Professional Days Gathering I attended with UU colleagues in Crawford Notch, NH, and then at the Annual Conference of our UU Northern New England District a day later, I had occasion to meet and listen to Rev. Scott Taylor speak. Rev. Taylor is a UU Minister who hails from New York and currently serves as the Director of Congregational Life at the UUA. He is smart, funny, articulate, and humbly passionate about the power and potential of our UU congregations. In his capacity as Director of Congregational Life at the UUA, his work focuses on helping congregations and their leaders recognize and appreciate the power (and the necessity!) of working together to create thriving ministries that serve our people *and* the world. I was moved by what he had to say, and as I listened to him, I was reminded of the many ways *you* already live our faith in collaborative and enlivening ways.

And so, I want to say *thank you* to Haydee Foreman & members of the UUCE choir for singing in this year's UU Choir Festival in Belfast where five mid-Maine congregations were represented. It was fun and inspiring to blend our voices with so many others, and to be gathered together by the power of music and singing as fellow UU friends. (Many thanks, too, to those of you who attended.)

Thank you to Anne Ossanna for working with her Religious Education colleagues to help create & host a meaningful district sponsored workshop about *doing* religious education in this 21st century in our congregations. Eight teams of people from different congregations in Maine and New Hampshire were a part of that meaningful conversation. I loved being there with Amy Fiorilli, Cecily Judd, Jody Murphy and Anne.

Thank you to Stephen Berger & members of the Adult R.E. Committee who arranged for Rev. Peter Richardson of Rockland to lead a recent day-long teaching about our UU history that several folks from UUCE attended. (Thanks, too, for thinking to invite folks from *other* UU churches!)

Thank you to Karen Volckhausen & members of our Peace & Social Action Committee who have helped host & create numerous forums, events and conversations in collaboration with other community groups about important justice considerations this year. The most recent weekend of events in April re: "health care for all" in Maine was both informative and inspiring!

And *thank you*, too, to all of you at UUCE, members & friends, who helped send me (one of three adult chaperones) with 12 of our UU youth from 4 congregations to New Orleans for a week over April Vacation to do hurricane recovery work. While we were there, we got to think about and experience what it means to *live* our faith in the world. Please plan to be at church on Sunday, May 31st to hear more about what this Spiritual Pilgrimage & Service Project meant to them!

I continue to be enormously grateful for *all* of you,
and am inspired by your commitments to working together.

Yours in ministry

Sara

From the Board of Trustees



Summary of UUCE Board of Trustees Meeting - April 9, 2015

The UUCE Office keeps paper copies of BOT minutes, and our monthly newsletter contains a summary of the latest minutes. The next elected Board will consider storing these records on line.

Emeritus Ministers - Former UUCE Ministers Mark Worth and Charles Stephens are pleased by our invitation to become Emeritus Ministers. Bob Dickens, Wayne Smith, and Tom Stipe are working on the agreements and on plans for a ceremony and gifts.

Emergency Planning - Bob Dickens and Helen Kazura continue their research into an affordable option for emergency-exit sliding doors in the sanctuary, and into the need for a new fire alarm panel and for a panic button that would connect UUCE to emergency services.

Microphone in Sanctuary - John Fink hopes to fix our microphone's audio feedback (squawk) with a fairly inexpensive gadget to filter out interference.

Policy - Tom Martin has produced an excellent draft UUCE personnel policy, which is now under review.

Minister's Letter of Agreement - Rev. Sara and the Committee on Ministry are working to spell out the terms of her Called Ministry. A Board-approved draft will be presented to the Congregation for a vote on May 31.

Budget - The new year's budget will be presented at May's Board meeting.

Treasurer's Report - Don Martin reports winter weather hurt both our collection plate and our finances, and our charitable fundraising is a little short, but overall UUCE is doing well: We're averaging 60 people in church on Sundays. We are reviewing our charitable giving since we provide relatively little to others than Loaves & Fishes and the Ellsworth Area Ministers' Association (EAMA). Incoming Treasurer Peggy Strong is compiling a report on exactly what UUCE donates and to whom.

Financial Changes - Our Minister and Board President now have UUCE credit cards to simplify finances. We also now have an easy option for pledge-making: electronic fund transfer, to be explained on Stewardship Sunday.

Improvements to Community Room and Storage - Sealander Architects is on board as general contractor for the reconstruction of our storage area. A 3D drawing of their plan should be available soon.

Strategic Plan and Mission Statement - We are starting work on a mission statement and strategic plan. A congregational brainstorming event this fall could help us decide who we want to be as a church.

**PROPOSED NEW BOARD MEMBERS/OFFICERS
FROM ELECTIONS COMMITTEE TO CONGREGATION**

The Congregation elected the Elections Committee at the January meeting, with the charge to recommend to the congregation at the May meeting nominees for all vacant Officer and Board member positions.

This has not been an easy job, but it has been challenging and interesting. Our recommendations, or suggestions, to the Congregation and the Board, will include the following.

A clear line of distinction must be drawn between the Committee and the Board and its individual members.

The responsible group, whether it be the Board, The RE Committee or the Minister MUST initiate a program designed specifically to inform our teen group and other interested young people re: the

history, responsibilities and values of Church membership. Our committee reluctantly chose to initiate the part of the By-Laws which requires a teen member of the Board, and to ignore the part which requires a teen member to be a member of the Church. The above recommendation re teen training is the outgrowth of that dilemma in connection with our recommendations.

Here are the **Election Committee recommendations**, with their expiration date. Some are beginning their term and others are completing vacant or expiring terms.

Vice President Robin Lovrien, 5/2017
 Treasurer Peggy Strong, 5/2017
 Secretary Amy Fiorilli, 5/2016, completing Robin Lovrien's term

Mary Haynes, 5/2018
 Tom Martin, 2nd term, 5/2018
 John Fink 5/2017, completing Peggy Strong's term

Youth Member Eryn Bouchard, one year term, 5/2015

Returning duly elected Officer/Board Members, who will not be voted on in May:

President David Wilcox, 5/2016

Members:

Evelyn Foster, 2016
 Margaret Thurston, 2017
 Stephen Berger, 5/2016



Lifespan Religious Education

Spring Greetings from the Carl Stedman Wing,

April was a full and busy month in the RE Wing at UUCE. Cecily Judd led a fun Easter Egg Hunt for the youngest children on April 5th and everyone seemed to enjoy our Multigenerational worship service in April 12th. A heartfelt Thank You to Jody Murphy, Jenn Ryan, Cecily Judd, Amy Fiorilli, Bill Clark and Lisa Whitmore who were our volunteer teachers in April. Also a hearty Thank You to Erin Colson our volunteer aide.

Have you noticed the beautiful potted pansies at the entrance to UUCE? Please extend your appreciation to Cecily Judd and Jody Murphy along with the wee ones for their thoughtful donation.

Parents, we are nearing the end of our formal church school year. While this is such a busy time for families, we ask the children to try to attend consistently in May as we prepare for our June 7th RE Sunday. Many thanks in advance for your efforts. Also, I have a new cell phone number which I will list at the end of this article.

MAY RELIGIOUS EDUCATION CALENDAR

May 3rd is Faith in Action Sunday with Liz True.

May 10th children will be dismissed to their classes after Time for All Ages

May 16th and 17th Tween Overnight Gathering at US Bangor

May 17th children will be dismissed to their classes after Time for All Ages

May 24th children will be dismissed to their classes after Time for All Ages

May 31st End of Year Party

Also,

Seeking volunteers to assist with our May 3rd Faith in Action religious education activity. Our topic is Singing to the Presence, a lesson about the power of support. The children will be engaged in several activities related to support, including a modified version of Joys and Sorrows, discussing prayer and what it may mean for some, and the concept of civil disobedience and protest as a means of support.

Faith in Action Sundays are an opportunity for all the children to work together as a class but also for them to interact with members of the congregation who are not their regular teachers. Our previous two sessions have involved a variety of volunteers and the children really appreciate meeting and interacting with new people.

No special skills are necessary, especially for this class. Please consider supporting our RE program and our youth. Please email Liz True at eatrue9@gmail.com if you are able to assist.

Woyaya,

Anne

Aossanna@aol.com (207) 479 6338

The Peace and Social Action Committee

The Ellsworth Farmers Market has just completed its third winter market season at UUCE. The vendors want to convey their gratitude for the opportunity to rent the cozy, warm community room and also thank everyone from the church who stopped by despite the severe weather.

The outdoor downtown market opens Saturday, May 2 from 9:30 AM to 12:30 PM in the Acadia Realty parking lot. It will run through October 31.

The Monday and Thursday markets at the Maine Community Foundation start June 22 and 25, 2 PM to 5:30 PM.

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

Treasurer's Corner



The Stewardship Campaign will begin in May. This is an important time in the life of the church. It is the time when we all pledge what we can to support the operating expenses of the church at its present level, with a full time Minister, RE Coordinator, Church Administrator, Music Director and Cleaning personnel. I encourage you to read the special edition of Stewardship NUUS that was sent out last week. Also, plan to attend one of the Cottage Meetings that are planned. As your treasurer for the past six years I know how important it is to have a strong response to the Stewardship campaign and to raise sufficient funds to support the operation of our church. And I ask each of you to consider how much you can afford to pledge for the upcoming church year, July 1st 2015 to June 30th, 2016.

TREASURERS REPORT – as of March 2015

Total income for March 2015 was \$8,548.86. This was \$5681.32 less than the total expenses for the month which was \$14,230.18. Total income through March is \$115,274.03, 78.51% of budget. This is 3.5% more than the year-to-date percentage of 75%.

Total expenses for the same period were \$99,118.12, 67.53% of budget which is 7.47% less than year-to-date figure of 75%.

Pledge income for March was \$6960.00. Total pledges through March were \$79,272.00, 72.80% of budget which was 2.20% less than the year-to-date of 75%. Pledge income continues to fall off.

Plate income for March was \$598.97. This is an improvement over last month.. Total plate income through March was \$5,986.88 or 61.72% of budget, 14.87% less than the year-to-date of 75%.

Plate income – plate split for charity through March was \$1,022.13 or 60.13% of budget or 14.87% less than year-to-date figure of 75%.

Fundraising income in March stayed the same. Total income from Fundraising through March was \$13,313.14. We reached our budget goal of \$10,500, for the church. We would need to raise \$3,186.86 to reach our total fundraising goal of \$16,5000.

Rental income for March was \$987.00 for a total through March of \$8,708.00 or 93.13% of budget of \$9350.00. Rental income other is at \$6,358.00 or 105.97% of budget of \$6000.00 and three months of the church year to go.

Expenses still continue to run below budget of 67.53%, even though we have two line items that have exceeded budget by \$4,181; snow plowing and building and maintenance.

Don Martin, Treasurer



Here Comes the Sun

It Is Canvass Time at UUCE—Generosity Generates Power

Finally—the crocuses are blooming by the door to our sanctuary and soon the daffodils will cover our gardens like gold! It is a happy time to be asking all friends and members of our congregation to join in supporting our 2015-16 budget. It is canvass time and by now most everyone will have been contacted with an invitation to a cottage meeting or by some other arrangement to give the Fiscal Matters Committee a pledge amount of what you hope to contribute to the support of UUCE in the coming year. Then a budget can be drawn up and voted on in late May. Please read your special edition of The NUUS which gives you more facts.

Our church has had a very successful year. Your generosity helped us achieve important goals including calling Rev. Sara Huisjen from ¾ to full time called ministry. The church is thriving and deepening spiritually under her love and guidance. It is also thriving because of many thousands of hours of dedicated volunteer service given by members of the congregation. For the spirit of the giving we are very grateful.

Please help us continue on the path we have set. Attend a cottage meeting or in some other way—make your own generous pledge. Give by the week or the month – there are several options—including weekly envelopes, electronic payment from your bank or a special plan that the church has, or paying by check whenever it is convenient.

Your generosity helps us thrive--and we really love thriving well!

Evelyn Foster--Stewardship Chairperson

A Quote from A. Powell Davies

Submitted by Evelyn Foster

Let me tell you why I come to church. I come to church—and would whether I was a preacher or not—because I fall below my own standards and need to be constantly brought back to them. I am afraid of becoming selfish and indulgent, and my church—my church of the free spirit—brings me back to what I want to be. I could easily despair; doubt and dismay could overwhelm me. My church renews my courage and my hope. It is not enough that I should think about the world and its problems at the level of a newspaper report or magazine discussion. It could too soon become too low a level. I must have my conscience sharpened—sharpened until it goads me to the most thorough and responsible thinking of which I am capable. I must feel again the love I owe to others. I must not only hear about it but feel it. In church, I do. I am brought toward my best, in every way toward my best.

A. Powell Davies, 1902 – 1957

[I want to thank Evelyn for bringing the writings of Davies to my attention. I have gone online and ordered everything of his that is in print. – editor]

Annual UUCE Multi-Generational Retreat at Ferry Beach

Are you tired of winter? Tired of shoveling? Tired of being cold? Just plain tired? If so, here is something to look forward to this early fall, our **Annual Multi-Generational Retreat at Ferry Beach, October 9th through**



the 12th. With careful and steadfast conversations we have been able to extend our retreat by one day at YOUR request. The cost for the weekend is \$225.00/person which includes ocean front rooms, 9 meals and 3 days of enriching activities. There are discounts for camping and children. *Registration begins each Sunday in April and a \$25.00 deposit is required at the time of registration.* We are limited to 60 people in the dorms, unlimited camping spots. Scholarships are available; please see Anne Ossanna for a confidential request. If you are not able to attend the retreat, but would like to donate to the scholarship fund, please also see Anne.

UUCE CARING CORNER CONSIDERATIONS:



Let's Create a Loving Care Package of Letters for Joey Ossanna!

Please Bring Your Cards to Church for him on Memorial Day, Sunday, May 24th

All are invited to write cards and/or letters of support & thanks to Joey Ossanna who grew up in this church and was recently deployed on his first assignment in the Navy. Joey is currently working on the flight deck of the USS Theodore Roosevelt doing aviation support. His mother, Anne Ossanna, let us know he'll be home again sometime in November,

and that in the meantime, he'd love to hear from his UU family. Cards & letters will be collected at UUCE on Sunday, May 24th.

THANKS FOR BEING SO GOOD TO EACH OTHER! *Rev. Sara*

LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO LIVE...



A friend of the congregation is looking for housing. Professional working mother of 2 looking for affordable 2 or 3 bedroom home to rent or house-sit. Utilities included preferred, ideally \$800 month. Bucksport/Orland/Surry/Penobscot area, but will consider other locations. Also will be in need of furniture if anyone has any collecting dust they want to part with.

Please call 812-1980 if you can help.

Buddhist Meditation Group



The next meeting will be May 27 from 5 to 6:15 before the Living By Heart Meeting.

NEED A RIDE TO CHURCH?

The Ellsworth Small Group Ministry wants to help!

New Transportation Ministry Project

The new Small Group Ministry group that meets in Ellsworth is embarking on a ministry project of linking congregants who need rides to church services and other church events with those who would be willing to provide transportation. We have noted that some of our congregants have had to stop driving permanently, or are temporarily unable to do so. Given the long distances that some congregants travel in order to participate in church, we want to do what we can to make sure that everyone who wants to get to events is able to do so.

Cecily Judd is the contact person for this project. Please call her at 422-9003 if you need a ride or if you would like to provide transportation for someone.

We will make every effort to help you get connected for a ride to just one service or event, or on an ongoing basis.

Submitted by Mary Haynes

BUILDING & GROUNDS

Thank You

A special thank you to **Peggy and Matthew Strong** and **Don Martin** for doing the hard work of getting the Community Room ready for the re-construction project that will be taking place soon.



Something broken, not working?

Let me know by filling out a Work Order.

These are in a folder on the Bulletin Board in the Schwalbe Room (Community Room).

Just give it to Allison or put it in the Building Maintenance slot in the box on the wall opposite the kitchen.

Many thanks.

John Fink

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

Board of Trustees

President: David Wilcock, davidwilcock68@gmail.com	Vice President: John Fink
Treasurer: Don Martin	Secretary: Robin Lovrien
Trustee: Mary Susan Haynes to 2015	Trustee: Tom Martin to 2017
Trustee: Margaret Thurston 2014	Trustee: Stephen Berger to 2016
Trustee: Evelyn Foster 2016	Trustee: Peggy Strong to 2017

Committee and Task Force Chairs

Adult Education: Stephen Berger	RE Chair: Lisa Whittemore
Aesthetics: Linda Laing	Leadership Development: Mardi Thompson and Jody Murphy
Auction: Margaret Thurston	Library: Paul Reid
Fiscal Matters: David Wilcock	Lobster Bake: Anne Ossanna
Building Maintenance: John Fink	Membership: Nancy Avila
Coffee Hour: C. J. Lavertu,	Committee on Ministry: Marta Rieman
Caring Committee: Stephanie Alley and Linda Barsanti	Peace and Social Action: Karen Volckhausen
Charitable Giving: Mary Susan Haynes	Potluck: C. J. Lavertu
Choir: Haydee Foreman	Safety: Bob Dicken and Helen Kazura
Ferry Beach ----Jude Lamb, Evelyn Foster	Sunday order of service: Send to: office@uuellsworth.org
Flowers: Bronwen Kaldro	Small Group Ministry: Cynthia Perkins
Green Sanctuary: Kay Wilkins	Stewardship: Evelyn Foster
History Committee: Wayne Smith	Ushers: Jon Thomas
Landscaping: Vicki Fox	Wayside Pulpit: David Dyer
Loaves and Fishes: Sue Clark, Nina Turner, Dartha Reid	Web Pages: Peggy Strong

May 2015

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
					1 12-4:30Violin (D) 6-9 DE Audubon(S) 7 Cottage Mtg (D) 6:00 AA	2 10 am to 2 pm LifeVantage (s)
3 Stewardship POTLUCK 9-1 COM Mtg.(TD) 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Spring Clean up after church 4 – Cottage Mtg (D)	4 12-7 Violin (D) 7pm St.A's (Seals)	5 12:00 AI-Anon	6 3-6:30pm Violin (Penguin) 7 p.m. Coyote Group(TD) 7 pm UU Ukulele (P)	7 10-12, Exec Cmt. 12:00 AI-Anon(s) 6 – 8 Lifevantage(S)	8 12-4:30Violin (D) 6:00 AA	9 5-9 UU Single Women (K\$ BR)
10 HUNGRY SUNDAY 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/ Happy Mothers Day	11 12-7 Violin (D) 7 DE-NVC (S) 7 pm St. A's (seals)	12 12:00 AI-Anon 4-6 Worship A. (TD) 6 – 8 Lifevantage(S)	13 3-6:30pm Violin (Penguin) 5-7 SGM 7pm –Trad Music Jam (S) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	14 12:00 AI-Anon(s) 6-8 Board mtg. (BR)	15 12-4:30Violin (D) 6:00 AA	16
17 9 am PASA mtg.(TD) 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/	18 12-7 Violin (D) 7:00 St.A's (Seals)	19 12:00 AI-Anon	20 3-6:30pm Violin (Penguin) 7 pm Ukulele (D) 6-9 DE Audubon (S) 7 p.m. Coyote Group (TD)	21 12:00 AI-Anon(s) 6-8 pm Spirituality (D) 6 – 8 Lifevantage(S)	22 12-4:30Violin (D) 6:00 AA	23
24 9-1 RE office hours 10:30 a.m. Worship Service w/	25 12-7 Violin (D) 7 DE-NVC (S) 7 St. A's	26 12:00 AI-Anon	27 9-2:30 Haynes (BR) 3-6:30pm Violin (Penguin) 5-6:15 Buddhist Grp 6:30-8:30 LB Heart (D) 7- Coyote (TD)	28 12:00 AI-Anon(s) 5:30-7 LED (TD) 6 – 8 Lifevantage(S) 6-8 pm Spirituality (D)	29 12-4:30Violin (D) 6 pm AA	30
31 PARISH MTG RE End of Year Party 10:30 a.m. Worship Service Plate Split						

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Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

May 2015

Vol. 47, No. 5

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.