



Midcoast UU News

Minister: currently in search

Telephone: 350-0210

December 2009

**We need you at the
Annual Meeting Dec. 6
to Vote for
Officers & Directors
and the 2010 Budget**

**Sunday, December 6 at 10:30 am
Zestful Living as We Age
—Ted Clapp**

Ted will lead us in a discussion of maintaining our emotional health and wellness in our latter years. Ted, a retired minister and psychologist, and members of his family have been participating in a longevity study through the Boston University School of Medicine. In nearly two decades of studying longevity, it has been discovered that those who live well beyond their average life expectancy also maintain their functional independence and are healthier than normal right to the end. Ted will share some of the experiences that have led to his emotional health at age 90 plus and will encourage others to share their experiences.

Thank God

*Thank God it's not Christmas the whole year around—
there'd be no more evergreens left in the ground.
The shops would be empty, unable to stock
all the things people need to put in their socks.
The turkey would vanish. There'd be no more feast—
for how can you feast, if don't have a beast?
And think of the Christ Child being born everyday—
people wouldn't notice His coming, or if He bothered to stay.
So thank God it's not Christmas the whole year around.
Welcome each day, hark its own joyous sound.*

—Susan van Alsenoy

**Sunday, December 13 at 10:30 am
A Scandinavian Christmas
—Sue Carlson, Bonnie Ginger
and the Young MUUF Players**

Come join us for an intergenerational north country Christmas celebration. We'll visit Sweden and Finland, hear holiday stories and myths, and see *Christmas Trolls*, about the true meaning of Christmas, performed by our young people. Since it is Sancta Lucia Day we'll be graced by a visit by Sancta Lucia in all her finery, delivering to us the delectable Lussekatter.

**Sunday, December 20 at 4 pm
(note change of time)
Holiday Service
—Fellowship members & friends**

We will meet for our traditional intergenerational holiday candlelight service. There will be carols, readings, special music by the MUUFles, and the traditional "cookie swap." Kate Pennington will concoct her festive Wassail recipe so that we can toast to each other's health as we eat the cookies. If you can, bring a few cookies to exchange—if you can't, there will be plenty of for all.

UPCOMING DATES:

Decemeber 6, Sunday—Religious Education Committee meeting, 9 am at the Town Hall, all are welcome.

Decemeber 6, Sunday—ANNUAL MEETING, after the service.

Decemeber 7, Monday—Sunday Program Committee meeting, 9:30 am at the Baileys', Newcastle.

Decemeber 7, Monday—Lunch Bunch, 12:15 pm at the Publick House, Newcastle. Call Joanne Campbell to reserve a place at the table.

Decemeber 7, Monday—Faith in Action Committee meeting, 12:30 pm at the Publick House, Newcastle.

December 30, Wednesday—Community Supper, Second Congregational Church, Newcastle



**Sunday, December 27 at 10:30 am
Ring in the New Year
—Roger Duncan**

Roger will again be "on board" for his traditional service between Christmas and New Years. As the "sage" of the Fellowship, he can be counted on for some words of wisdom to take us into the New Year.

President's Message

The holiday season is a joyous time for most of us, but for others, especially those who feel alone, it can be a problem, with memories of good times past overshadowed by current problems, both real and imagined. We need to understand that for some, the "bah humbug" theme is their mantra. We can't change it, but we shouldn't join in. We can't push our cheeriness onto someone, but we can try to listen to them. Sometimes catharsis helps.

Christmas also means there is only one week left in my current job as president of this Fellowship. For that there is definitely both a joy and a sadness. The joy is that we—you and I—continued the work of our founding members for another year. We can be especially proud that we made meaningful gifts to help others with our surplus funds from the previous year.

Allowing the public to know a little more about us through the publicity generated by our donations is just a small beginning in our on-going effort to attract new members, and also to join in with other area churches to help better the lives of the less fortunate.

I have said this many times, but it is worth repeating—many of us don't realize how fortunate we are. Some reflect it in a dour outlook on life, a woe-is-me attitude. Others put on the good face but never "put their money where their mouth is." Participating in the life of this Fellowship requires

some commitment beyond showing up some, or even most Sundays. It goes beyond serving as a greeter, providing refreshments or working on a committee.

We all know The Garden Song but "inch by inch" is too slow for this Fellowship if we are to move successfully toward our 35th anniversary. Membership growth will not happen just because we finally have a committed Membership Committee. It takes 'true believers' to invite others to try us out. I mean 'believers' in our principles, in our welcoming of all religious and spiritual beliefs, of questioners, of declared agnostics and atheists. Tell people that ours is a Bring Your Own God church. That's what Arlo Guthrie said when asked about the empty church he bought in his hometown. I think it fits.

Membership also requires us to talk about money. We pay taxes for the privilege of living in a town, in a state, in our country. We pay a fee to belong to most organizations, Some non-profits only require a donation to be a member, a subtle way of getting a membership fee. There are no fees, no required donations, to participate in the life of this Fellowship. Perhaps, like the early churches with their enclosed seats, or present day Jewish synagogues, we should require something. A pledge means that unless your circumstances change, we can count on you to help pay the rent, the musicians, the speakers and a

minister. To remain in good standing with the UUA we need to pay our Fair Share. Some UU churches require a minimum pledge, sometimes \$200 or more. If you plan to put \$2 or more in the basket each week, then please make that your minimum pledge. You can always add to the offering—even change is welcome!

On Dec. 6 you will vote for new officers and board members. Then you will be asked to vote on a budget with no guarantee that we will achieve the income needed. We won't have the final figures for this year (and pledges are lagging behind) and we will not have received all of your promises for the coming year. I hope we can take a positive attitude, move forward and find the funds we need. I have promised to work with your new leaders on financial matters. Please join me, I want this Fellowship to be here for my family when the time comes to sing to me out.

David

Community Supper

There will be a Community Supper hosted by the Fellowship at the Second Congregational Church in Newcastle on **Wednesday, December 30. Serving time is 5 pm.** We need helpers and cooks. Please call Billie Flanagan (563-8656) if you are able to provide food, help cook, serve, or clean up.

Hymnals

The Music Comm. approved purchasing five (5) new "Singing the Living Tradition" hymnals (the black book), as they have been much-needed for some time. Thanks go to three Fellowship members for purchasing three of the five: Bonnie Ginger, to have her own hymnal; John Walton, in Memory of Elizabeth Walton; and David and Sylvia Bailey, in Honor of their grandchild, Kira Noelle Bailey, born December 2, 2004.

On behalf of the Music Committee, Jean Howe

Barbara Prose has a blogpost on the UUA website about her experiences at the Tsubaki Grand Shrine in Japan. Find it at <http://uuasocialjustice.blogspot.com/2009/11/seminarian-returns-from-two-week-visit.html>

From the Long Range Plan:

- | | | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Major Initiatives: | 1. Community Outreach | 6. Religious Exploration |
| | 2. Future Visioning Process | 7. Small Groups |
| | 3. Governance/Finance | 8. Sunday Services |
| | 4. Membership | 9. Spiritual Leader |
| | 5. Music | 10. Future Growth |

The Long Range plan states, "We will search for and find a Spiritual Leader that will support and enhance our journey into the future." The plan also states that the Fellowship will "discern the level of future professional ministry that best meets the needs of MUUF." The Fellowship is currently in search for a 1/4 time minister. The appropriate level of future ministry still needs to be discerned.

From the President

The Board has approved a potential candidate. She presented a spiritual message at our service on Nov. 15. We would like your comments. If anyone knows of another potential candidate who is willing to serve us, please let us know. We hope to vote on this position at a special meeting in January.

RE News

The RE committee has moved their meetings to the first Sunday of the month at 9 am at the townhall, before the service. **Please join us if you are interested in becoming involved in the RE program.** There are many different ways you can help, and different levels of commitment available. We are looking for teachers willing and able to commit to going downstairs once a month, but also anyone who has an idea for a one time program to offer the children. Here is a chance to pass on a passion of yours to our youth! Or you could start by assisting experienced teachers and

learn the ropes. Or join the RE committee and come to our meetings to help shape the future of the program.

Upcoming in RE

December 6 we will be practicing the **Holiday Pageant *Christmas Trolls*** downstairs. Eliza Cole will direct.

Sunday December 13, we will be performing the pageant for the Fellowship as part of the intergenerational service, ***A Scandinavian Christmas.***

Sunday December 20, will be our traditional intergenerational **holiday candlelight service** (sans candles) at 4 pm. And it's the cookie swap, so bring some yummy cookies to share.

Let Us Be That Stable

Today, let us be that stable,
 let us be the place
 that welcomes at last
 the weary and rejected,
 the pilgrim stranger,
 the coming life.
 Let not the frigid winds that pierce
 our inadequate walls,
 or our mildewed hay,
 or the fetid leavings of our cattle
 shame us from our beckoning.
 Let our outstretched arms
 be a manger
 so that the infant hope,
 swaddled in love,
 may have a place to lie.
 Let a cold beacon
 shine down upon us
 from a solstice sky
 to guide to us
 the seekers who will come.
 Let the lowly shepherd
 and all who abide
 in the fields of their labors
 lay down their crooks
 and come to us.
 Let the seers, sages, and potentates
 of every land
 traverse the shifting dunes,
 the rushing rivers,
 and the stony crags
 to seek our rude frame.
 Let herdsmen and high lords
 kneel together
 under our thatched roof
 to lay their gifts
 before Wonder.
 Today, let us be that stable.

—Patrick Murfin,
 from his meditation manual
We Build Temples in the Heart.
 Published by Skinner House in 2004

**MIDCOAST UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST FELLOWSHIP
 ANNUAL MEETING
 SUNDAY, DECEMBER 6, 2009
 AFTER THE SERVICE
 AT THE EDGECOMB TOWN HALL**

- To hear committee reports
- To vote on officers and trustees
- To vote on budget for 2010

Called by the Board of Trustees

Update to 2010 Canvass Report of Nov. 15, '09	
Number of letters sent out: 69	
1 returned "undeliverable"	
1 verbal: "NOT pledging for 2010"	
2010 desired budgeted pledges =	\$38,685.00
30 pledges received to date (43%) =	19,146.00
No. of pledges the SAME: 12	\$8,040.00
No. of pledges the LESS: 6	4,190.00
No. of pledges the RAISED: 7	5,726.00
No. of pledges the NEW: 5	1,190.00
TOTAL	\$19,146.00
Hoped for Balance = \$19,539.00	

	Coffee/Tea	Greeter
12/6	Donna Dolham	Dick & Kay Miller
12/13	Les & BJ Frederick	Sue van Alsenoy
12/20	Cookie Swap (Kate Pennington will bring wassail)	Elizabeth Guest
12/27	Patty Seybold and Tom Hagan	Janet & Bud Elwin



The Promise of Snow

Dizzy with delight
 single snowflakes ply their might
 swirling, twirling, twisting, misting
 till finally falling they join to make
 what once was black
 white.

How can folks without snow
 learn redemption
 pay compassionate attention
 without this blanket that
 blurs boundaries
 between "I feel," "I know", and
 "Tis so?"

—Susan van Alsenoy

Unitarian Universalist Podcasts—sermons, meditations, RE materials and more, are available from the Church of the Larger Fellowship anytime and any place for your ipod, MP3 player, or computer. Hear the voices of UU contributors to the CLF's worship publication via iTunes subscription, or listen à la carte.

The Church of the Larger Fellowship is the UU congregation through mail and the Web. Our monthly worship publication, "Quest" (also available in print and on-line), gathers contributions from renowned UU ministers.

You can subscribe to our free podcasts at www.clfuu.org/podcasts, or listen to segments à la carte at www.clfuu.org/quest. The CLF Quest podcast has nearly 1,000 subscribers worldwide: join our community of listeners today! Visit the Church of the Larger Fellowship at <http://www.clfuu.org>.

Don't forget about our website! www.uumidcoast.org

Did you know that Rev. Danielle told us at the last Board meeting that UUA and NNED staff have rated our website as outstanding—far ahead of many other church's websites? Go there for the latest news & to download a copy of the newsletter if you somehow missed it. Also please send material to be posted on the website—pictures, meeting notices, words of a sermon—to **Natasha Salvo**, tasha112760@gmail.com, our new and very capable webmaster!



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship
P. O. Box 2, Edgecomb, ME 04556

**Fellowship Minister
and Board of Directors**

Minister: Rev. Danielle Di Bona

President: David Bailey

Vice-president: Anne Flanagan

Secretary: Phyllis Loney

Treasurer: Jean Howe

Trustees: Allen Millett
Mimi Moore
June Phillips

Nominating Committee:
Andrew Twaddle
Mabel O'Brien
Lindy Gifford

Minister of Music & Pianist:
Barbara Prose

Director, Religious Exploration:
Lindy Gifford

Newsletter: Lindy Gifford
Donna Dolham

Public Relations: David Bailey
Judy Linker

Committee Chairs

Sunday Programs: Sandra Barth

Music: Suzanne Carlson

Faith in Action: June Phillips

Please initial and re-post unopened if you prefer
not to receive future copies of the newsletter.