



# Midcoast UU News

Minister: currently in search

Telephone: 350-0210

January 2010

**Sunday, January 3 at 10:30 am**

***A Good Virus*** CANCELLED  
—Ben Barth DUE TO WEATHER

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.

**Sunday, January 10 at 10:30 am**

***Life & Death—Paradox & Partners***  
—Rev. Bill Gregory

Many of us may be familiar with the Rev. Bill Gregory from his articles in the "Reflections" column featured on Saturday in the Religion and Values section of the *Portland Press Herald*. He is a retired UCC clergy person, now living in Yarmouth with his wife Nancy.

Of his sermon Rev. Gregory says, "We don't talk about death much but we think about it. It is an easier topic to deal with when we realize that life and death are partners in the continuation of life and love."

**CONGREGATIONAL MEETING  
January 31—Official Notice**

For all voting members, following the morning service to:

1. Vote on quarter-time ministry of Rev. Nancy Miaoulis Kennedy
2. Vote on revised budget for 2010

*When we allow children to stretch themselves and encourage them to grow spiritually, we don't simply meet their needs, we find that we feed ourselves as well. Our own faith can be enriched by seeing the ordinary through their eyes and the seemingly simple things in life from an entirely new perspective.... We may be their guides on their spiritual journeys, providing worship experiences that help develop their faith, but if we allow ourselves to go along, we can reach greater spiritual insights of our own.*

—Michelle Richards, UU RE Program Consultant  
from her book *Come Into the Circle: Worshiping With Children*

***Children keep us honest.***

—Rev. Nancy Miaoulis Kennedy

**Sunday, January 17 at 10:30 am**

***Sometimes "Amen" = action***  
—Rev. Nancy Miaoulis Kennedy

With an eye toward Israel's sojourn through the wilderness, Nancy's sermon will consider how the power of our own prayer lives is sometimes most recognizable in the form of action. Nancy has conducted a service in the summer for MUUF for many years and is our candidate for one quarter-time minister. She recently moved back to Newcastle where she lives with her son, Nicholas, and a dog and cat. She is the three-quarter time minister at the East Sumner Congregational Church in western Maine.

Please join us for soup and more conversation with Nancy downstairs after the service.

**Sunday, January 24 at 10:30 am**

***Weaving Common Ground***  
—Adult RE Group Members

"Because UU theological diversity militates against any generalized sense that UUs are offering themselves to God in worship, we have to ask, just what are UUs doing at their services?" —*Engaging Our Theological Diversity, 2004 Commission on Appraisal Report of the UUA.*

This service will offer an opportunity to consider how it is that we bring ourselves together in this Fellowship to create an inclusive, honoring, and giving spiritual community. This will be a service for all ages.

**Sunday, January 31 at 10:30 am**

—Rev. Nancy Miaoulis Kennedy

We are fortunate to have two opportunities this month to hear Rev. Nancy, our candidate for one quarter-time minister. This intergenerational service will give the children a chance to get to know Nancy better. There will be a vote on her candidacy (as well as the budget) after the service

**UPCOMING DATES:**

**January 11, Monday**—Sunday Program Committee Meeting, 9:30 am at the Baileys', Newcastle.

**January 11, Monday**—UU Fellowship lunch and social concerns meeting, 1:15 pm, Publick House, Newcastle. RSVP: Joanne Campbell, 837-7565

**January 17, Sunday**—Board Meeting, 9 am at the Edgecomb Townhall.

## President's Message

As I watch the rain pouring off the roof on this gloomy last Sunday of the year I am baffled by those who deny there is global warming! As your outgoing president I am also baffled by the lack of response by some members to our annual pledge drive. And, as the incoming treasurer, very concerned as to how to cut the budget and keep us going as a viable entity.

I don't want to wallow in gloom and doom. The treasurer's report that there are more than \$3500 in unpaid pledges for 2009 was troubling news. However, we may still end the year in the black because we didn't have a minister to pay in the last quarter. The program committee stayed within budget and still managed to fill the pulpit.

In 2010 we plan on having a paid quarter-time minister. Most members agree that this is a necessity if we are to attract new members, to have a successful RE program, and to join with area churches in ministering to the greater community. We also will again be paying for an administrator. It was completely unfair to take this small amount out of the budget and then watch her try to do the work anyway.

If this Fellowship is to be more than just a place to go on some Sunday mornings, a place where you might meet some new folks, a place to have some really meaningful discussions, more of you have to be committed to move us forward. We need both your time and your money.

Our current pledge drive total is \$12,000 under budget! I believe that if we attempt to cut enough from the budget to meet that challenge we will take a giant step toward closing the doors before our 30th anniversary.

I believe most of us want us to continue as a liberal voice in the area's religious community, that we want "this little light to shine".

There are a number of ideas for fund raising events. But none of them will make a significant difference unless there is a commitment of time and effort from many members. We cannot expect the same few to do the work or provide the ideas - we need new energy.

I would urge all of us to take another look at our plans for charity giving in the coming year, to divert some to an increased pledge or a special one-time donation.

Finally, we have savings, and we can (by vote, of course) use some to help propel us forward, to help us

find our "mojo". As the incoming treasurer I will be presenting some scenarios to the board. Before we bring a revised budget to a special meeting, as promised by early February, we need to hear from all of you. What are your ideas for fund raising and will you get involved? Will you offer an increased pledge or a special donation? Where can we trim the budget without harm to our program, to our mission?

Your new president expects to be ready to take charge when we hold our first board meeting of 2010. I agreed to be treasurer to support her in the work of making our long range plan a reality. She needs all of your help too!

David

## "Guest" Minister's Message

From Barbara Prose in Carmel, CA

It is hard to believe that as you read this I will have done half my time here as ministerial intern at the Unitarian Universalist Church of the Monterey Peninsula. Of course, I want to tell you everything—everything I am learning, what long days I am working, the kinds of feedback I am getting, and all about how much I am loving the work. If I could tell you everything, I would also describe the smell of eucalyptus on my morning walks, the feel of winter in a place where winter never really comes, and the touches of love with which the people of this church have welcomed and are supporting me. But I can't tell you everything, or even all about any one thing, so instead I will send you all my very best wishes and tell you that I look forward to being with you all again soon, in June. May this winter be a

time when the vision and energy of our fellowship takes shape in the silence and stillness of the dark, only to reemerge with new vigor, hope and promise in the spring.

With heartfelt blessings of light and love, Barbara



## About Us

We have been told that one of our founding members, Ken Rice, is not well. His current address for any of us who would like to get in touch with him: Kenneth Rice

Dirigo Pines, Rm #145

9 Alumni Drive

Orono, Maine 04473

June Phillips has weathered her recent surgery well and is back home getting stronger. We'll be seeing her back at her Equal Exchange table soon.

Anne Flanagan is slowly recovering from her terrible fall breaking ribs and an ankle, suffering a great deal of pain and surgery. She is back home after rehab stay—not able to drive yet—a long frustrating road back to her normal strength, efficient and enthusiastic nature.

We're sending our best wishes to you all for a happier 2010!!

## Directory Change

Elizabeth Guest's new email address: elizabethaguest@netzero.net.

## From the Long Range Plan:

### Major Initiatives:

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

"In order to remain viable and achieve our objectives we need to focus on growth both within our fellowship and in our community. We envision in our plan to include a permanent home in a central location."

## From the UUA Website



### What is Standing on the Side of Love?

Standing on the Side of Love (SSL, pronounced “Sizzle”) is a public advocacy campaign, sponsored by the Unitarian Universalist Association (UUA), promoting respect for the inherent worth and dignity of every person. We believe that no one should be dehumanized through acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence because of their identities.

### Why is the UUA doing a public advocacy campaign?

Our Tennessee Valley Unitarian Universalist (UU) Church was attacked by a gunman on July 27, 2008, because the gunman objected to its liberal views and its affirmation of glbt people. Following that tragedy, the courage and love demonstrated by Tennessee UUs was a powerful testament to our faith. Living out our values of respect and inclusion, UUs across the country can play a role in challenging exclusion, oppression, and violence in our local communities and in our nation.

### What are the goals of the campaign?

To elevate and focus Unitarian Universalism’s voice in the public square, to influence public attitudes about the worth and dignity of all.

To mobilize quick and effective responses to incidents of exclusion, oppression, or violence based on intolerance of people’s identities.

### Big goals! How will the campaign accomplish them?

To accomplish Goal 1, the campaign will train and aggressively promote Unitarian Universalist spokespeople in the media when acts of exclusion, oppression, or violence occur. To accomplish Goal 2, the campaign will support UU congregations to mobilize at critical times, using social networking and coalition building to create momentum.

### How can my congregation be part of this?

Sign up at Standing on the Side of Love ([www.StandingontheSideofLove.org](http://www.StandingontheSideofLove.org)) to keep informed. The campaign is ramping up to full capacity by September 2009. Form a local SSL team; speak with congregational leaders already working on issues of justice and oppression. Prepare to respond quickly when you are needed.

### Isn’t Standing on the Side of Love about marriage equality? Why are we talking about all of these other issues?

Standing on the Side of Love is a core statement of UU belief in the power of love and our commitment to living our values. The slogan has been used effectively in describing our challenges to exclusive marriage policies. We want to build on that success to open a larger umbrella under which many people, both Unitarian Universalists and others, can take action in a broad range of arenas where people are excluded, oppressed, or attacked based on real or perceived identities.

### Why does SSL have a separate website from UUA.org? And why don’t all of the materials for the campaign put Unitarian Universalism up front and central?

We’re proud of this campaign and UUs are prominently featured on the website. But in order to create real impact, we need to engage non-UU partners and stand together with them. Our materials are created to invite maximum participation from interfaith and community partners.

### Are youth and young adults involved in this campaign?

Youth and young adults are among the most enthusiastic participants in all creative work for justice. Congregations may want to form intergenerational SSL crews to benefit from the wisdom of younger members.

### Is this our new UUA marketing campaign?

Prior marketing efforts have focused on raising the visibility of the UUA and bringing people into our congregations. We are furthering those efforts by demonstrating our core Unitarian Universalist values through building strong coalitions with other people who share our belief in the inherent worth and dignity of all.

### Is this about growth?

While this is not the explicit focus of the SSL campaign, we strongly encourage congregations to use materials from Hospitality & Belonging to welcome visitors who will come because of the campaign.

### How is this campaign funded? How do I make a contribution?

This campaign has been funded primarily through the generosity of several major donors. Donations of all sizes are encouraged.

## RE News

I hope you all can be at fellowship **January 17 and 31** when **Rev. Nancy Kennedy**, our proposed candidate for minister will be speaking. There will be children’s programming downstairs on January 17, and everyone is invited to join us for soup and conversation with Nancy after the service. On January 31, Nancy will lead us in an intergenerational service, so that the children can get to know her better as well. After the January 31 service there will a special congregational meeting to vote on Nancy’s ministry, as well as a revised budget. There will be childcare available during the meeting.

The adult RE class is planning a very **special intergenerational service for January 24**. This will be an opportunity for young and old to explore what brings us together as a faith community. Unlike the more informal small group services of the past, this will be a very intentionally

intergenerational service, with some parts designed especially for the kids, as well as hands on activities. (A communal weaving project, if all goes as planned!)

Our DRE, Lindy Gifford, had a very productive and helpful meeting with Carney Doucette, DRE of the Rockland UU Church and Danielle Bannister, the DRE in Belfast. Ask her about it!

We have added three **great new resources** to the RE library. *Unitarian Universalism is a Really Long Name*, a nice introduction for kids; *Everyone a Butterfly: 40 Sermons for Children*; and *Come Into the Circle: Worshiping with Children*. Please let Lindy know if you would like to borrow any of these or any other of our resources, which include a copy of *The Gift of Faith: Tending the Spiritual Lives of Children*, a great book for parents about the importance of religious community in the spiritual development of both children and parents.

	<b>Coffee/Tea</b>	<b>Greeter</b>
<b>1/3</b>	Newbergs	Mabel O'Brien
<b>1/10</b>	Baileys	Kate Pennington
<b>1/17</b>	Millers	Allen Millett
<b>1/24</b>	Strong and Carlson	Sandy Barth
<b>1/31</b>	Mabel O'Brien	Loneys

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/>**

**Coming soon: new and more welcoming UUA.org, February 2010**

**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:** Currently in search  
**President:** Anne Flannigan  
**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

**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



Midcoast Unitarian Universalist Fellowship  
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