





## *Along the Way...*

Most ministers are indefatigable gleaners of wisdom in the form of quotes; we collect so many we may no longer know just exactly when and where we might have found one we like. Such is the case with this from Chet Raymo: “We live in a world that is deep beyond our knowing, and profoundly worthy of our reverence and awe.”

Chet Raymo is a well-published author, educator and naturalist who holds the title of Professor Emeritus of Physics at Stonehill College in Easton, MA. His weekly newspaper column, *Science Musings*, appeared in the *Boston Globe* for twenty years. (If you want to catch up on his current thinking, log on to [blog.sciencemusings.com](http://blog.sciencemusings.com).)

I don't know from which one of his many columns or books that quote may have come, or when, yet it really doesn't matter, as the wisdom he shares is timeless and cross-cultural. The ultimate unknowableness of the universe is an insight discovered time and again by mystics, thinkers and scientists throughout the history of human thought.

By this I believe he means not that we cannot know anything about the world, for clearly we do and in increasingly deep and sophisticated ways. Not only the theories of modern physics and cosmogony, for example, but the facts themselves upon which the theories are based are far in advance of anything known by the ancients, and for that matter, greatly in advance of what was known even a century ago. One can assume that, a century hence, yet even more facts will be known and verified. Point to almost any field of human inquiry and you can probably say the same.

What I think Raymo means, and if so I agree with him, is that the universe seems to have at its core an irreducible quality of unpredictability, an open-endedness, a multi-valence, that resists successfully all of our efforts to define, quantify and “factify” the world to its final degree. (I just made that one up—I'll define “factify” as the effort to reduce some aspect of the unknown to a scientifically verifiable fact.) Try as we might, with any googlebytes of computing power we might bring to it, the world at its core seems “unfactifiable” and unpredictable. I think this unpredictability is at the very heart of life and is, in fact, what allows for life itself to exist, change and evolve. Call it random chance, if you want, Grace, generosity of the Spirit of Life or whatever—poets, thinkers, mystics and scientists have variously labeled it over the centuries—it does render the world, I believe, deep beyond knowing. I would have to say that I, joining Chet Raymo, am profoundly thankful, reverent, and awestruck.

Reverend Steve

# NEWS

**2018 Regifting Raffle - January 7th-21st** - Did you receive some gifts this Christmas that might find a more appreciative home? No worries! They are welcome additions to our 2018 Regifting Raffle! Please drop off any items for regifting in the church parlor. We will collect donations for the raffle through Saturday, January 6th and run the raffle from January 7th until January 21st after church, when we will draw the winners. All proceeds will help meet SUUC's fundraising goal for this fiscal year.

**Think Spring! FEDCO Seed Sale 2018 - It is that time again!** -The Sacco family will again be coordinating a group order of seeds, potato and onions sets and other growing supplies for spring gardens. These seeds, sets and supplies come from a Maine-owned cooperative run by the Maine Organic Farmers and Growers known as FEDCO ([www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com)). Maine and NE grown – these are hardy untreated and organic varieties. Please support a Maine cooperative and a sustainable lifestyle by buying your seeds, potato and onion sets, and growing supplies during this year's sale. Any extra proceeds from the group order will go to the church. Catalogs will be available in the parlor to borrow or keep OR check out the catalog online at [www.fedcoseeds.com](http://www.fedcoseeds.com). You can use the order forms in the catalog or one of the extras that will be provided in the church parlor. Ordering instructions or other questions.... contact Jan Sacco at [jrsacco@metrocast.net](mailto:jrsacco@metrocast.net) or 207-457-9268. Deadline is Sunday, January 21st.

**SUUC Book Group** - The Church Book Group will meet on January 19th (snow date January 26th) at 6:00pm in Goodall Hall to discuss *Dancing in the Streets: A History of Collective Joy* (2007) by Barbara Ehrenreich. An insightful look at the rituals of collective ecstasy by the bestselling author of *Nickeled and Dimed*. The author coins the term "collective joy" to describe group events which involve music, synchronized movement, costumes, and a feeling of loss of self. There is no precise word in English to describe the phenomenon. All are welcome and we invite you to join us.

**Girls Who Grant** - Girls who Grant are planning a Fundraiser for the Corner Cupboard. Three members of the group volunteered at the Corner Cupboard in December to see the CC in action. Check out their Facebook page, "Girls Who Grant." On January 27th we will be commencing the first official Sanford/Springvale Beer Tour with the Bowl-A-Rama bus! Owen, owner of the Bowl-A-Rama, will be driving us through our beautiful and historic city with stops at Backstreet Grill, Publick House and Third Alarm Diner, then finishing up back at the Bowl-A-Rama. During the tour, he and other restaurant owners will be giving bus riders historical information about our city. The \$50 per person cost will cover the bus ride, 4 drink tokens, hors d'oeuvres at each restaurant, hors d'oeuvres by Above and Beyond Catering when we return, and an evening of bowling. Seating is limited, please contact us at [girlswhogrant@gmail.com](mailto:girlswhogrant@gmail.com) to reserve tickets or find us on Venmo @girlswhogrant .

**Congratulations are in Order** - Vicki Bugado was "pinned" as a Nurse on December 11th. She graduated from SMCC in South Portland. We send Vicki our best wishes and congratulate her on this wonderful accomplishment. We know she will be an amazing nurse!

## Thoughts From the President

There is so much I want to communicate to you all in this small article! First, a bow to Reverend Bev Brent for miraculously intertwining Charlie Brown's desire to uplift the forgotten tree with the message of acceptance and hope in her Christmas Eve service. With Reverend Grindle's thoughtful song selections, his piano duet with Ruth, the Choir and Bell Choir performances, and Jan and Melody's enchanting harp duet, the service was truly magical. Thanks is also due to Jan Sacco, whose efforts as our Fundraising coordinator have brought over \$1,700 into the church revenues so far, and to Howard Dupee, who co-directs church maintenance, and will soon be securing money to replace entryway carpeting and to seal the asbestos tiles in the Vestry/Kitchen areas. To Rain and James Bugado, Kristina and Eric Ames, Aiden, Violet, Logan, Ronin, and Serafina Quinn, and Ryan and Mesha: Thank you for Sunday's RE play! Your acting and singing gave us a polished and wonderfully entertaining reenactment of the Ukrainian story of "The Spider's Gift." Bravo!

Last but not at all least, here's a summary of the Beyond Categorical Thinking workshop hosted at UUCSB on December 10<sup>th</sup>, and facilitated by Jane Dwinell and Jacqui Williams. Although attendance was small due to weather, there were nine congregants from SUUC (including all four of our MSC members) and thirteen from UUCSB. Many of us came to the workshop wondering what there was to learn about being open-minded when considering a ministerial candidate, but through discussions of true case studies, we realized that we all might have fears that lead to unfair assumptions about a candidate who is bisexual, inexperienced, near retirement age, or handicapped for instance, and that there are non-confrontational ways to ask candidates questions to allay these fears. We learned that the BCT workshops began in 1989 to deal with gender discrepancies in the hiring of UUA ministers, that New England currently has sixteen congregations in search, and that we are the only Two-Site Church in search at this time. Perhaps most important, we learned and must keep in mind that all ministers have Master of Divinity degrees, that UUA ministers have passed academic tests, Chaplaincy training, and background checks, and that, whoever they are, by reason of succeeding in these areas already, are very aware of any limitations they may have! We all must remember that we cannot control every situation we imagine might occur, and we cannot assume the end result of every situation. As always, open communication is the best road to follow when creating relationships with our new minister.

Please read the MSC updates on the bulletin board in the Parlor (also listed on the next page), and congratulate and thank each of our MSC members when you see them. Their hard work has resulted in posting a Congregational Report December 1<sup>st</sup>, and they are now busy loading information to a webpage going live to ministers-in-search on January 1<sup>st</sup>!. The Committee will soon be confidentially interviewing potential candidates, and we are grateful for their hard work and dedication. This New Year is certainly an exciting one for us! I wish you all best health and peace.

~Diane

## Ministerial Search Committee Update

\* The Congregational Reports (one for each church – that included the surveys, cottage meetings thoughts and tons of other information) were reviewed by Margaret and then submitted to the Transitions Office. They made the CRs available for review by ministers December 1st. We were then told we needed to submit a draft “Letter of Agreement” immediately rather than January 1st... that was reviewed at our December 4th meeting and submitted December 6th.

\* Now the Committee is loading information (pictures, videos, documents, interviews, links to schools, museums, Ferry Beach... plus the CRs, the Beyond Categorical Thinking application, church annual reports, OOS examples, letter from Sue.....) to a web page that is password protected and went live January 1, 2018. Ministers who are interested in us (and us in them) will be given the password.

\* We had the BCT workshop December 10th – that included meeting the facilitators Saturday night and then helping with anything they needed on Sunday. Mona left me a flip chart, markers, pens... and I made handouts for 50 participants.

\* In January after reviewing the Ministerial Reports we need to narrow our selection down to 3-4, do phone interviews followed by neutral pulpits with our candidates which includes a weekend of providing transportation, tours, housing, meals, and detailed live interview for each candidate.

After that we have Candidating Week Sunday to Sunday, Negotiating Team meeting with the candidate to work out the final details of the Letter of Agreement, Congregational votes.

If all goes well a new minister could be settled in August/September.

Also the Committee would like to make the web page we are creating part of the church site after this is done – it will have loads of stuff, some dry but lots of the pictures and personnel comments are fun to see/read.



# Celtic Harp Concert with Judy Saiki on December 3rd



Artist with audience



Harp with Harpist

Family with smiles



Girls with Grandmother



Grandmother with girls

Friends with coffee



The church Christmas decor is beautiful

Fans with enthusiasm



# January



Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 New Year's Day Office is closed	2	3 Newsletter Day Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am  Project CommUnity 6:30pm- 8:30pm in GH  Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	4	5	6
		MTN Meeting in Parlor and GH 6:00pm		VNM Vestry 5:00pm	AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	
7 Worship 10:30am Regifting Raffle begins  AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	8  Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm	9  Board Meeting 6:00pm (potluck at 5:30pm)	10 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am  Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	11  VNM Vestry 5:00pm	12  AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	13 Church Work Party 8:00ish-noon
14 Worship 10:30am  AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	15 Martin Luther King Day  Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm	16  MTN Meeting in Parlor 6:00pm	17 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am  Project CommUnity 6:30pm- 8:30pm in Goodall hall  Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	18  VNM Vestry 5:00pm	19 CC sets up  Book Group 6:00pm  AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	20 Corner Cupboard is open 10:00-2:00
21 Worship 10:30am  Deadline to turn in FEDCO order  Regifting Raffle winners are chosen  AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	22  Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm	23	24 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am    Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm	25  VNM Vestry 5:00pm	26  Book Group 6:00pm Snow Day  AA in Vestry 6:00pm to 7:00pm	27
28 Worship 10:30am  AA in Vestry 5:00pm to 6:15pm	29  Music Lessons 4:30pm-7:00pm	30	31 Music Lessons 9:00am-11:00am  Narcotics Anonymous in Vestry 7:30pm to 9:00pm			

## SUUC Pre-Centennial History Update #2

### Reclaiming Our Heritage

With streets named 'Ridgeway' and 'Stansfield,' a restaurant called 'Bradford,' and a Commons development named 'Yorkshire' in the immediate vicinity of our church, it didn't take me long to realize there had to be a strong connection to the part of England I called home until the age of sixteen. My curiosity piqued, and armed with the knowledge that Thomas Goodall, founder of the Sanford mills, came from Dewsbury, a wool-manufacturing town near Bradford, Yorkshire, I set out to connect the dots leading to the establishment of our town and our church. It has been an interesting and fruitful journey, which I would like to share with you as we prepare to celebrate 100 years in our sanctuary.

Full of questions for our "over fifties," I probed the memories of Maurice Cobb, Pat Herrick, Ruth Leipold, Elizabeth Fraser and Martha Keefe, who took me to interview an aging Evelyn Waterhouse, our only remaining direct link to our distant past. Though each person had tantalizing nuggets of information, collectively we came to the realization that much of the church's history had been lost to time. No one alive knew much about those spiritual forebears Pat Herrick aptly named "The People of the Windows." And therein lay the challenge for me: to try to recapture our church's past as an enlightened gift to our future. It proved to be a four-year odyssey, culminating in a book I had never intended to write.

Picture, if you will, Bill Ouellette in the dingy recesses of a forgotten closet-sized room in the basement, unearthing box after dank, grimy box of our church's past that had been relegated to near-oblivion. When he showed the room's contents to me, it was unappealing enough to make me want to leave it all in place, but curiosity and a belief in the sanctity of historical preservation got the better of me, and so Bill brought much of it into the light of day for the first time in decades, and I set to work, hardly knowing where to start.

As I related in a recent article on the history of The Corner Cupboard, what is now our basement library had recently been emptied -- first of obsolete risers, then of heavy wooden storage shelving -- in an exchange where the Goodall Hall book cases were restored to their rightful place. Originally a ladies' cloakroom in the days when the vestry was used for lavish formal gatherings, the tiny room had become a nursery before being relegated to storage space. With its dark wainscoting and matching bookshelves, it is more suited for use as the library it became after we installed a carpet, curtains, filing cabinets, a large wooden table and a reading chair and lamp, and this was where I worked for long hours each day, when I wasn't culling information from the Sanford and Springvale libraries. In fact, I became such a fixture that Rev. Sue used to joke about my spending more time at the church than she did! (Not true!)

It was enthralling, addictive work as I delved ever-deeper into the lives of those who emerged from names on a page into full-fledged personalities. Because they had been recent immigrants from Yorkshire, brought to Sanford by Thomas Goodall for their skills as weavers and dyers, I came to view them as "my people," who spoke in the thick Yorkshire dialect that is hard to understand even if one is raised in its midst.

When I wrote the series of sonnets for the cemetery walk among their graves, I listened for what they had to say, and let them guide my thoughts, so that the poems seemed to write themselves. Before one of the performances, my heart skipped a beat when I came upon a costumed Don Reusch as Edward Hussey and Gary Peck as William Miller chatting together at their juxtaposed graves. For a split second they came to life again, just for me to see!

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## SUUC Pre-Centennial History Update #2 Continued

I read the contents of most of the somber black books that contained the business of the church, and learned to read between the lines also. I wrote their titles in white ink and arranged them in chronological order so they could be used for reference into the future. Newsletters went into the filing cabinets in order, a great source of information about individual contributions to our church over decades. I compiled books of obituaries, different ministers' tenures, anything with a common theme, and photo albums, and the room began to function as a library. When the Second Century Team needed architectural charts and original drawings, they found them protected in treated boxes to forestall further deterioration.

The very few artifacts we have left were put on display at the Springvale Historical Society during our 2009 Centennial, but they only served to highlight the loss of much of our tangible history over the years. My greatest regret is the disappearance of a wonderful scrap book before I could delve into it, remembered because it contained a personal letter of thanks to our church from Emmett Till's mother shortly after her son's murder, a rare local connection to history writ large.

One of our new minister's first tasks will be to lead us through our Centennial celebrations into our Second Century. Much has been accomplished to prepare the church buildings for the anniversary, yet there is more to be done to reach our centennial goals. I know you have many thoughts and ideas, as do I, regarding the celebrations, and soon we will gather to make plans and take on the tasks that will culminate in the weekend festivities of November 3 and 4, 2018.

I hope you will join me in a winter and spring of joyful, purposeful Centennial preparations that will take us beyond our walls and into our town.

Helen Kane, Church Historian  
December, 2017

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**People's Veto to Restore Rank Choice Voting** - MUUSAN has been working on collecting signatures to put the People's Veto to Restore Rank Choice Voting on the ballot and they put out a call for help a couple of weeks ago. Now it is crunch time and so I am involved as a signature collector and I am planning to set-up a table at church during coffee hour to collect signatures. The web site for more information is [www.rcvmaine.com](http://www.rcvmaine.com) and there is information about it in MUUSAN's newsletter. This is a very short campaign to collect signatures as I will be bringing them to Portland on January 22nd or before, so I am planning to be at coffee hour every Sunday from now through January 21st. Our sister church, FIAT (Faith In Action Team) and Kennebunk UU Church have been collecting signatures all along. I need to do what I can here at SUUC. Thank you for all your help.  
Love & Light, Patty



## Board 2017-2018

President: Diane Whiteside-Peck June 30, 2019  
Vice President: Karen Nelson June 30, 2019  
Clerk: Bruce Harrison June 30, 2018  
Financial Secretary: Janet Wood June 30, 2018  
Treasurer: Marcel Gagnon June 30, 2019  
Co-DREs: Mesha and Ryan Quinn

### Liaisons:

Gary Wood June 30, 2018  
Patty Kidder June 30, 2019  
Judi Reis June 30, 2020

## Church Leadership 2017-2018

Building and Grounds Chair: Bob McCormick  
Caring Circle: Gail Lemley Burnett  
Choir: Charles Grindle  
Church Historian: Helen Kane  
Corner Cupboard: Peg Sawyer, Judi Reis, Dee Ames, Helen Kane  
Earth Stewards Green Team: Judi Reis  
Finance Committee:  
Fundraising Coordinator: Jan Sacco  
Grant Manager:  
Homesteaders: Jan Sacco and Melody Wood  
Members and Friends: Tonia Chase  
Music Committee: Melody Wood  
Nominating Committee : Ginny Howe 2018, Lisa Huestis 2019, Vicky Bugado 2020  
Pianist: Ruth Leipold  
Religious Education Committee:  
SUUC Search Committee: Lee Burnett, Evelyn LaBree, Tom Huber, Lisa Huestis  
Stewardship: Kristie Praschak  
UUSC:  
Women's Alliance: Nancy Farnham  
Worship: Rev. Steve Cook  
Worship Associates: Rev. Steve Cook, Bev Brent, Judi Reis, Jan Sacco, Janie Waterhouse, Patty Kidder, Mesha Quinn, Vicky Bugado, Evelyn LaBree

## 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, in the morning. Please call for an appointment at 781-330-2521  
stephenmichaelcook@ME.com

## Administrative Office Hours

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: Tuesday, January 9th at 6:00pm in the Parlor. Meeting begins with a potluck supper at 5:30pm

Book Group: Friday, January 19th at 6:00pm in GH, snow date January 26th

Choirs: Rehearsals on February 12th, 19th, 26th

Church Work Party: The next work day will be held on Saturday, January 13th from 8:00ish-noon

Corner Cupboard: Next date the CC is open is January 20th from 10:00am-2:00pm

Maine Transgender Network (MTN): Meets on the first Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Parlor and GH and the third Tuesday of the month at 6:00pm in the Parlor

Music Lessons: Mondays 4:30pm-7:00pm and Wednesdays 9:00am - 11:00am in the Sanctuary

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

Project CommUnity: Meetings are held on the first and third Wednesday of each month in Goodall Hall from 6:30pm-8:30pm. Please email us at the following: projectcommunity@gmail.com or 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: Sunday, February 4th at 9:00am