





## *Along the Way...*

Dear Friends,  
Here is a poem about winter:

### SNOW

Snow can make strangers of us  
or saints, the ones pushing out cars  
of people they don't even know as if  
the wheels--whistling, spinning, spitting  
were some call of God. Hands thumping  
against the trunk and pushing, feet slipping  
dangerously, yet calling out like a psalm  
"Cut her left, let her roll, now easy"  
while you, shift lever and pedal working  
as if you could row it out, are leaning  
your head out the steaming  
window trying to hear.

You feel it when  
they give the last, lunging,  
near fall and you begin to roll knowing  
you have to keep her moving  
so can do no more than shout thanks waving,  
feeling somehow you are all friends  
now and would like to have them over  
for coffee but keep driving  
and they walk away, their rosy faces glowing  
with anonymous holiness.

Beneath its quiet, chilly layers, winter can be a season of much change and challenge. This it will certainly be for the churches of Sanford and Saco/Biddeford. We have before us a time of discernment that will help shape the future of both congregations. Four cottage meetings have been held in Saco/Biddeford, soliciting the various commitments, hopes and dreams of those attending. Four more are scheduled in Sanford for the month of January. The information arising from these meetings will be shared within and between each church and will determine the shape of your ministerial search process. I earnestly solicit your participation in these upcoming meetings in Sanford and, (if you've already attended those in Saco/Biddeford,) please let all of these meetings be, not the end, but the beginning of your involvement with the evolving search process. I hope you will stay in communication with me and each of the Transition Teams going forward. The decisions before you are some of the most crucial that churches in our form of governance can make and your participation will be important.

See you in church, Rev. Steve

## UU Church Rehearsals and Fun



Berwick's best!



In tune



Rehearsing



And more rehearsing



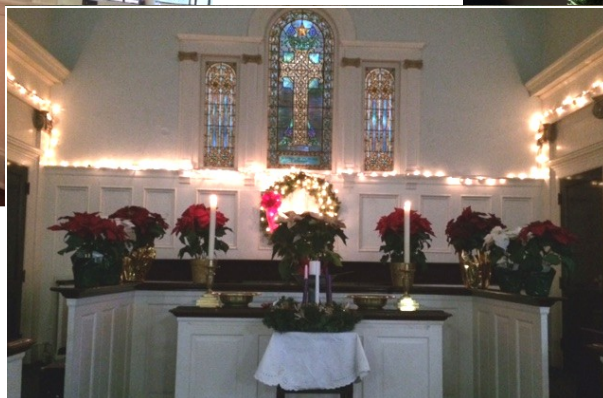
Lilah and her grandmother, Janie Waterhouse, had fun going to church together.

### FEDCO Seed Sale 2017

Put winter behind and think about those spring gardens! We are placing a group order of seeds, potato and onions sets, and other growing supplies from the Maine cooperative FEDCO ([www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com)). As always, any money saved on the group order will go to the church. Catalogs, order forms, and instructions are in the church parlor. You can also view the catalog online at the FEDCO website. Orders and payment in full must be received by Jan Sacco on or before Friday January 20. Contact Jan Sacco with questions and to order and pay: 207-457-9268; [jrsacco@metrocast.net](mailto:jrsacco@metrocast.net); 16 Pleasant Hill Rd., Lebanon, Maine 04027.



# Christmas at the Sanford UU Church



Ringers



Singers



Old Timers



**RE Play “The Grinch That Stole the Christmas Party”**  
***Conclusion: Even the Grinch was a pretty good guy once you got to know him!***



## A Letter from John and Jan Steffens

Jan & I have left Bangladesh and our work at CRP hospital with very mixed feelings. We both are looking forward to a few days of R & R in Bangkok with some of the simple pleasures of clean sheets, food with protein, and streets not inundated with dirt, litter and grime and human waste. On the other hand we will miss the wonderful patients and staff whose lives we have touched in some small ways. I have to admit that coming into Bangladesh, I felt some apprehension, given the recent attacks on western aid workers and the atrocious killings in the Gulshan area of Dhaka. Walking along the street shops just outside of the CRP hospital, I was very conscious of those around me and had one eye looking over my shoulder. However, in a few days the insecurity of being the only white skinned outsiders in a totally dark skinned Muslim city subsided, and I was able to open to and lean into the warmth of smiles and curious stares.

Our work and time at CRP was a wonderfully enriching and fulfilling experience. We helped as we could, Jan mostly working with the Speech Language Therapy (SLT) department staff, offering in-services, teaching SLT student classes, clinical supervision and spending many hours working with a very difficult young women patient who is 7 months post suicide attempt, was totally unresponsive for 3 months, has been fed through a NG tube for past 6 months and is just beginning to be able to swallow sips of liquid. My efforts centered on setting up another compost bin system at a second remote site, doing an analysis of the SLT department caseload and current financial status, working with the head of medical services and the Ex Dir to access their needs and potential to partner with Americares to bring free medical supplies and pharmaceutical drugs into the country for use at CRP as well as sub distribution to other NGOs and government hospitals. In between I edited many patient profiles for the publications department used for fund raising efforts. But for me and Jan the most meaningful times were the evenings when we walked through the 100 bed (primarily men) spinal cord injury (SCI) wards, and stopped to interact with each patient and their caregiver wife or mother. These patients are poor farmers and workers and most spinal cord injuries occur from falls from trees while picking fruit, falls from construction building, injuries from carrying too heavy loads on their head and road/traffic accidents. Most are para or quadriplegic, some are in halo traction for thirty days and others are able to leave their beds in wheel chairs for part of each day.

Entering each ward the smells and sights of suffering were overwhelming. At first I felt uncomfortable, trying to communicate and console these patients with only very limited Bangla words, but I soon learned that a deeper level of communication does not require words. Looking into their eyes, I first saw sadness, pain, some despair, but looking deeper I also saw some relief and hope from these men who were lying in a safe place, in a hospital with supportive services and receiving care from family members. Holding their mostly immobile and unresponsive hands usually brought a smile and a sparkle into their eyes as a stranger validated their humanity in their present condition and situation. A brief second of time, when their accident occurred has irreversibly changed their lives and the lives of their families forever. Their life's work will now be to accept their situation, try to learn some new ways of coping and somehow to go on living. Fortunately, CRP also provides some family counseling and vocational training in addition to acute medical care and rehabilitation services. On a number of evenings we purchased bundles of bananas at the local shops and handed out a banana (cola in Bangla) to each grateful patient. By the second or third time upon entering the wards, we were received with greetings and smiles from a many of the patients and their caregivers who had come to recognize these new friends. So we came to CRP to give back and share some of our skills and in return I learned a new level of compassion and gratefulness that I have never known. So this is the Christmas gifts that we have received this year from these Muslim men and women living in a crowded barren hospital ward in one of the poorest countries in the world. How could we ask for more, Sometimes it is not necessary to go to mall to find the perfect Christmas gift. We hope that all of you have meaningful Christmas holidays with your families and find the love and connection that is so important. John and Jan **Don't forget to check the notebook on the table in the parlor, containing correspondence from John and Jan, as well as photographs. They are on an amazing journey!**

# January 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>1 Worship 10:30</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00- 6:15</p>	<p>2 New Year's Day is observed, the office is closed</p> <p>Choir rehearsal in sanctuary 6:30</p>	<p>3 Social Justice meeting in GH 6:30-8:00</p>	<p>4 Newsletter Day</p> <p>Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30-9:00</p>	<p>5 Jeff Kaz. Music lessons in Sanctuary 9:00-12:00</p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00</p>	<p>6 AA in Vestry 6:00-7:00</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 Worship 10:30 Re-Gifting Raffle</p> <p>Cottage Gathering at Kristi Hayes-Devlin's 2:00-4:00</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00- 6:15</p>	<p>9 Jeff Kaz. Music lessons in Sanctuary or GH 4:30-7:30</p> <p>Choir rehearsal in sanctuary 6:30</p>	<p>10 Social Justice meeting in GH 6:30-8:00</p> <p>Board Meeting 6:30</p>	<p>11 Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30-9:00</p>	<p>12 Jeff Kaz. Music lessons in Sanctuary 9:00-12:00</p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00</p>	<p>13 AA in Vestry 6:00-7:00</p>	<p>14 Church Work Party 8:00ish-noon</p> <p>Memorial in the Parlor, hosted by Helen Kane, in honor of her brother 2:00</p>
<p>15 Worship 10:30 Choir will sing Re-Gifting Raffle Cottage Gathering at David and Aileen's 2:00-4:00</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00- 6:15</p>	<p>16 Martin Luther King Day The office is closed</p>	<p>17 Social Justice meeting in GH 6:30-8:00</p>	<p>18 Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30-9:00</p>	<p>19 Jeff Kaz. Music lessons in Sanctuary 9:00-12:00</p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00</p>	<p>20 CC sets up</p> <p>Book Group meeting in Parlor 6:00</p> <p>AA in Vestry 6:00-7:00</p>	<p>21 Corner Cupboard is open 10:00-2:00</p>
<p>22 Worship 10:30</p> <p>Re-Gifting Raffle - Winners drawn today</p> <p>Cottage Gathering at Tonia Chase's 2:00-4:00</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00- 6:15</p>	<p>23 Jeff Kaz. Music lessons in Sanctuary or GH 4:30-7:30</p>	<p>24 Social Justice meeting in GH 6:30-8:00</p>	<p>25 Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30-9:00</p>	<p>26 Jeff Kaz. Music lessons in Sanctuary 9:00-12:00</p> <p>VNM Vestry 5:00</p>	<p>27 AA in Vestry 6:00-7:00</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 Worship 10:30</p> <p>Cottage Gathering at Janet and Gary Wood's 2:00-4:00</p> <p>AA in Vestry 5:00- 6:15</p>	<p>30 Jeff Kaz. Music lessons in Sanctuary or GH 4:30-7:30</p> <p>Choir rehearsal in sanctuary 6:30</p>	<p>31 Social Justice meeting in GH 6:30-8:00</p>				



## **In Case There are Issues that Arise and You Wish to Contact Your Elected Officials**

Contact Information for US Senators and Representatives - US Capitol Switchboard 202-224-3121

### **Maine**

Senator Susan Collins Portland 780-3575 in DC 202-224-2523  
Senator Angus King Scarborough 883-1588 in DC 202-224-5344  
Rep. Chellie Pingree Portland 774-5019 in DC 202-225-6166

### **New Hampshire**

Senator Jeanne Shaheen 202-224-2841  
Senator Maggie Hassan takes office January 3rd  
Rep. Carol Shea-Porter takes office January 3rd

When calling, you will speak to an aide. Identify yourself and your town, state your issue, and if you want a reply, leave your address. Senators and Reps also have web and Facebook pages, but I have not found them to contain substantive issues. This site will help you get contact information for your representatives and senators in the Maine legislature. <https://legislature.maine.gov/house/townlist.htm> Let's keep a dialogue going about issues that contradict our 7 principles, and positive actions to take. Thank you all, Judi

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## **Fundraising**

January, the first month of 2017, has begun, and I hope each of you have many wishes come true this year! January also marks the beginning of the second half of our church's Fiscal Year, so why not talk about Fundraising? Because of your generous donations to and support of our second-quarter fundraising events (November's Silent Auction and December's Holiday Fair in Saco and the post-Fair Parlor table); we have accrued over \$2000. THANK YOU!

Historically, the church's third and fourth quarter events bring the church to its fundraising goal of \$6000 annually. I have volunteered to oversee and guide this year's activities, but not to lead them, so I appeal to all congregants and lovers of the Sanford UU Church to come forward as soon as possible, to sign up to LEAD ONE of the upcoming fundraisers yourself. If there is no leader for the annual Yard Sale or the Spring Auction, they will not happen, and the church will not have the \$4000 it needs to pay our office staff, our Minister, and our oil and electric bills.

And, though not a fundraiser, our ANNUAL STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN also needs someone to organize it! Plans must be made now to kick off the Campaign for Pledges in early February. Using the time-tested Time Line for the Campaign, this will be an easy but necessary event to take over, and I am more than eager to share my experience with its newest Leader.

I've been involved in raising funds for our church since the 1998 Autumn Equinox Dance, when Goodall Hall was transformed into a small "nightclub" and DJ Gary Peck spun his 45s while we danced; since the Millennial Dance, the University of Maine Singers performance, LeCain Smith's lecture and slide show of his around-the-world sailing trip, the visiting Psychic, the Irish music concert, and... I could go on and on. It was truly fun organizing these events, bringing to my church family the talents and gifts of these interesting people, and it is now time for another Leader to have this experience! YOUR TALENT AND ENTHUSIASM IS NEEDED, so sign up on the sandwich board display in our Parlor as soon as possible.

Thank you for being a courageous Leader for your church. -Diane Whiteside-Peck



**Church Bulletin Bloopers ☺** - The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

**Storm Cancellation Information** - The Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church service and event cancellations are announced on the following television stations: WCSH 6, WMTW 8 and WGME 13. You may also receive the latest information regarding cancellations by calling the church office (324-3191) for the latest recording or check our Facebook page for the most recent information.

**Cottage Gatherings** - Your Transition Team has organized a series of informal gatherings in members' homes over the month of January so that Rev. Steve and his congregation can begin to know each other better as individuals. We are asking that you commit to ONE on the sign-up sheet in the parlor. After a quick 'round robin' of why you first came to Sanford UU Church and what keeps you here, there will be an opportunity to voice your visions and dreams for our future. If you can think of past members and friends who may like to rejoin us, please invite them to come to one of these gatherings, for fun and fellowship with an eye toward our church's exciting future. Your Transition Team: Kristi, Tonia and Helen

**Corner Cupboard** - Please note, the Corner Cupboard is not accepting item donations until further notice. Thank you. In addition, the CC Team is looking for a Clothing Manager/Organizer/Diva(s). This would involve going through the donated clothing, sorting into our 4 categories, removing out of season clothing and re-donating it. This would involve coming to church a couple of times a month at your convenience. Please let Judi know if you're interested.

**Frozen Organic Strawberries Available** - Making a trifle or another dessert? Help yourself to some of the strawberries in the parlor freezer. Judi

### **January Gift Fun Re-Gift Re-Purpose Raffle**

Did you receive a lovely gift over the holidays that you don't really need or want... if so, we have just the place for it! Let's bring our gifts we can't use to church and we'll sell raffle tickets for these items on January 8th, 15th and 22nd. The winners will be drawn on January 22nd. If you'd like to help with setting it up and selling tickets this year, please let Deb Folsom know. We'll have fun and also raise a few dollars for church! **Tickets are \$1.00 each or 6 for \$5.00**

### **In the Family...**

Memorial Service - You are cordially invited to join Helen Kane and her small family for a celebration of the life of Helen's brother, David Buckham Coleman, in our church parlor at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, January 14, 2017. David lived on Vancouver Island, British Columbia, where he died on November 27, 2016, following a two-year battle with lung cancer. Our condolences and love go out to Helen and her family during this very difficult time.

### **Parking for the Church**

**MIDTOWN MALL (one block southeast) has plenty of free parking.**

If you need to park closer to the church:  
**Lebanon Street: YES** - in front of the church and Goodall Hall only.

**Twombly Road: YES.**

**Town Realty: NO**

**Sweetser Lot: NO**

**Salvation Army: NO**

(Their services are held at 10:45am)

## Board 2016-2017

President: Aileen Fortune June 30, 2017  
Vice President: Diane Whiteside-Peck June 30, 2017  
Clerk: Bruce Harrison June 30, 2018  
Financial Secretary: Janet Wood June 30, 2018  
Treasurer: Deb Folsom June 30, 2017  
Co-DREs: Mesha and Ryan Quinn  
Choir Director: Charles Grindle

### Liaisons:

Stella DiAnn June 30, 2017  
Gary Wood June 30, 2018  
Patty Kidder June 30, 2019

## Church Leadership 2016-2017

Building and Grounds Chair: Bob McCormick  
Caring Circle: Gail Lemley Burnett  
Choir: Charles Grindle  
Church Historian: Helen Kane  
Committee on Ministry: Ryan Quinn, Gail Lemley  
Corner Cupboard Treasurer: Peg Sawyer  
Earth Stewards Green Team: Judi Reis  
Finance Committee:  
Fundraising: Diane Whiteside-Peck  
Grant Manager: Marcel Gagnon  
Homesteaders: Jan Sacco and Melody Wood  
Members and Friends: Tonia Chase  
Music Committee: Melody Wood  
Nominating Committee : Tonia Chase 2017, Ginny Howe 2018,  
Lisa Huestis 2019  
Partners For Sacred Places: Lee Burnett  
Pianist: Ruth Leipold  
Religious Education Committee:  
Second Century Fund Committee: Lee Burnett  
Stewardship: Diane Whiteside-Peck and Patty Kidder  
UUSC:  
Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham  
Worship: Rev. Steve Cook  
Worship Associates: Rev. Steve Cook, Bev Brent, Judi Reis,  
Jan Sacco, Janie Waterhouse, Stella DiAnn, Patty Kidder,  
Mesha Quinn, Evelyn LaBree, Tom Huber, Vicky Bugado

## Caring Circle

Gail Lemley Burnett is in charge of our Caring Circle for providing help in case of illness, hospitalization, need for a ride to church, doctors' appointments, etc. Please call Gail at 324-1596 if you need assistance.

## Minister's Hours

Rev. Steve Cook will be in his office on Wednesdays, as needed, from 11:00-3:00  
781-330-2521 stephenmichaelcook@ME.com

## Administrative Office Hours

Office hours are: Monday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday 7:00-12:00 - info@sanforduuchurch.org

## Co-Directors of Religious Education

Mesha and Ryan Quinn - dre@sanforduuchurch.org

## Church and Community Groups

AA Meetings: AA meetings are held every Sunday from 5:00pm-6:15pm and Fridays 6:00pm-7:00pm in vestry

Board Meeting: January 10th, Tuesday, at 6:30pm, with a potluck beginning at 5:30pm held in the vestry

Book Group: Meeting on Friday, January 20th in the Parlor at 6:00pm

Choir: Next vocal choir rehearsal will be held January 9th with a performance on January 15th

Church Work Party: The next work day will be held on Saturday, January 14th from 8:00ish-noon

Committee on Ministry: Meets as needed

Corner Cupboard Meetings: Next date the CC is open is January 21st from 10:00-2:00

Council Meeting: Meets as needed

Earth Stewards Green Team: Meets as needed

Finance Committee: Usually meets the Sunday before a Board Meeting

Homesteader's Group: Generally meets 6:30pm at the church or a member's home on the third Thursday of the month

Music Lessons: Private lessons are given on Mondays from 4:30-7:30 in either the Sanctuary, Goodall Hall or one of the rooms downstairs and on Thursdays from 9:00-12:00 in the Sanctuary

Narcotics Anonymous: Meets every Wednesday in the vestry from 7:00pm to 9:30pm

Second Century Building Committee: Meets as needed

Social Justice Group: This group meets in Goodall Hall on Tuesday evenings from 6:30pm to 8:00pm

UUYC (UUs of York County) Meeting: Meets as needed

Violence No More: Every Thursday at 5:00pm in the vestry

Women's Alliance: Meets the second Wednesday of the month at 12:00 noon