



October 2009

# The Messenger

Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford 60 School Street Saco, Maine 04072, uuchurch@gwi.net (207)282-0062  
www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

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## Services

### BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS – Oct. 4

Bring your companions to be blessed. We will celebrate their affection, and be grateful for all the creatures. If your friend doesn't like crowds, or has passed on, please bring a photo or other memento. All pets on leashes or in carriers, please.

**All-Ages Service.**

### Oct. 11 Hymn Sing

#### Music Ministry

Come and enjoy both sacred spirit and musical fun as we gather for our annual old-fashioned 'hymn sing.' Be prepared to tell us your favorite hymn when you arrive and we'll get to as many as possible. Ellie R will lead with Paul B's help.

**Church School.**

### Oct. 18 Marriage Now

#### Rev. David W. Chandler

The future of marriage – at least in the State of Maine – is as close as this Election Day. Some say that future is shockingly sudden and a drastic wrong turn. In fact, marriage has been heading this way for 200 years – and will keep on going.

**Church School.**

### Oct. 25 Dead and Gone

#### Rev. David W. Chandler

The framework of death has profoundly changed in America. In only a generation, the technical, financial and ritual context of dying has become almost entirely new. Are we better off? How flexible should our spiritual framework be, and why?

**Church School.**

### Please Wear Your Nametag

We're very fortunate to have many new people showing interest in attending our church. Our good word is spreading. This makes wearing our nametags all the more important. Please be sure to pick up your nametag and wear it to the service AND coffee hour.

Sharing our names is a small step that allows everyone to feel immediately a part of the group when we can call each other by name. The Membership/Welcoming Committee has started placing a basket next to the door so it will be easier to leave your nametag before leaving. Nametags will be returned to the board for use the next week.

This is also a good opportunity to find and return any nametags that have been taken home or are hanging around the car. Thanks for everyone's cooperation in welcoming our new people.

## Sunday Happenings

8:30 am: Choir rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship

10:00 am: RE

## The Parson's Packet

I am a fool for singing, especially hymn singing. Of course if you stand too close to me in church, you may endorse this assertion in a slightly different sense. My tone is less than dulcet and my command of both melody and meter can get clumsy. I do, however, *approximate* with vigor.

I am utterly delighted – transported, even – to hear our congregation more and more often doing the same. I was gratified by every aspect of our summer services these past months, but I was astonished at how confidently people launched right into “Spirit of Life” with no accompaniment at all, and even sang several other pieces we don’t happen to practice every Sunday.

“Spirit of Life,” which was written by UU Carolyn McDade less than 30 years ago, has words that are a succinct expression of a sacredness deeply anchoring our faith. We certainly sing it well – as do many UUs – at least partly because we believe it so whole-heartedly. On the other hand, it is the singing that really makes the statement, especially in a group.

It does, after all, invite the Spirit of Life, to “sing in my heart.” Try just reading or saying the words sometime and you will see what I mean.

A singing church is a church that is both expressing and building a bond no words can duplicate. This is not a knock on words. They are necessary to full understanding, and our tradition – as all Protestant churches – rests firmly on words as spoken, heard, explained, pondered, read and frequently disputed. The “read” and “disputed” characteristics are essential to the break Luther and Calvin promulgated with Catholicism. They insisted on a Bible in ordinary languages and ministers who interpreted the truth rather than only conveying it.

Fortunately, they did not do away with singing. Luther’s “A Mighty Fortress” continues in our hymnal 500 years after it was first written. He enjoyed all kinds of music and was a prolific writer of hymns. He also understood music to be an emotional experience and a source of both joy and comfort beyond the power of mere words. Calvin was more ascetic, but agreed on the universality of music.

We do the same, which strengthens our bond to the transcendent and divine, as well as with each other. And can you imagine a more vigorous welcome than walking by and hearing strong singing coming from our gathered community?

We are fortunate to have two special musical opportunities this month. The great UU singer songwriter Jim Scott will join us for worship on Oct. 4, and has a full program complementing our Blessing of the Animals service. We will all be participating and it will be thoroughly enjoyable I am sure.

The following Sunday, Oct. 11, is our third annual Hymn Sing. This old church tradition has been gratifyingly revived under the leadership of Ellie R and our Music Ministry team. Hymns are like Christmas carols – it is almost impossible to forget them or sing them too badly. So don’t be shy. Come to church, clear your throat and give it your all!

– Best wishes, David

## Music Notes

**Choir:** Calling all Singers (high school age and above). The UUCSB Choir is seeking more singers. All are welcome who love to sing! Attire is black pants, white top and black vest.

Rehearsals begin at 8:30 (set-up and chit-chat), with warm-ups starting promptly at 8:45. We rehearse until 9:45. In 2009, we will rehearse all Sundays but one each month until Christmas Eve. We sing in church approximately twice every month. In addition we will be participating in the World AIDS Day Service on Dec. 1st and possibly the Holiday Music Festival on Dec. 20th and the Solstice Service on Dec. 21st.

Upcoming rehearsal dates: Oct. 4 (open to current members only), 11 and 25; Nov. 1, 8, 22 and 29; Dec. 6, 13, 20 and 24

**Special Music:** If you play an instrument or would like to sing a solo or sing in a small group on a Sunday that the choir is not singing, please notify Jeannine W. She will get in touch to get you scheduled and/or hook you up with other singers for a small group.

**Spirit Band:** The Spirit Band was successful in playing a wonderful arrangement of 'Blue Boat Home' last spring. We will unite again in 2010 - stay posted for more info.

**Children and Music:** Keep an eye out for opportunities for the children to gather in song. Info will be posted on the Music Bulletin Board.

**Music Committee:** The Music Committee is seeking non-choir members. If you are interested in giving input into the music in our church, please contact Ellie R or Jeannine W. The Music Committee meets just once or twice a year and we will be meeting soon.

- Ellie R, Choir Director



Nobody Sings the Blues Like the Lady with the Flaming Red Hair

Saco Coffeehouse Features Pianist and Vocalist Michelle Currie

Saturday, October 17 @ 7 p.m.

Parish Hall, UU Church of Saco & Biddeford, 60 School Street, Saco



Michelle Currie makes music that's been stopping people in their tracks for 20 years. With a gutsy, soulful voice and fingers that fly across the ivories, nobody sings the blues like the lady with the flaming red hair. Her repertoire of pop, rock, gospel, jazz and the best of Broadway that will make you want to sing along. Michelle is best known for her work at some of New England's premier piano bars, including the Front Porch in Ogunquit and the Kennebunkport Inn. Additionally, she is featured on six tracks of *A Seam of Song: Music of the Union Church at Biddeford Pool*, of which she is a member.

Known for quality performances, a welcoming atmosphere and home-made desserts, the Saco Coffeehouse has hosted artists from around the world in an intimate, alcohol and smoke-free environment for more than 14 years. The Saco Coffeehouse is open the third Saturday of each month—September through June—at 7 p.m. The suggested donation for admission is \$10.

After “splitting the door” with performing artists and providing support to the UU Church of Saco & Biddeford, coffeehouse proceeds from the 2009-2010 performance season will be used to purchase a sound system. To learn more about ticket packages or for the list of upcoming performers, visit [www.sacocoffeehouse.com](http://www.sacocoffeehouse.com).

## Help Wanted

### Save the Environment, Save Money –

#### Order Your Inside Storm Windows NOW!

The Green Committee would like to hear from all church members who might benefit from having economical removable/reusable inside storm windows in their house. These double pane thermal window panels simply push into the window frame with foam insulation around the edges.

They triple the insulation factor of a single pane window, and block all air movement through it. The estimated savings in fuel cost for a single pane window is \$4 to \$10 per square foot of window per heating season.

If you are interested in getting windows for your house, the time to order them is now. This will allow us to plan the fall work days. We ask that recipients help out with the making of the windows. The cost of a window depends on the size. We think a fair value of a typical sized window is around \$20 and request that you make a donation up to that value depending on your ability to pay. Money received will be used to cover the cost of materials for windows both for homes and for the church. We would like to help everyone who can benefit from these windows reduce their energy consumption. For more information or to order windows please contact Mogens R.

– Green Committee

### Holiday Fest Welcomes Helpers

That's right, we renamed the Holiday Fair! Thank you to all those who have come to our organizational meetings.

We need more folks to work on some of our venues – luncheon (Someone suggested the Men's Group might take this on. Thayer ???), banker, and clean up. Most of our venues have at least one person signed up to work on them. Remember, "You are not alone;" we all get together on this wonderful fundraiser and community event.

A big hug goes to the 13-and-counting congregational responders to our request for art donations. We will be asking our extended family of artists to donate, too. Looking forward to hearing from others who want to join this new adventure.

Sign up sheet is in the hall outside the restrooms. Hope we see your name on it soon.

– Jean H, Anne D, Nancy K – your Holiday Fest contacts

### Next Bottle Drive is Oct. 4!

Gather up your rinsed, redeemable bottles & cans and bring them with you to church on the 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of every month. Whether you have just a few bottles or bags full of them we will gladly turn them into cash for the general church fund. We are averaging about \$40 a month!

The Membership Committee redeems the bottles through "CLYNK" at all the local Hannaford grocery stores. See Sonja G. to get required CLYNK bags. You are welcome to drop off your own bottles *provided* you use their specially marked (with our bar code) green bags.

Thanks for your help!

– Membership/Welcoming Committee

### Auction Informational Meeting – Oct. 18

Last February's Auction was fun and a big success, raising over \$6,500!

The 2010 Auction is scheduled for the evening of Friday, Feb. 26.

Join last year's Auction chair, Marilyn G, for an informational meeting at 11:30 AM in the Parlor. We'll cover what the event entails, the role of the Auction chair, committee volunteer opportunities and how you can get involved. This is wonderful way for our church to reach out into the community, to meet new people, to "host" an entertaining evening and be a part of raising vital funds. All kinds of skills and talents are needed to make the event a success – event planning, graphic design, marketing, publicity, solicitation of auction items, merchandising, writing and more. Come join us!

If you are unable to attend the meeting but would like more information contact Marilyn G.

– Auction Team

### Prayer Shawl Making Oct. 20

The new Prayer Shawl Ministry will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, Oct. 21, from 6:30 to 8:30 PM in the Parlor at church. Please join us – no experience required. All are welcome to knit, crochet, and create comfort shawls for those in need. Please call Catherine G. for more information, patterns, or materials list.

– Prayer Shawl Ministry

## Events

### International Day of Climate Action – Oct. 24

UU congregations are being encouraged to participate on Oct. 24 in the International Day of Climate Action. This is a global call to action to put our world on course to get the atmospheric concentration of CO2 back to 350 parts per million (we are currently at 390 ppm). Two years ago, after leading climatologists observed rapid ice melt in the Arctic and other frightening signs of climate change, they issued a series of studies showing that the planet faces a “tipping point” of both human and natural disaster if atmospheric concentrations of CO2 remain above 350 parts per million.

Events are being planned around the world. Each event will include an action that incorporates the number 350.

The Green Committee plans to participate on Oct. 24 in two ways: First, we will continue making inside storm windows in the morning at 9 AM. Our goal is to complete our second 350 sq. ft. of windows. In the evening at 7 PM we will be showing the film “RENEWAL: Stories from America’s Religious-Environmental Movement.” This is an excellent documentary about various religious groups becoming caretakers of the Earth.

Please plan to come and see RENEWAL on Saturday, Oct. 24, and bring your friends and neighbors. The movie is appropriate for people of all faiths.

– Green Committee

### For Your Security

Because *The Messenger* circulates by e-mail to our members and friends, and is available on-line through our website, the Board of Trustees has approved security policies. Last names do not appear, only the first initial of the last name. We do not publish individual e-mail addresses or telephone numbers.

We welcome the participation of members and friends in all church activities and programs, except those specifically indicated as “closed.”

Please contact the church office at 282-0062 or [uuchurch@gwi.net](mailto:uuchurch@gwi.net) if you would like to get in touch with anyone named in *The Messenger*. We will be pleased to assist.

Please feel free to call or e-mail our minister, Rev. David W. Chandler, at the office or his home.

– Board of Trustees

## Classifieds

### Cape’s End

**It’s not too late to make plans for summer 2009!** A roomy, sunlit cottage on the southern tip of Southport Island in the Boothbay Harbor region. Partial water views, large deck. With two bedrooms (one queen bed, one double bed), one bath with shower, living room with plenty of comfy seating, and a fully equipped kitchen. Includes a brick patio out back with a gas grill. Weekly rentals are available June through September for \$700 in June and September and \$800 in July and August.

Call Anne and Conrad Cyr at 929-4478, email us at [conann@roadrunner.com](mailto:conann@roadrunner.com), or check out the views at [cyberrental.com](http://cyberrental.com) (Southport, Maine).

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Conrad Cyr:590-1445

## Business

10:47 AM

09/03/09

Accrual Basis

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford**  
**FY09-10: Budget vs. Actual**  
 July through August 2009

	Jul - Aug 09	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	7,885	11,700	(3,815)	67%
002 RENTAL INCOME	2,338	1,970	368	119%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	326	0	326	100%
004 OTHER INCOME	4,300	4,000	300	108%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>14,849</b>	<b>17,670</b>	<b>(2,821)</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
101 STAFFING	11,084	11,848	(764)	94%
102 MISSION	0	1,491	(1,491)	0%
103 OPERATIONS	3,352	2,384	968	141%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	593	525	68	113%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	725	1,013	(288)	72%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>15,754</b>	<b>17,261</b>	<b>(1,507)</b>	<b>91%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(906)</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>(1,314)</b>	<b>(222)%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>(906)</b>	<b>409</b>	<b>(1,314)</b>	<b>(222)%</b>

## SUNDAY WORSHIP SUPPORT OCTOBER 2009

DATE	Coffee Hour Set Up	Coffee Hour Food	Flowers	Ushers
<b>Oct 4</b>	John R Laura S	Mae B Connie/Denis N	Mae B	Donna B Betsey P
<b>Oct 11</b>	Jane H Caryl E	Caryl E Jane H Pat C	Masa K/Bond P	Donna //Mogens R
<b>Oct 18</b>	Tom M Anne D	Tom M John R Laura S	Jeannine W	Joan/Guy F
<b>Oct 25</b>	Donnie/Carl S	Donnie/Carl S Eliz F	Rhonda M	Joyce R Richard B

## Church Info

Want to find out more about our church? Thinking about becoming a member?

### To learn more about our congregation:

Please speak to Rev. David W. Chandler after Sunday services. He is also available at church from Noon to 3:00 PM, Monday – Wednesday. Please call ahead. Other times can be arranged. David's email is [dchandler@uuma.org](mailto:dchandler@uuma.org).

### To learn more about our faith and practice:

Various aspects of Unitarian Universalism are explained in brochures kept in a rack in the front hall. You are welcome to take these home. You are also welcome to talk with our minister and with any member of our congregation.

### Our Church:

We are a voluntary association of those committed to this special religious community. We share common values, but we do not require or expect conformity to any specific religious beliefs. We welcome each person's spiritual exploration and expression. Our web site, [www.uuchurchsaco-biddeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsaco-biddeford.com), contains more information on the traditions, activities and people of our church. Our Membership Committee is identified before every Sunday service and will be pleased to assist you.

### Our Membership:

Those who sign the Membership Book agree to sustain our church through continuing contributions of time, effort and financial support. All members are part of the non-profit corporation that owns the church, and they govern it through democratic process in which each one is entitled to be heard. Members elect a Board of Trustees and must also approve the "call" of a minister to our pulpit.

By participating in our worship, events and activities, you'll get a sense of how this congregation might work in your life, and you in the life of the congregation. As you discover the privileges and responsibilities of membership, we recommend that you take the time to,

- Talk with our minister about your spiritual growth.
- Attend a Welcoming Sunday to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our church's history and traditions.
- Decide your financial commitment to this church community.

**When you're ready, sign the Membership Book!**

### Contacting Our Minister

I am in the office on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday afternoons from Noon to 3 PM . Call to make an appointment or just stop by. Call if you have a pastoral emergency. My home phone is 602-4094. My cell phone is 484-252-1044. Both numbers will take a message, and the cell phone is confidential. My "mailbox" on the church phone (282-0062) is protected by a password so any message is kept confidential. You are welcome to contact me by e-mail at the church, [uuchurch@zwi.net](mailto:uuchurch@zwi.net). If you wish to communicate in confidence, please use my personal e-mail, [dchandler@uuma.org](mailto:dchandler@uuma.org).

I am of course delighted to speak to you any Sunday at church!

– David

### Electronic Giving Now Available!

Would you find it helpful to have your pledge automatically transferred from your bank account? Maybe a credit/debit card is a better option for you. UUCSB now offers Electronic Giving options for those who wish to have contributions transferred electronically to the church's account. If you travel, this is particularly helpful in keeping your pledges up to date. Contact Brian in the church office for more details.

– Finance Committee

