



# Midcoast UU News

Minister: Rev. Nancy J. Kennedy

Telephone: 491-4647

February 2010

**Sunday, February 7 at 10:30 am**  
***Reflections on Poverty***

—Rev. Kathleen Allan

By now, the Haitian disaster has been dissected, counted, and the scope well in hand. Suffering is a way of life there, suffering that goes hand-in-hand with poverty. Kathleen will share her thoughts on the matter, both home and abroad. She has led many services for us since the mid-1990's, and we always look forward to her return.

**Sunday, February 14 at 10:30 am**  
***Evolution and Equality***

—Rev. Edward J. Wynne, Jr., PhD

Celebrating the 201st anniversary of Charles Darwin and Abraham Lincoln's shared birth date, Rev. Wynne will lead us further on the journey of exploring how Darwin and Lincoln helped shape the modern world. Judith Hancock initiated that journey for us last year on their bicentennial anniversary. Ed Wynne is a retired Methodist minister, sharing a home in Damariscotta with his wife and sister. He has been a lecturer for the Coastal Senior College and comes highly recommended by our members who attended his course.

**Sunday, February 21 at 10:30 am**  
—Rev. Nancy Kennedy

Reverend Nancy J. Kennedy was chosen as our quarter-time minister by unanimous vote following the service that she led on January 31. Nancy also serves the Congregational Church of East Sumner, Maine and holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies from the University of New Hampshire and a Master of Divinity from Bangor Theological Seminary. She earned a Bachelor of Arts in women's studies, from the University of Maine. She will be with us every third Sunday and every fifth Sunday on months that have them.

**Sunday, February 28 at 10:30 am**  
***A Good Virus***

—Ben Barth

Ben, the son of a Unitarian minister, reflects on his spiritual journey from political activism to drug addiction to a transformed life. He lives with his wife Angelica in Wiscasset. His daughter Hannah was our child care provider while she was in high school. He was originally scheduled to do this service on New Year's weekend and was cancelled due to the three day storm.

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**Message or culture?**

By Doug Muder

**D**o we have a message we are trying to bring to the world? Or do we have a culture we are trying to preserve against extinction?...

It makes a difference. If we're bringing a message to the world, we're not doing very well. Not much of the world is listening. Some of our churches are growing while others are shrinking, but nowhere are we spreading like the yeast in Jesus's parable of the leaven.

If we're preserving a culture, on the other hand, we're doing fine. Our numbers are holding reasonably steady while other liberal or mainstream denominations shrink. Just about anyplace that a stereotypic UU would want to live for very long—a major city or a bucolic college town, say—has a UU church where our people can find refuge against the storms of ignorance and intolerance (or just bad taste) raging outside its walls....

There's nothing wrong with wanting to feel comfortable in church, wanting to feel affirmed in your identity, wanting to see and hear and do familiar things with people like yourself. But if that kind of good starts to crowd out other kinds of good, we need to make choices....

We don't need to hide our advanced degrees, stop listening to NPR, or watch NASCAR or hip-hop videos instead of Bill Moyers Journal. ... But perhaps if we go deeper we can reach the bedrock of our UU identities, and recognize that many of our common traits are not really necessary. To steal Theodore Parker's evocative terminology, perhaps we can separate the transient from the permanent in Unitarian Universalist culture....

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Excerpted from the article under "online extras" at uuworld.org

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**February 6, Sunday**—Leadership Planning Meeting for Board members and Committee Chairs

**February 7, Sunday**—RE Committee Meeting, 9:30 am at the Edgecomb Townhall.

**February 15, Monday**—Sunday Program Committee Meeting, 9:30 am at the Bailey's, Newcastle.

**February 15, Monday**—UU Fellowship & Social Concerns Meeting, 12:15 pm Publick House, Newcastle. RSVP Joanne Campbell 832-7565

**February 21, Sunday**—Board Meeting, 9 am at the Edgecomb Townhall.

## President's Message

### Greetings Everyone!

And welcome to the Board President's first update of 2010. As I plan for this message, I am filled with gratitude. One of my most powerful lessons following my recent accident has been the strength and appreciation I have gained from the outpouring of support from the congregation. The impact of your messages in person and in writing, all designed to lift spirits and provide sustenance (delicious!), have worked their magic! These acts have reinforced the significance and strength we have available for each other and the great benefits that results.

On January 17th we had the first Board Meeting of 2010 with our newly constituted Board. I am pleased to share the names of the 2010 Board: Donna Dolham, Phyllis Looney, David Bailey, Mimi Moore, and Jim McQuaide.

Our meeting was productive and focused. Please reach out to any of the Board members to hear more about our deliberations and the work we are undertaking this year. Please also join us for the Board Meetings that are scheduled for the third Sunday each month at 9 am prior to Sunday Service. We welcome your participation and involvement.

This year will be a challenge for all of us. New approaches will be made to increase membership and stimulate growth, encourage the participa-

tion of children and youth, and invigorate our congregation.

On February 6 Board members and Committee Chairs will gather for a Leadership Planning Meeting designed to prioritize our efforts and focus our energies. I will continue to keep you updated in this column as to our plans and encourage your involvement.

We are deep into winter as I write this message. The plow has not made its way to my road. Schools are closed. The snow has made a thick layer of white covering every surface. It is silent, peaceful, and untouched.

## Minister Hired, Revised Budget Approved

By unanimous vote, the Fellowship has hired the Reverend Nancy J. Kennedy to serve as a quarter-time minister beginning Feb. 1. At the special congregational meeting following her final candidating service we also approved a revised budget for 2010.

A resident of Newcastle with her 10-year-old son Nicholas, Rev. Nancy holds a Doctorate of Philosophy in Natural Resources and Environmental Studies, environmental ethics track, from the University of N.H. She earned a Master of Divinity at Bangor Theological Seminary and a Bachelor of Arts in Women's Studies at the University of Maine. She was ordained in the United Church of Christ and also

The trees limbs are burdened with snow—and the lights have dimmed nervously and returned tentatively to normal. We are perilously close to losing power. There is a clear analogy with MUUF as we consider our future in 2010 as well as our long term future in the Midcoast area.

I will have a sense of accomplishment and achievement when I make it through the storm. I suggest that we will all enjoy that sense of relief and success when we achieve our shared goals for 2010.

Anne Flanagan

serves the Congregational Church of East Sumner.

The revised budget, presented by treasurer David Bailey, elicited a number of votes on motions and amendments. It was noted that it is balanced by using some of the previous year's surplus. The proposal called for not paying "fair share" to the UUA and NED, but it was voted to donate \$1000 to that cause from the surplus. The end result is a budget with a \$944 net, approved with only one no vote.

It was generally agreed that the budget will be re-visited later in the year, especially to see if there are additional funds for Religious Exploration, which is budgeted only until Oct. 31. It was noted that if anyone wants to pay their own Fair Share it is \$73 and would be in addition to the budgeted amount.

David Bailey

## 2010 Directories are here!

A big thank you to Iska Cole for all her work putting together the 2010 Directory of Members and Friends and then getting it to the printer, picking it up and bringing it to Fellowship on Sunday, Jan. 31, 2010. There will be a box of lemon-yellow-covered Directories on the back table for you to pick up one. Please drop in the box a small donation—\$1 or \$2 to help defray the cost of printing. We appreciate this volunteer effort on your part, Iska. Thanks so much.

Jean Howe

## Directory Change

Elizabeth Guest's email address is back to: elizabethguest@myfairpoint.net

### Get your share of the Maine harvest at the CSA/CSF FAIR!

(Community Supported Agriculture & Fisheries)

Great Salt Bay Community School  
Sunday, February 28th from 1 to 4 pm



With CSAs and CSFs you commit to purchasing a share of the coming harvest before the season begins. The benefit? You get to support local farms and fishermen while getting your locally grown and harvested food direct from the producer at a fair price.

Come learn about buying a share; become acquainted with local seasonal foods; meet your local farmers and fishermen; and discover how you can grow a relationship with them.

The event is co-sponsored by the Maine Organic Farmers & Gardeners Association (MOFGA), the Maine Council of Churches, and local organizations at each site. Our local CSA/CSF Fair is being sponsored by the RISING TIDE food coop in Damariscotta.

Admission to this event is free. Please come join us.

For more information, contact Andy Burt at [adburt@gwi.net](mailto:adburt@gwi.net), or Karen Kleinkopf at [mefarms@gmail.com](mailto:mefarms@gmail.com).

## RE News

It was a joy to hear Nancy Kennedy's intergenerational service on January 31, with seven children in attendance, including her ten year old son Nicholas. In her sermon she reiterated her commitment to the children and youth of our Fellowship and the region and articulated beautifully the importance of a religious community in the lives of children. After the service, Nancy was unanimously confirmed as our 1/4-time consulting minister, with a one year, renewable contract. We look forward with great anticipation to her ministry with us! Nancy will be preaching every third Sunday and when there is a fifth Sunday in a month, she will also be here. She plans to do other intergenerational services on occasion.

The Adult Religious Exploration Group offered another intergenerational service the week before (January 24) on Finding Common Ground, which was very well received. That group also plans more intergenerational services in the future. During

the Jan. 24 service we began work on a beautiful tapestry we are weaving together, symbolizing how we form a strong community from the separate strands of our lives. The weaving project will be out and available other weeks, so please add strands whenever you like. Also, if you have fabric strips, yarn or ribbon you would like to bring in for the weaving, please do! When the tapestry is finished, it will be hung in the sanctuary.

Due to special programming and cancellations, it has been several months since we have had our "First Sundays," but we're back on track starting in February. We ask families to make a special effort to attend on the first Sunday of the month, so that the kids can all be together that Sunday. On First Sundays we are currently doing a curriculum called "We Believe," based on the seven principals of Unitarian Universalism. Each lesson centers on one of the principals, with stories, discussion, and hands-on activities designed to engage a wide age

range. This month (Feb. 7) we will take a step back and remind ourselves of all the principals, before continuing with the curriculum next month—a good review for old friends and a great place to start for new. Lindy Gifford will be joined by a new teacher downstairs, our new president, Anne Flanagan! Eliza Cole will be childcare provider to help the very young.

One Sunday a month we will also be continuing our Spirit Play Sundays with teachers Mimi Moore and Kate Pennington. Spirit Play is a Montessori based curriculum, in which the children hear and see stories acted out with the help of objects from special Spirit Play baskets. There is also time for free expression and exploration, either with the baskets, or with their choice of art and craft materials.

This is a great time for kids and families at the Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship! Come to visit, come back, but COME! Hope to see you all Sunday!

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## UUA and UUSC Haiti Earthquake Relief Update

UU's everywhere recently gave generously to the UUA and UUSC joint earthquake relief fund. We are proud to report that to date this fund totals over \$470,000. The outpouring of love and support for the people of Haiti is truly inspiring. Thank you.

With these resources, the UUSC will be able to alleviate short-term suffering and address long-term needs in Haiti. Read more about the situation in Haiti and the UUSC's current role in the relief effort below and at [www.uusc.org](http://www.uusc.org).

Please help the UUSC expand their operations in Haiti by making a generous gift.

AMEX will waive transaction fees for credit card donations until February 28, 2010 to UUSC and other Inter-Action members that are participating in the Haiti earthquake relief effort.

Also, contributions towards Haiti relief are deductible for 2009 taxes. Contributions made after Jan. 11, 2010, and before March 1, 2010, are eligible. This includes contributions made by text message, check, credit card or debit card.

### From the UUSC Website: Friday, January 29, 2010

According to the leader of the MPP (Papaye Peasant Movement), UUSC's partner in the Central Plateau of Haiti: "We are supporting the injured in the hospital in Hinche where more than 250 survivors have arrived. We are sending them water, soap, and food, but there is a severe lack of medicine, blood, and surgical materials.

"There is a great team of orthopedic surgeons here from Boston working day and night alongside Haitian medical professionals. There is not enough food for the patients, so at the training center we are preparing 150 meals to send to the hospital. We are spending about \$1,500 a week on food and supplies for the hospital but covering basic needs really requires more like \$2,500."

Chavannes Jean-Baptiste, the MPP leader, further reports that thousands of Haitian earthquake survivors have begun to arrive in rural villages, looking for food and medical help. Hundreds of thousands of survivors have left Port-au-Prince in search of the

food and water unavailable to them in the city. This massive outmigration is affecting the rest of the country, which was already struggling to feed itself before the massive earthquake.

The MPP is a peasant organization that has spread appropriate technologies and empowered Haitians throughout the island nation from their training center in Papaye in the Central Plateau. Now as injured and homeless earthquake survivors stream out of Port-au-Prince, MPP leaders are using their considerable organizing skills and all of their resources to attend to those who arrive in the areas of Hinche and Papaye seeking shelter, food, and medical help.

The MPP is focusing on three objectives: supporting the hospital patients in Hinche with food, and what medicine they can buy; providing food to families in the Papaye area who have taken in earthquake survivors; and redeploying their training center in Papaye as a shelter for displaced survivors who continue to arrive daily.

	<b>Coffee/Tea</b>	<b>Greeter</b>
<b>2/7</b>	Donna Dolham	Allen Millett
<b>2/14</b>	McQuaides	Joanne Campbell
<b>2/21</b>	Fosketts	Baileys
<b>2/28</b>	Loneys	Ellen Tilton

Please remember that the deadline for submissions to the newsletter is the 20th of each month. Email your contribution to [lindyg@tidewater.net](mailto:lindyg@tidewater.net).

**The new Website of the Northern New England District of the UUA is up and running at:**  
<http://nned.uua.org/>

**The new and more welcoming UUA.org is here!**  
[www.UUA.org](http://www.UUA.org)

**Don't forget about our website! [www.uumidcoast.org](http://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](mailto:tasha112760@gmail.com), our new and very capable webmaster!

**Fellowship Minister and Board of Directors**

**Minister:** Rev. Nancy J. Kennedy

**President:** Anne Flanagan

**Vice-president:** Donna Dolham

**Secretary:** Phyllis Loney

**Treasurer:** David Bailey

**Trustees:** Mimi Moore  
 June Phillips  
 Jim McQuaide

**Nominating Committee:**

Steve Cole  
 B.J. Frederick  
 Sue van Alsenoy

**Director of Music & Pianist:**

Kevin Kiley

**Director of Religious Exploration:**

Lindy Gifford

**Administrator:** Jean Howe

**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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