

President's Message

The leaves are falling, the temperature is dropping, frost (and even snow!) has greeted us as we greet the new day. It is time to get out the winter clothing, cleanup the garden, put away the summer furniture, prepare for winter and plan for the upcoming holiday season.

Before your thoughts turn to Thanksgiving, I want you to take time to think about this Fellowship, this caring community, this reasoned voice of calm amid the doomsayers and know-it-alls. Think about those who made the commitment to get this all started twenty-six years ago—and those who have kept it going, making sure the Edgecomb Meetinghouse was transformed into a sanctuary every Sunday.

Ruminate now on one of the founders we all know and love. Roger Duncan's commitment to this Fellowship has been as steadfast as his ties to the sea. Always busy, author, histo-

rian, sailor, chronicler of the coast; he always had time to make sure this 'spiritual ship' stayed afloat. He had been a crew team coach—and he used those skills to coach some of us into making sure we continue to be open for business every week.

Now think about your commitment. Are you a part of this Fellowship, or just someone who attends occasionally? Are you one of many who do the small jobs, helping to set up extra chairs, gathering up the hymnals, providing flowers, volunteering as a greeter or coffee maker? Have you served or do you serve on a committee? Are you involved in a Long Range Plan task force?

Participation can be enjoyable and rewarding. And it is important to the life of the Fellowship. But all the work may be for naught if we can't pay the rent, the ministers, musicians and other operating expenses. Are you committed to a monetary pledge

each year? Do you think of your donation as a gift—or as your fair share to keep the light burning?

The point here is to ask you to think of the Fellowship as an important part of your living expenses, something you need almost as much as food and water, heat and light! Yes, we are legally a charitable organization, but don't think of us as a place for one of your charitable donations. Commit yourself to budgeting for something you need, something that nourishes your brain, or soul, or both. Answer the call when that canvas letter arrives—the call to be a committed supporter of this Fellowship.

"Mindful of truth ever exceeding our knowledge and community ever exceeding our practice, reverently we covenant together, beginning with ourselves as we are, to share the strength of integrity and heritage of the spirit, in the unending quest for wisdom and love."

David

"Guest" Minister's Message

From "Minister's Muusings"
In the October Newsletter of the
Manatee UU Fellowship (also MUUF!)
By Rev. Bonnie Devlin
Submitted by Jean Howe

If you ask just about any religious organization if they want to grow, the usual answer is a resounding "YES!" "Yes, we want to grow, yes we need to grow, yes, oh yes!" The funny thing is that if there is too much growth, people get very anxious. It reminds me of the saying "be careful what you pray for!"

This past August, I was up north at an annual music event. Each year the organizers are asked by others to expand the 4-day event by a couple hundred more people. The organizers always respectfully decline the invitation to over-expand the event, claim-

ing that their goal is to seek quality over quantity. I spoke with my friend—one of the organizers, about this, since the subject of sustainable growth is always on my mind. I say 'sustainable' because I do understand the huge difference between 'quality' and 'quantity', particularly when it comes to church size.

As with any organization or institution, there are growth levels which are sustainable and those that grow too quickly—like a rowboat with too many—capsizes. If quantity overrides quality, then the very thing we think we seek is diminished, and we as a community suffer for it.

... We can afford to grow a good deal and still remain within that 'sustainable' size of quality which we seek. Sometimes not being large enough for the goals and visions of a

group can lead to being non-sustainable, since there simply are too many tasks, too many projects to undertake, and not enough people to do them all. A community of faith is for all its members, with everyone pitching in through small and large ways to reach the many hopes and visions we all share.

... This part of our lives we call 'church' is a journey, not a destination, and there are many waters we will cross till the next harbor.

I am convinced that growth—on all levels—is indeed a reality. Our Fellowship is an incredible gathering of people, with a rich history and a very bright future. In Manatee County there are hundreds, perhaps thousands of people who are searching for a spiritual community, a religious home. All we have to do is open our doors and welcome some in! I won't kid you into thinking it's really that simple, but believe me; it is possible and very real.

So let us consider our potential for growth—the kind of growth that deepens and enriches what already is, and which encompasses what can be, for us, and for the friends we've yet to meet.

In Peace and Love,
Bonnie

Coffee/Tea

- 11/1** David & Sylvia Bailey
- 11/8** Chuck Reinhardt & Alden Davis
- 11/15** Dick & Kay Miller
- 11/22** Sandra Barth
- 11/29** Mabel O'Brien
- 12/6** Donna Dolham

Greeter

- Tom Hagan & Patty Seybold
- Mimi Moore & Jean Howe
- Bonnie Ginger
- Bud & Janet Elwin
- Ellen Tilton & Jean Howe
- Dick & Kay Miller

RE News

Meetings between the DRE and Sunday Program Committee have resulted in two efforts to include children more in our services. First the program committee and the Fellowship as a whole are committed to having at least one intergenerational service a month, more when possible. Second, the children will now remain upstairs for Joys & Sorrows. We feel it is important for children to have an opportunity to share their feelings with the Fellowship and that they also gain much from hearing adult Joys and Sorrows.

Upcoming in RE

November 1 will be a special intergenerational service on New Zealand with the Goltz family and this is also our Sunday to celebrate Samhain (Halloween). As Bonnie

Ginger and Lindy Gifford discussed with the children last Sunday, Samhain is a cross quarter holiday in the Pagan Wheel of the Year. It is the time of year to acknowledge the dead and to honor the dying season as we begin the time of incubation and reflection. So bring photos or objects of the those loved ones or pets you wish to remember or losses you wish to acknowledge. (We also passed out UNICEF boxes last week, so please bring those in, too.)

The children will be reorganizing the Spirit Play craft shelves after the service this Sunday. We would like to shift the emphasis of these shelves to natural craft items, so if you have some you would like to donate, please bring them along: real clay, gathered dried items from outside, cloth pieces, string, yarn...

November 8: Kate Pennington

and Mimi Moore will lead the children in a Spirit Play basket story. As always there will be an opportunity for free artistic expression after the story basket and the new natural craft items will be available for use!

November 15: Nancy Kennedy Miaoulas WILL be speaking that day, so please don't miss her! Eliza Cole will go downstairs with the children as childcare provider so that everyone (including all RE teachers) can hear Nancy speak.

November 22: "First Sunday" will be on the third Sunday this month! Lindy Gifford will be teaching a second unit on our 5th principal, the use of the democratic process.

November 29: Gateway to Giving, to start the Advent season. This is an intergenerational service and a great way to get kids thinking differently about giving and receiving. If you would like to participate (children are encouraged to join in!), please speak to someone on the Program Committee. (See write up on page one of this newsletter.)

Lastly, anyone want to perform in a Holiday Pageant for the Fellowship? Eliza Cole would like to work with the younger kids to create it. Speaking and non-speaking parts will be available and for those who do not enjoy performing, there will be other ways to participate. It would be the Time for All Ages on Sunday December 13, with one rehearsal on December 6. Anyone who would like to be in the pageant and can attend those two weeks, please talk to Lindy Gifford asap!

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 proposed candidate for one quarter-time minister
- To vote on budget for 2010

Called by the Board of Trustees

This is the official notification as required in the by-laws

A Reminder that the Long Range Task Force groups need to complete their meetings this month in order to present their findings at the Annual Meeting.

From the Long Range Plan:

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| 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 |

From The Long Range Plan

Sunday Services will continue to enhance the spiritual lives of those attending our services by drawing on a wide range of religious traditions as well as all forms of the Arts. Music will continue to be an integral part of almost all services. In addition, we will try exploring some alternative models of worship for all ages.

Hymnals

Upon finding the count of hymnals way below our original purchase and finding the number of hymn books going out—Sam Schwehm, guest pianist, and the larger number of Sunday Services facilitators, choir members, etc.—the Music Comm. ok'd the purchase of 5 new hymnals, "Singing the Living Tradition." They arrived Friday, October 2 and are in with the others. Some of us have paid for our own—the ones we keep at home and bring Sunday mornings to Fellowship.

If anyone would like to contribute \$28.00 to the Music Comm. budget and honor someone dear, a note to that effect can be put inside the hymn book.

In faith, Jean Howe

DON'T FORGET TO SET YOUR CLOCKS BACK ONE HOUR ON SATURDAY NIGHT.
We begin Standard Time at 2 am on Sunday Nov. 1.

Lincoln County "No On 1" Effort in the Home Stretch:

Supporters of marriage equality need to know just how close the election will be and that there are last minute opportunities to help!

Starting Friday Oct. 30 all our Lincoln County efforts will be based in Damariscotta. Location TBA. We will need help all day, from Friday right through Election Day. After Halloween we'll have a sign-posting blitz (and maybe we'll do a sign-making party). More details to come.

Call Kate Pennington at 563-8933 or email katepenn@roadrunner.com. For more information go to www.protectmaineequality.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!

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
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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



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