

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth

P.O. Box 5141 (1211 Bucksport Road), Ellsworth, Maine 04605

Phone: (207)667-4393 Web: <http://ellsworthme.org/uuce>

Vol. 38, No. 1

January, 2006

A Month of Sundays

All services at 10:30 a.m.

Sunday, January 1 – the Rev. Mark Worth, "Conversation With the Congregation." Mark begins the New Year with his old tradition – no sermon, just a conversation. POT LUCK

Sunday, January 8 – the Rev. Mark Worth, "Seasons of Hope." Our lives are dependent on an eternal cycle of the seasons, on a play of powers we can conspire with but never control. There is something to love about every season.

Sunday, January 15 – Dylan Brann, and Toby Manring. Dylan will share his experiences from attending a national UU youth conference on racism.

Sunday, January 22 – the Rev. Mark Worth, "Spiritual Anger." Because spirituality focuses on the highest things – enlightenment, ethics, truth – it has a very deep shadow. Honest struggle with troubling emotions is an essential part of the spiritual process.

Sunday, January 29 – Jennifer Emrich. Jennifer is the ½-time student interim minister at the Unitarian Universalist Congregation of Castine, is a UU student at Bangor Theological Seminary, and is a member of our church.

Sunday, February 5 – the Rev. Mark Worth, "From Aging to Sage-ing." A sermon about living joyously, fearlessly, and richly as we age. POT LUCK

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!

Coffee Hosts for January

Jan 1 Potluck
Diana Cate & Kay Wilkins
Anne & Lance Funderburk
Dartha Reid

Jan 8 Scott Howell
Sara Bushmann

Jan 15 Melody Lewis
Richard Kane
Helen Kazura

Jan 22 Peggie Geiger
Paula Marcus
Anne & Lance Funderburk

Jan 29 Rae Urban
Barbara Hadowanetz

Parish Meeting

There will be a parish meeting on January 22, 2006 immediately following the service. The agenda will focus on voting on the nominating committee. Any committee chair or member with any other item to add to the agenda should contact Tom Martin by January 14, 2006.



MARK, MY WORD

The snow, the cold, and the darkness remind us all that it is winter.

A friend recently told me that she is hosting an exchange student from Brazil. This student has never seen the sun so low on the horizon at mid-day, and has never experienced the cold and snow we take for granted. Winter in Maine must be an incredible experience for the Brazilian student.

Humorist Garrison Keillor often jokes about Minnesota winters which, if anything, may be even colder than ours. He says, "You may have noticed some people in St. Paul standing on street corners. They look as though they are waiting for a bus. Actually they've been there for days and they're frozen solid." He says that the Midwestern Norwegians wouldn't think of going south to escape the cold, because a Minnesota winter helps to build character. Winter is good for us. It teaches us humility.

A Unitarian friend in New Brunswick told me, "I don't really mind the first four months of winter, it's the last three that get me down!"

So how do we get through the long cold winter? We can start by accepting the fact that it is winter. Wear thermal long underwear. Dress in layers. If you go out, wear your gloves, the extra sweater and the hat or earmuffs. If you don't, you're sure to wish you had.

No matter where you're going, allow 25% more time for scraping and brushing off the car, getting

stuck in the snow, going slowly behind a cautious driver, and talking with friends and neighbors about how cold it is. Carry a shovel, jumper cables, and a snow brush and scraper in your car. A working flashlight is a good idea, too. The item you don't bring will be the one you need.

However cold or stormy it is, go outside every day, even if only for a few minutes. Winter is beautiful, and we should not miss it.

Many people heat with wood, partly because it gives such nice heat, and partly because the exercise required by a wood burning stove is good for us. What's more, the physical labor keeps us connected to the source of heat. Mickey and I have a pellet stove that supplements our oil furnace. It requires a small amount of daily cleaning, a more significant weekly cleaning, and the hauling of bags of wood pellets. It's not the same as chopping wood, but it's enough for us!

Our old friend Harry Meserve had yet another piece of advice: "Select and cultivate your relationship with a good roommate. You are going to spend a lot of time with him or her, and you both might as well enjoy it. If you can keep the roommate you have had and liked all along, that's best. But in any case don't try to change roommates in the winter. It's too complicated. In fact, put off major decisions as much as you can; the weather and the need to cope with it are too demanding to permit side issues." I would add, if you are your own roommate, be good to yourself!

So start a fire in the stove, put a blanket on your lap, and curl up with a good book. Enjoy the winter. It's going to last a while.

Shalom/Salaam,

Mark

From The Board

The meeting began with a discussion with David Juers, who explained that he has been trained in Ralph Mero's office at the UUA to serve as a volunteer compensation consultant to churches in our district. He made the following points:

1. An Interim Minister should be paid the same amount as the current minister.
 2. Moving expenses for the interim must be paid by the church.
 3. The church must pay into the Interim Minister's retirement fund.
 4. No help would be provided by the UUA settlement office if we were to look for a minister who would work less than 3/4 time. NED would help us, however.
 5. If our congregation cannot meet UUA salary guidelines that would diminish our pool of interested candidates.
 6. We must be clear about the package we can offer before we "go public."
- Congregations are encouraged to be "Fair Compensation" churches.

The following materials were submitted to the Board by David Juers:

1. Elements of Compensation
2. Recommended Salary Ranges for UUA Congregations, effective 1/1/06
3. Compensation (page from UUA web site)
<http://www.uua.org/programs/ministry/finances/compensation>

Other business:

1. Canvass: Peggie Geiger proposed March 26 as the kick-off for the '06-'07 Canvass. Marta will take this date to the Worship Committee. Peggie also reported that a Canvass Committee has been organized.
2. Nominating Committee: Don Martin and Evelyn Foster will talk with Ruth Eveland and will try to find new members to fill this committee.

Interim Task Force is Launched

On Sunday, December 11, the congregation voted unanimously to move forward to call an interim minister for the 2005 -- 2006 church year. The Transition Task Force was disbanded by that action. The newly formed Interim Task Force will prepare an information packet about our church. In April, we will review the information on candidates from the UUA, interview those we find appropriate and recommend to the Board our favored candidate. For details on the process, on the UUA Website, see:

<http://www.uua.org/programs/ministry/publications/interim/>

We know the importance of communicating with the congregation in as many ways as we can devise. We will change and update the bulletin board and notebook we used for the TTF and include progress reports in each issue of NUUS. Here's a small challenge: we used green arrows as a logo for "transition." What would be a good symbol for "Interim?"

On issues more weighty than the logo, we encourage members of the congregation to ask questions and make suggestions at any point. This is a far less secretive process than that of the Ministerial Search Committee which will be formed in the spring. The Interim Task Force consists of Kay Wilkins, chair; Helen Kazura, Evelyn Foster, both Board members who served with me on the TTF; and two new members from the congregation: Tom Stipe and Lance Funderburk.

Kay Wilkins, chair, Interim Task Force



Religious Education

CHRISTMAS ACTIVITIES

Thanks to the adult volunteers who helped the children make gifts and celebrate the Christmas season: Sarah Diaz, Carol Rosinski, Susan Walsh, Brenda Cartwright, Mark Worth and Melissa Shaffer. Thanks to the children and youth who participated in the Christmas Eve service including: Emma Burdette, Mairi Manring, Joy Cartwright, Maria Burdette, Elliot Ossanna, Holly Thulin, Clora Manring, Erin Beauvais, Robert Krasny, Glenn Manring, Dylan Brann, Vincent Ossanna, Joey Ossanna and Jared Hansen. We also appreciated having Tara and Tim Young play the parts of Mary and Joseph, with their children, Andy and Abby.

JOYS AND CONCERNS

We were sorry to hear that Jonah Diaz was accidently burned by a pot of hot water and was taken to Shriner's Hospital to be treated in early December. Sarah and Franscico, Jonah's parents, report that he is happy (except during a dressing change) and is being treated well. We are hopeful that he will be home by the time this is being read.

I was just given the news this afternoon (12-15) that Becka Smith gave birth to a son, Rowen. Congratulations to Becka, Jeff and Oceanna.

SENIOR YOUTH

At this time, we have not completed a schedule of activities for the youth group, but we would like for the members to put this date on their calendars--Sunday, January 29th. This is the fifth Sunday of the month which allows Mark to meet with the youth group during church. He will be discussing his experiences with the military draft and the Viet Nam War.

SOCIAL ACTION

Thanks to those who contributed to TRICK OR TREAT FOR UNICEF. I sent a check for \$50 to help children and families throughout the world, including victims of Hurricane Katrina. Jared

Hansen thanks those who bought his photo cards; he contributed \$25 to help people with disabilities who are victims of Katrina.

UNITARIAN UNIVERSALISM

During January, we will return to our theme for this year: Unitarian Universalism. Mickey Worth will be working with grades 5-8, helping them learn about the lives and works of outstanding Unitarian Universalists. Peggie Geiger will work with the K-4 group and will focus on the seven principles.

JANUARY CALENDAR

January 1st Happy New Year!
Birthday party for all!
January 8th Curriculum: Unitarian Universalism
Hungry Sunday
January 15th Unitarian Universalism
January 22nd Unitarian Universalism
January 29th Unitarian Universalism
Senior Youth: Mark Worth

Kay Hansen, DRE

Downeast Discussion Group

The discussion group is open to everyone. Meetings are held on the second Wednesday of the month at noon. Bring a sandwich for yourself. Beverages and dessert are provided by the host of the month. If you need directions or have questions, please call the host of the month.

Wednesday, January 11, 2006

Jean and Fred Snyder (546-2824) Gouldsboro
Topic: "Maine" How did you come to live in Maine and why do you stay?

Wednesday, February 8, 2006

Frank Pollien (664-0365) Ellsworth
Topic: "Poetry" Bring favorite poems to share

May Baskets

In January?? Yes, because that's when we have to start making them. If, that is, we're going to make them at all.

For years, the Women's Alliance and friends made May Baskets to sell as a fundraiser. Each year the Alliance raised between \$2,000 and \$3,000. Recently the Women's Alliance was dissolved; times have changed and most women no longer can meet during the day. Our older members couldn't drive to meetings at night. One by one, our devoted and productive May Basket makers have had to cease making baskets. Our old reliable fundraiser has gone.

BUT...before her death, Ethel Schwalbe gave me (Sally Bell) all her May Basket supplies. I am delighted to teach anyone who wants to learn to make May Baskets. They are simple to make. I can arrange for workshops after church services, on Saturdays, or at other times convenient for people. Please contact me at church or by phone (667-7186) if you're interested. By the way, even if you don't want to make the baskets, there are preparation tasks you can do, if you're willing.

Finally, let me say that this is not a project that one person can complete. I don't mind storing the supplies if they will be used, but if no one wants to do this project then I can use the space for other things.

Hoping to hear from many of you.

Sally



Personnel Directory

Minister

Rev. Mark Worth
22 Maddocks Ave.
Ellsworth, ME 04605
667-2471

Office hours: 9:30-5:00, Tue, Wed, Thu

Religious Education Director

Kay Hansen: 667-9421

Music Director

Wayne Smith: 667-9482

Choir Director

Irving Forbes: 374-2068

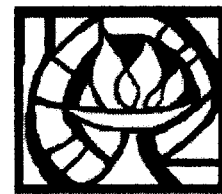
Newsletter Editor

Lance Funderburk: 276-3301

lfunderburk@adelphia.net

President of the Board

Tom Martin: 667-8128



Fifth Annual Winter Conference

“HOT TOPICS FOR REALLY COOL CONGREGATIONS”

DATE: SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 2006

TIME: 8:30 A.M. – 4:00 P.M.

PLACE: WATERVILLE UU CHURCH

An Invitation to New Dreams, Designs and Destinies: The Vision of Appreciative Inquiry Facilitated by **Sheila McNamee**, Ph.D., Professor of Communication at the University of New Hampshire. She is a co-founder and Board Member of the Taos Institute, and the author of many books. McNamee lectures and consults both nationally and internationally for universities, private institutes, organizations and communities.

PLEASE PUT THE DATE ON YOUR CALENDAR NOW, and try to send a team of at least 5 people from each congregation. *THIS COULD TRULY CHANGE THE LIFE OF YOUR CONGREGATION!*

The fee of \$20 per individual will include lunch and one book per congregation for those congregations that send at least 5 people.

Registration materials and more information will be forthcoming in early January.



Treasurer's Report

Last month I reported that we raised \$300.00 in a special offering for the Giving Winds campaign. Since then we have received additional donations bringing the total to \$2,000.00. We certainly can be proud of our generosity. The N.E.D. had set a goal of \$40,000 for Maine churches. It was reported to Mark that our donation was very much appreciated.

In January we will be mailing out pledge statements to everyone who made a contribution of record to the church in 2005. If you need the information for preparing your income taxes prior to receiving your statement, please call me. I will be happy to accommodate your request. Remember this statement will indicate your contributions from January 1, 2005 to June 30, 2005 for the 2004 – 2005 church year and your contributions from July 1, 2005 – December 31, 2005 for the 2005 – 2006 church year. If this is confusing to you, please do not hesitate to call me at 664-0309 and I will make every effort to clear up the confusion.

Thanks for your support,

Don Martin
Church Treasurer



January 2006

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 10:30 Worship Service Pot Luck 3:00 Beth Israel 6:30 Beckford Singers	2 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 5:30 Casey Family 6:30 St. Augustine Group	3 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. PATT	4 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 8:00 a.m. QiGon 6:30 Craft Group 6:30 Men's Group 6:30 Meditation Group	5 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹	6 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 6:00 AA	7
8 10:30 Worship Service Hungry Sunday 3:00 Beth Israel 6:30 Beckford Singers	9 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 6:30 St. Augustine Group	10 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. PATT	11 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 8:00 a.m. QiGon 6:30 Craft Group 6:30 Men's Group 7:00 Reiki Healing Circle	12 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 7:00 Board Meeting	13 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 9:00 a.m. Midwives 6:00 AA	14 3:00-7:00 PATT
15 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Beth Israel 6:30 Beckford Singers	16 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 6:30 St. Augustine Group	17 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. PATT 6:30 Acadia Choral Society	18 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 8:00 a.m. QiGon 6:30 Craft Group 6:30 Men's Group 6:30 Meditation Group	19 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 7:00 Audubon	20 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 6:00 AA	21 6:00 Coffee House Open Mike Jam Session
22 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Beth Israel 6:30 Beckford Singers	23 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 6:30 St. Augustine Group	24 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. PATT 6:30 Acadia Choral Society	25 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 8:00 a.m. QiGon 6:30 Craft Group 6:30 Men's Group 7:00 Reiki Healing Circle	26 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 6:00 MS Support Group	27 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 6:00 AA	28
29 10:30 Worship Service 3:00 Beth Israel 6:30 Beckford Singers	30 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. Trillium ¹ 6:30 St. Augustine Group	31 8:00 a.m. H.S. Ed. ² 8:00 a.m. PATT 7:00 Non-violent Communication				

To reserve space at the church, contact **Sue Clark** at 244-3051 or P.O. Box 1342, Ellsworth, ME 04605-1342

¹ Trillium meets from 8:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon; ² High School Education meets from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m.

**Unitarian Universalist Church
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Jon & Peggie Geiger
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The NUUS

January 2006

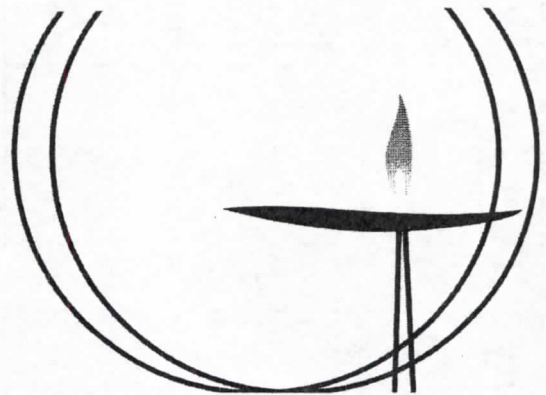
The NUUS is sent free of charge to all members of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth. Others who wish to receive the NUUS may do so by contributing \$10 per year to cover printing and mailing.

The NUUS

Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Ellsworth
January 2006 Vol. 38, No. 1

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 congregations 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.**



The NUUS is published monthly. The deadline for submitting news items is the 15th of the month. Your contributions are solicited. Please e-mail them or leave them in the bottom metal shelf of the hall table. Articles may be edited for space. Letters will be printed at the editor's discretion, space allowing, as long as they do not express criticism of UUCE members & friends by name or inference.