

The COMMON

Happy Fourth of July!



After the Constitutional Convention ended in 1787, citizens gathered to learn its results. Benjamin Franklin was asked, "Well, Doctor, what have we got, a

republic or a monarchy?" "A republic," he said, "if you can keep it." How are we doing? Independence Day is about more than parades and pyrotechnics.

CALENDAR

Pulpit

July 6

Rev. Charles J. Stephens

Flower Communion

Hungry Sunday

July 13

Rev. Charles J. Stephens

July 20

Rev. Charles J. Stephens

"Pot Luck Coffee"

July 27

Rev. Albert Boyce

FROM THE BOARD

DELACROIX DAVIS III, PRESIDENT

The ministerial search process is fully engaged following the Search Committee retreat at the Lucerne Inn in Dedham, Maine, facilitated by the Reverend Olav Nieuwejaar, our Ministerial Search Representative. For more information on the specific steps and timetable, please refer to the



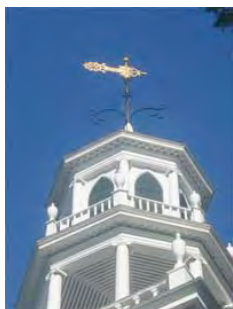
article on page 2 by Anne Parsons, a member of the Search Committee.

One of the action items resulting from the retreat is the need to do a better job of displaying church activities on our website.

continues on pg 6

FROM THE SEARCH COMMITTEE

Anne Parsons



Charged by the congregation on May 4, the Ministerial Search Committee held its first official gathering June 13 and 14. As has been reported, the committee members selected by the congregation and the board are Peter Fairbank, Elaine Gerard-Climo, Deborah Neve, Anne Parsons, Anne Price, Emma Sweet, and Brooke Tenney. We met Friday afternoon and evening with Rev. Olav Nieuwejaar, the UUA Ministerial Settlement Representative, to clarify our understanding of the search process.

Saturday morning and afternoon, activities facilitated by Rev. Nieuwejaar included getting to better know each other and ourselves and to establish guidelines for working together over the next fifteen months. Many complex tasks are involved in a UUA search and roles were defined, assigned, and accepted. Debby is our chair and primary external contact; she will report at least once a month to the congregation during Sunday announcements and monthly to the Board. I will convey information to the congregation through this newsletter and our website. Emma will oversee a dedicated informational bulletin board in the Parish House.

At this early stage, we need to collect as comprehensively as possible the opinions and aspirations of members and friends of the UUCC. This will be accomplished in two ways. The first is a series of twelve “cottage meetings” to be held in July and August and possibly September. These

are relatively painless but vital ways for us to hear how you feel about the future of our congregation and our next minister. We need twelve volunteer host sites for gatherings of a maximum of ten participants. The hosts do nothing except open their door and perhaps provide a simple snack and beverage. Two members of the search committee will facilitate the brief discussion. The ball already is rolling on this phase, so please, if you have not done so by the time you read *The Common*, get in touch as soon as possible with Brooke or Emma to choose your day and date to host and select a time of the morning, afternoon, or evening. We will do the rest. All members and friends of the congregation are expected to attend and we urge you strongly to do so.



The second important early step is to develop a survey especially tailored to our congregation and its surrounding community. Elaine and Peter are working on this. Anne Price is keeping us on track by assuming recording secretary and treasurer duties. There are many other tasks that have been assigned and will fold into the process as we move forward.

As I hope you gather from the above, we are committed to keeping you informed as we navigate through this complex process and we encourage and hope to obtain full participation in the information gathering process. It is essential for us to provide a thorough and fair description of our congregation to prospective applicants and to clarify our own thinking so we can find and bring to you a minister who is the best match for our future together.

CHARLES' COGITATIONS

During the last two months I traveled more than usual. In May, Alison and I went to Florida where I officiated at the wedding of a nephew. In June we went to California to be present at our daughter Heather's graduation from UCLA. And at the end of June I attended UU Ministry Days and the UU General Assembly in Providence, Rhode Island.

The traveling and attending these significant events gave me the opportunity to ponder some of life's important and varied events, some anticipated and planned for while other accompanying events were surprising but adjusted to. There is so much anticipation and actual effort that goes into a couple arriving at the moment they are ready to pledge their love and trust to one another in marriage. And there is a great deal of planning, anticipating and a huge amount of effort that an individual exerts before getting a university degree. And General Assemblies have so many things happening that planning becomes a fine art.

Attending or participating in such major events caused me to reflect on similar or related occasions in my own life. From conversations with others I know that most of us are moved to reflect personally while observing major life ceremonies. What would have happened if I had majored in something different? What would have happened if I hadn't married that person or had married that other person, or had stayed single?



The Stephens Family

I am not suggesting we focus on regrets or even gratitude for our past actions or decisions. Actually, my reflections were more focused on the present and the future. Given that I have done this or that, what do I want to do with this precious moment and the days, months and years that I hope lay before me? Have I gained a bit of wisdom and freedom from my age and experiences so that I am able to reason more clearly, make decisions with more autonomy and hopefully act with greater compassion?

Such moments of reflection can give us clarity and help us be more consistently present to the moment and more deeply aware of the significance of being alive in this wonderful world of relationships. Take some time this summer to pause and reflect on all your relationships and the many choices and actions that have brought you to this moment and ponder all that lies before you.

Warmly,

Charles J. Stephens

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Kay Hansen

FLOWER COMMUNION Just as spring came late this year, so will our Flower Communion Sunday. Our traditional Unitarian Universalist flower ritual, usually held early in June, will be on July 6.

The children will lead the congregation in the symbolic exchange of flowers that originated with Norbert Capek in 1923 in Czechoslovakia. Each person brings a flower, to be added to a bouquet that symbolizes our church community. At the end of the service, each person takes home a different flower, symbolizing the love we share with one another. Please join us and remember to bring a flower.



SUMMER PROGRAM Our summer program of sharing and “Getting to Know Each Other” already is under way. On Sunday, June 8, nine children and seven adults met at Timberwyck Farm to learn about the family of Emma, Colin, Samantha, Peter, Jane, and Silas. When we arrived, the goats called out to us, and we discovered that they liked to have us pet and feed them. Erik helped Colin milk the goats, and we watched Emma strain the milk. We fed a baby pig, a very large adult pig, and several sheep. And we found many garden beds with vegetables, herbs, and flowers. We could see that the farm provides a great deal of food for this family. And for lunch, they shared with us some of their delicious pork sausage. Thank you for having us!

As we continue in our summer program, we will share more with the congregation about our visit to the farm and experiences of “Getting to Know Each Other.” For example, Elaine Gerard-Climo will tell us about the book she has written for children. And Nancy Guy will tell us about Birdsacre sanctuary. We are looking forward to others who might share with us, perhaps about a service project that would be attractive to our youth.

LOOKING TO THE FUTURE OF RE On May 25, a group of parents, along with RE Chair Nancy Sayre, Rev. Charles Stephens, and me, discussed the future of the RE Program. The feedback was greatly appreciated, and we look forward to working on some changes. To begin, this summer we will reorganize the present RE room so that Charles can use the space as an office during the week and RE can use it for the youngest children on Sundays. The older children and youth in the program will use space in the Parish House. We also will work on programming that will involve our youth in an expanded community that would include get-togethers with other UU churches and working on service projects, such as: helping out at church, helping older church and community members with chores, and volunteering for community service projects such as Habitat for Humanity. This would be integrated with explorations of world religions and our Seven Principles.

Please let me know if you would be willing to share with us. We would like to get to know you. My email address is: hansen85@myfairpoint.net.

Kay Hansen, Religious Educator

Do you do Facebook?

Do you or your friends and family use Facebook? Did you know that we have a UU Castine Facebook page? Maybe you don't "do" social media, but know others who spend a lot of time there. Please help us spread the word: be sure to "Like" the UU Castine page, and invite your Facebook friends to like us, too. Here is the link: <https://www.facebook.com/uucastine>

So why does our congregation have a Facebook presence? Right now we are using the site to communicate with people already connected to UUCC or familiar with our congregation, informing them about Sunday services, guest ministers, special events, and new postings on our UU Castine website. Occasionally we share links to articles from the UUA and affiliated organizations or other congregations. But there is so much more that could be done to inform non-UUs and newcomers about our values and principles. Your input is welcome! Interested? Get in touch with Sally Chadbourne (sallychadbourne@gmail.com) or me (kapricorn75@gmail.com). Let our little light shine!

POTLUCK COFFE HOUR??

Pam Person
Hospitality Chair

On third Sundays in July, August, and September, the coffee hour host does not have to bring any snack food; just make the coffee and do the clean up. It's a "potluck" when all of us bring a little to put on the table to share. It is NOT a lunch - just a wide variety of snack food.

Thank you to those who have ushered and made delicious food and coffee for our coffee hours and to those who have signed up to do these tasks in July. Please consider adding your names to the usher or coffee hour lists for the rest of July and August



From Gena: St. John's Organ Society announces its 22nd Summer Recital Series on Maine's largest 19th-Century tracker-action pipe organ, E. and G. G. Hook's magnificent Opus 288 at St. John's Roman Catholic Church in Bangor.

The Series features outstanding artists from Europe, Asia, and North America.

July 24: Rudolf Innig, Bielefeld, Germany

July 31: Naomi Shiga and Jonathan Wohlers, Tacoma, Washington

August 7: Robert and Nancy Ludwig, Bangor

August 14: Reiko Okamoto, Yokosuka, Japan

August 21: Jacques Boucher with Sophie Poulin de Courval, saxophone, Montreal, Canada

August 28: Kevin Birch with Anatole Wieck, violin, Bangor

These hour-long recitals occur on Thursday evenings at 7:30 pm. St. John's Catholic Church is located at 207 York Street in Bangor. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

What a Wonderful World!

Highly recommended by your organist & choir director (and your newsletter editor). Click & enjoy!

<http://www.youtube.com/embed/auSo1MyWf8g?rel=0>

FROM THE BOARD, FROM PAGE 1

If one had only our website calendar advising of church activities the logical result would be to think we had Sunday morning services and Tuesday evening AA meetings and little else. Accordingly, I am asking all committee chairs and other friends and members to send me emails indicating all scheduled meetings as well as significant actions taken that could be publicized. Any outside groups or organizations using the Meeting House or Parish House should also be mentioned. In that regard, I think we should include activities such as the farmers' market that will operate for the next 10-12 weeks. It is held right outside the Parish House, which is kept open as a courtesy to vendors and shoppers. Our web designer has been asked to post the changes. I will serve as the clearinghouse, gathering information from all sources and providing it to her for weekly updates.



Another step in the search process is the establishment of a negotiating team. The purpose of the negotiating team is to help determine the compensation package for the prospective minister. UUA guidelines suggest a negotiating team should have one member from the Search Committee, one member from the Governing Board, and one member from the general congregation, selected for experience and stature. During the retreat, Peter Fairbank



Del Davis

was selected as the Search Committee member. At its June meeting the Governing Board selected Treasurer Diana Bernard as its representative to the team. And the Board thought long-time member and former Finance Committee chair Standish Bourne would be ideal as the third member of the team. Stan has graciously agreed to serve in this capacity.

Due to scheduling conflicts, the task force established to explore options for additional church space either in an expanded Parish House or elsewhere has not been able to meet. We hope to meet soon and have progress to report on this important issue.

Those of you who read the Castine *Patriot* already know that town officials have approved our request to place the replica of the original sign on the side of the Meeting House facing the town green.

Finally, it is wonderful to see so many seasonal members and friends back in town and at the Meeting House. Welcome back! Please remember that the opinions and participation of all members and friends of the congregation are important as we move through the ministerial search process. We want your input.

JULY PULPIT

July 6

"Our U.S. Founding Faith," Rev. Stephens

July 13

"Celtic Spirituality," Rev. Stephens

July 20

"The Excitement
of UU General Assembly 2014"
Rev. Stephens

July 27

Rev. Stephens Sunday off.
Rev. Al Boyce will lead worship

Father Taylor Returns

Were you in the Meeting House last summer when David Avery, in costume and in character, brought to life a larger than life "Father" Taylor, a Methodist of yesteryear who consorted with, gasp, Unitarians?

As many are aware, David's wife, Wendy Knickerbocker, has written a painstakingly researched history of Father Taylor. She will be giving a talk, as part of Witherle Library's Maine Author Series, on her book -- *"Bard of the Bethel"*. Monday, July 14 at 7pm in the Library's reading room; free & open to the public.



Edward Thompson Taylor

MEMBERS OF THE BOARD

Del Davis, President
Gil Tenney, Vice President
Diana Bernard, Treasurer
Anne Romans, Clerk
Nancy Guy
Tom Mason
Leslie Fairbank
Kent Price, Alternate

The Governing Board meets in the Parish House at 8:30 am on the third Thursday of each month. Observers always are welcome.

THE COMMON

The Common is published monthly and distributed in both electronic and photocopy forms. All members and friends are invited to submit items for consideration. Send submissions or comments to editor Kent Price at kapricorn75@gmail.com. Deadline is the 15th of the month preceding publication.

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