



Along the Way ...

Throughout my ministries, I have often found that someone will say to me after a service, “That was a wonderful reading (or prayer or benediction!) Where can I get a copy of that?” It’s always gratifying when I can say, “That’s easy; it’s in the back of our hymnal;” to which I hear “Really? That kind of thing is in our hymnal? I had no idea!” Yes, it’s in that very book you open during a service to a specified hymn or reading, than flip closed and don’t look at again.

That the hymnal is so largely unexplored by most UUs has to be ascribed, I am sorry to say, to our ministers and lay worship leaders. To us, it is a very familiar and well used worship planning resource, so familiar and well used, perhaps, that we take it for granted and are surprised to learn that not everyone flips so confidently as we to the “Index of First Lines and Titles of Readings,” for example. So herewith, a very quick, guided tour of that mysterious gray book you see in front of you every Sunday--our hymnal, formally titled, “Singing the Living Tradition.”

A glance at the Table of Contents will show that all the hymns and readings are organized to reflect the five sources of our living tradition (listed in the front on the sixth leaf, just below the more well-known “Principles”): transcending mystery and wonder, words and deeds of prophetic women and men, wisdom from the world’s religions, Jewish and Christian traditions, and humanist teachings. There are 415 hymns and other pieces of music (so we don’t really need to use the same 60 every year) and 317 readings (beginning at selection 416) that reflect the very wide spectrum of UU worship life and social concerns. I urge you to come early some Sunday and spend a minute just leafing through the hymns and readings—I guarantee you will find many of them beautiful and profound.

For extra credit, take a glance at the indices that follow the readings, beginning on page 635. If, for example, you can remember the first few words of a hymn but not the title, the Index of First Lines and Titles of Hymns can help you find it--likewise for readings. If you know there is a hymn you like about autumn but can’t remember the title, look in the Topical Index of Hymns under *Seasons and Cycles*. If you would like to find something comforting to send to a friend who has suffered a loss, you might look in the Topical Index of Readings under *Memorial and Funeral Services*.

The more musical among us may be interested in the Metrical Index of Tunes, and if you think there is something in there by Albert Schweitzer but can’t remember what, the Index of Composers, Arrangers, Authors, Translators, and Sources will tell you that it is reading #447, which speaks of how we rekindle one another’s lights in times of need.

A denomination’s hymnals (we have had many) are a portrait of its heart and soul during a particular era. After 20 or 30 years perhaps, the need for a new hymnal becomes evident. Supplements will have been published, modifications urged, until finally, the monumental effort and expense of a new edition will be undertaken. The new one will retain the gold refined in the fire of years’ use, the dross will be discarded and much new material added. It too, will be the heart and soul of common worship for a new people in a new time. While it is not perfect, we have been well served in our time by “Singing the Living Tradition” and I commend it to your attention.

Rev. Steve

Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church

*Call to A Special Meeting, Sunday, March 5, 2017,
immediately following the worship service.*

WARRANT

Members of the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church are hereby notified and warned that a Special Meeting of said religious society is to be held in the Sanctuary of the Church on Sunday, March 5, 2017, with action to be taken on the following resolution, passed unanimously by the Board on February 14, 2017:

“Based on the congregational feedback from our cottage meetings and Reverend Cook’s recommendation to both churches, the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church Board votes to recommend to the congregation that we enter into an intentional shared ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford.”

Adjournment to the next Annual or Special church meeting.
Bruce W. Harrison, *Clerk of the Church*

Transition and Ministerial Search News - Updates Since our February 14 Board Meeting

The Ministerial Search Representative (MSR), assigned to our two churches, is Rev. Margaret Beckman from the UU Congregation of Castine. She will be our UUA Guide through the search process. Rev. Steve, Niki Norman (President of UUCSB) and I have been in email correspondence with her over the past week and identified a few immediate next steps. After both congregations vote (SUUC on March 5 and UUCSB on March 12), the three of us will have our first phone conversation with Rev. Beckman. At that time, we will discuss recommendations and timelines for moving forward, the selection of the joint search committee, surveys of both congregations, etc.

Rev. Beckman's first recommendation to us was to review the Bylaws of both Churches and consider what needs to be done in order to approve a joint search. Our SUUC Bylaws never envisioned the possibility of a shared ministry or creating a joint search committee with another church. So, as we hopefully decide to move forward with the UUCSB, we will first need to ask the congregation to set aside Article 13.1.a of our Bylaws (“... a meeting of the church shall be called for the purpose of electing a search committee of seven members...”).

This could be done with the following motion at the March 5 congregational meeting:

"The Congregation of the Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church votes to enter into an intentional shared full time ministry with the Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco Biddeford; and for the purposes of this search, and because our current Bylaws don't address a joint ministry or joint search, we also vote to set aside Article 13.1.a of our SUUC Bylaws for this search."

See you on March 5! Aileen Fortune

February Fun



Diane and Violet confer.



Peg and Ruth enjoyed the special music. Dave composed it and performed it on guitar and harmonica.



Bob on the job.

Daylight saving begins Sunday, March 12th. Don't forget to set your clocks ahead Saturday evening, March 11th, before retiring.



SUUC Book Group

The SUUC Book Group will gather on March 24th at 6:00pm in Goodall Hall to discuss *Braiding Sweetgrass* by Robin Wall Kimmerer, a mother, scientist, decorated professor, and enrolled member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. All are welcome.

In this delightful book, Kimmerer eloquently and beautifully uses the indigenous cultures' sacred plant, sweetgrass, as a poetic metaphor to explain the origins of plant, animal, and human life on Mother Earth, their intertwined respectful and reciprocal relationships with each other, the loss of this reciprocity, and the hope of ecological restoration to return the gifts of Mother Earth and the balance that once was.

Our Pledge Letter for 2017-2018 Budget Drive “Transitions”

February 9, 2017

Dear Members and Friends:

The winter is upon us again and I am hoping that this letter finds you all healthy and encompassed by the love of family and friends. The warmth of spring will soon be here and all the transitioning of Mother Nature will be in her glory once again. I have been attending SUUC since this past fall and was warmly welcomed from the very first time I attended. I was active with the Auction Dinner in November and am working with the others on the Corner Cupboard team. I was thrilled when Diane Whiteside-Peck asked me to assist her with this year's Budget Drive.

The Sanford Unitarian Universalist Church Fiscal Year will be ending on June 30th, and the Board of Management and Budget & Finance Committee will soon begin formulating a new church budget, to be presented at the Annual Meeting in May. This means we must hold our church's Annual Budget Drive, and this year's Drive begins on February 19, 2017! Its theme is “Transitions.” As our church has been going through some transitions this year and as we all continue to grow in our own lives, this is the time to ensure its future.

We have been blessed to have Reverend Steven Cook as our Interim Minister this year and we have been sharing him with the Saco/Biddeford UU Church. He has brought light, guidance, and love into our pulpit and community as we continue to search for a settled minister. Our wonderful Worship Associates inspire us from the pulpit when Reverend Cook cannot be with us. Ruth Leipold serenades us with her lovely piano preludes and postludes, and Charlie Grindle continues to direct our choir. The Quinns creatively guide our children in Religious Education, and the Ouellettes give us unfailing competence in the office and upkeep of the church. In addition, we are always grateful to each of you who helps with Coffee Hour, greeting, volunteering for fundraisers, serve on committees, and everyone in our church family. We support, encourage, and love one another each time we are together

The new budget counts on your generosity with new or renewed pledges. We intend to continue raising our staff salaries in the 2017-2018 fiscal year, and we want to budget more dollars for snow removal, technology/website updates, the Corner Cupboard project, and fresh Adult Education speakers and materials. With an enhanced budget, our message of hope and tolerance will reach farther than ever into the community. Also, we may have to make up next year for a current Fundraising shortfall this year, if the 2017 Yard Sale or Spring Auction aren't organized, so this makes your pledge most important!

Last year, \$55,000 in sustaining pledges was gratefully received from our Members and Friends, a wonderful accomplishment! In order to keep our Church running “in the black” for the 2017-2018 year, our new Budget Drive goal is \$60,000.00. Please take a moment to consider the importance of SUUC in your spiritual and social life. Any financial pledge you can make, or any increase in your pledge for the new Fiscal Year, would be welcomed.

We would like all Pledge Cards in to the church office by March 19th, and please note that an emailed pledge is perfectly acceptable. Thank you for your willingness to pledge again this year, and thank you for your many contributions to SUUC over the years that we have been here.

Sincerely,
Kristie C. Praschak for the Committee



We Welcome Guest Minister Rev. Lori Whittemore Director, Abbey of HOPE

lori@abbeyofhope.com

On Sunday, March 26th, we warmly welcome Rev. Lori Whittemore to our church. She is an ordained interfaith chaplain and community minister. She graduated with a Master of Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary in 2010 and from Chaplaincy Institute of Maine in 2014. As a part of her theological training, she participated in Hartford Seminary Dialogue Institute Training program, immersed with 8 Jews, 8 Muslims and 8 Christians for exegetical, sacramental, social and service dialogue. She also completed training at the New Church Leadership Institute with Progressive

Renewal Institute founder, Rev. Cameron Trimble. She has served at Hospice of Southern Maine as a chaplain in the home program and at the Gosnell Memorial Hospice House and as Spiritual Care Leader for the American Red Cross in Maine. She is the founder and director of Abbey of HOPE (hands of peace extended) interfaith cooperation circle, organized in the framework of a United Religions Initiative (URI) cooperation circle. The mission of the Abbey of HOPE is to gather people of diverse faiths, beliefs and spiritualities to promote dialogue, encourage cooperation and facilitate compassionate action. In this work she has helped facilitate several interfaith dialogue dinners, coordinated interfaith youth visits from Israel, and organized and collaborated on interfaith programming with the University of Southern Maine. She has been working hard on a Compassionate Housing Initiative creating interfaith cooperation circles in different communities to learn about the experience of Refugees and Asylum Seekers coming to Maine and discerning how to best offer welcome to and within their communities. Rev. Whittemore has developed and directs a clinical pastoral training program that provides professional training and field experience for chaplains and lay folk of varying traditions, in varying settings with the modern religious and spiritual landscape in mind. Lori lives in Yarmouth with her husband of 23 years, Pieter and has a daughter, Madeline in Chicago and another, Sammi in Costa Rica.

Fundraising Update - Sunday, February 19th, was a good day for our fundraising efforts! At this time, plans are percolating for both our musical event and our auction. Two members suggested that we have a "Non-Auction" wherein one would donate the monetary amount you would usually spend on a Live Auction, without actually holding a Live Auction! Simple and easy! Jan Sacco has generously stepped up to coordinate the musical event, which will feature a harpist from the Boston Symphony! Please sign up or talk to Jan to help make this event a success. And a dinner with an Asian theme may also happen! Let's keep this energy going and fulfill our budget promises. Thank you all!

Special Thank You - Because of the warm support given by my church family during my daughter's pregnancies, I would like to say THANK YOU by providing sandwiches, cake, and beverages for everyone on March 5th. Please enjoy lunch on me as we gather for our Special Congregational Meeting that Sunday. Your encouragement, love, and interest in all that my daughter, her family, and I went through is so greatly appreciated! Now it's definitely time to celebrate together! - Diane Whiteside-Peck

Resistance Resources - resistancecalendar.org is a great place to see all the events happening around the country, and what's going on right here in Maine.

Correction - The February 2017 *UU Notes* carried a list of 2011-2016 2nd Century Capital Campaign contributors with gift levels. Unfortunately one 2015 gift was not included on the list. Let's recognize Bob and Lesley Ortiz now for their gift at the Margaret Fuller level (\$5000 and over). Our thanks to the Ortiz family.

Church Bulletin Bloopers 😊 - The Rev. Merriwether spoke briefly, much to the delight of the audience.

ACLU of Maine - After watching the nightly news two weeks ago, I went to the telephone and called the ACLU of Maine to offer my help. I have been advised, and here share with you, how we all might best Fight For The Constitution in the coming four years.

- (1) The ACLU played a huge role in the stay of President Trump's Executive Order banning immigrants; their regular website is aclumaine.org. Sign up for Action Alerts at this website.
- (2) To keep tabs on Maine legislation that impacts immigrants or our right to protest, such as LD366 and LD121, please go to aclumaine.org/legislature2017.
- (3) Call your legislators to voice your opinion. THANK YOU, and take action! -Diane Whiteside-Peck

Changing the Story Fixing the Future - The First Parish Unitarian Universalist Church, 114 Main Street in Kennebunk, presents "Understanding the Stories that Perpetuate Inequality and Hold Us Back" on March 3, 2017 at 7:00pm. Doors open at 6:30pm. There is a suggested donation of \$5.00. Chuck Collins, speaker and author, is a senior scholar at the Institute for Policy Studies and director of the program on Inequality and the Common Good.

Corner Cupboard - The Corner Cupboard is gratefully accepting clothing and household items once again. Clothing should be seasonally appropriate and in good condition. Useful household items, books, toys, linens, blankets and towels are also welcome.

Death by Chocolate Bakery and Café, March 19th - Ten years have gone by since our last indulgence, which was very successful, so this seems like a good time for a repeat performance after church services on Sunday, March 19, in Goodall Hall. Look for the sign-up sheet in the parlor, and mark your calendars now. Time to dust off those decadent chocolate recipes and plan something luscious for us to sell whole, or by the slice at our cafe. Cakes, pies, pastries, cup cakes, cookies and anything else you can think of to tempt the chocolate palate will be most welcome. Once you have signed up to bake/ help, Helen Kane will be in touch with you to discuss your contribution that will ensure the success of this fun(d) raiser. Call Helen with questions at 324-4806. Thank you all in advance for your enthusiastic participation.

York County's 3 UU Church Choirs Sing Together

3rd Annual TriQuire performances will be held at the following Sunday services:

March 12, 10:00am at the UU Church of Saco & Biddeford

March 19, 10:30am at the Sanford UU Church

March 26, 10:30am at the First Parish UU Church of Kennebunk

Choirs directed by Ellie Rolnick (Saco & Biddeford) and Rev. Charlie Grindle (Kennebunk and Sanford)

Listen now: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c6Qhokn3Q58>

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: March 14th, Tuesday, at 6:30pm, with a potluck beginning at 5:30pm

Book Group: Meeting on Friday, March 24th in Goodall Hall at 6:00pm

Choir: Mondays at 6:30pm as scheduled

Church Work Party: The next work day will be held on Saturday, March 11th from 8:00ish-noon

Committee on Ministry: Meets as needed

Corner Cupboard: Next date the CC is open is March 18th 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 or Goodall Hall 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

Project CommUnity: This is a group of concerned and committed individuals working to create an inclusive and connected community focused on social justice through education, art, and service. Meeting times vary but are generally every other week on Wednesdays in Goodall Hall from 6:30pm-8:00pm. Please email us at the following: projectcommunity@gmail.com for more information or to join the group on Facebook!

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

Worship Associates: TBA