



December 2009

# The Messenger

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

www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com

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## Sunday Happenings

8:30 am: Choir rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship

10:00 am: RE

## Services

### World AIDS Day

#### Tuesday, Dec. 1 at 7 PM

Rev. Chandler will lead worship for this annual interfaith community service, coordinated with the Frannie Peabody Center. Our Choir will be featured, along with other special music, local clergy and guest speakers. We will commemorate family and friends with a Litany of Remembrance. All are welcome. **Refreshments after.**

### Dec. 6 New Member Sunday

#### Rev. David W. Chandler

We will officially recognize and welcome those who have joined our church in recent months. We will also celebrate our annual Denominational Sunday with a special offering and enrollment in our District's Chalice Lighters program. **Church School.**

### Dec. 13 Special Guest: Rev. Carol E. Strecker

Rev. Strecker is minister of the First Parish UU Church in Kennebunk, where she was called in 2003. Her Master of Divinity degree is from Episcopal Divinity School. We are delighted to have her with us. **Church School.**

### Dec. 20 Holiday Festival

#### Rev. Chandler, Ellie Rolnick

Join us in Whoville; don't be a Grinch.

Make room for Christmas, if only a pinch!

Come enjoy the season – joyful, solemn, festive and

fun. Our children are featured – and you can join in a “pickup pageant,” carols, stories and holiday magic. **All-Ages Service.**

### Dec. 21 at 7 PM The Winter Solstice

#### Worship Committee, Rev. Chandler

Join us in the Parish Hall to celebrate the passage of the seasons. We will have Calling the Directions, special music and rituals to honor the earth and welcome back “the unconquered sun.” Adults and older children are invited to take part. **Bonfire, too.**

### Dec. 24 at 5 PM Christmas Eve

#### Rev. David W. Chandler

Our service will again be an hour of candlelight worship for all ages. It will include special music from our Choir, carol singing, and holiday story telling. Join us for the voices of children and adults, and a full helping of seasonal joy. **Child care provided.**

### Dec. 27 Are We Happy, Yet?

#### Rev. David W. Chandler

The end of the holiday season slumps toward deep winter: a time for reflection and maybe a little regret. There are good reasons not to let ourselves feel we are somehow falling short – especially here in our congregational community. **No Church School.**

## The Parson's Packet

This time of year, it can be hard to get out of your own way. There is this thing, and there is that thing, and there is every other darn thing – all of which have to be done yesterday, if not sooner. This is why it is called the Holiday Season.

The best advice is always the same: Pick a few really meaningful things, and take your time about them. Get the most out of what you do by sticking mostly to what you really enjoy. It almost doesn't matter what it is.

Here are some events at church this month – not so you can do them all, but so you can pick the things you especially like.

You might especially like the New Year's Eve celebrations hosted by church members over the past couple of years. Save the date – our Membership/Welcoming Committee is working out the details, but the party is on.

You might like our Christmas Eve all-ages service. Got you covered. Same date as last year, and the year before. Starts at 5 PM, features our Choir and organ music, carols and stories, "Silent Night" in the flickering candlelight, and goodies afterwards. All done in time to go off to dinner or put the kids to bed so you can finish assembling the presents – batteries not included.

Remember to bring poinsettias and other holiday decorations to adorn our Sanctuary for Christmas Eve, and don't forget to bring some cookies, too. These church traditions should always be part of our seasonal renewal.

Like big bonfires and Calling the Directions and standing around in the snow holding candles? Well – snow not guaranteed, but we will celebrate the Winter Solstice on Monday, Dec. 21 at 7 PM. We need at least a dozen readers for the various parts of our earth-based ritual – please let me know if you will be one. No rehearsal necessary.

Sunday, Dec. 20 will be our annual Holiday Worship. We are planning a "pick-up pageant" this year. This does not mean a parade of the new Ford F-150s, but a chance for everyone to play ox, lamb, Wise Person – or angel, for that matter. No rehearsal necessary. That makes at least two things you can just show up for and have some fun.

Here's a third: Ladies Night Out on Friday, Dec. 18. This is a potluck starting at 5 PM for all the women of the church. Other than bringing something to eat, all you have to do is bring yourself for lots of good company in the Parish Hall. I know you will also enjoy yourself that same weekend at our monthly coffeehouse on Saturday the 19<sup>th</sup>.

Sunday, Dec. 13, we will welcome Rev. Carol Strecker to our service. Carol has been minister of the First Parish UU Church in Kennebunk since 2003, and I hope you will take advantage of this opportunity to hear a fine preacher and worship leader.

Remember also our World AIDS Day Service for the whole community at 7 PM on Tuesday, Dec. 1.

See how easy that was? The entire holiday madness just vanished!

– Best wishes, David

## Music Notes

Choir: The choir will be rehearsing for Christmas Eve on December 6, 13 and 20 at 8:45 a.m. (possibly earlier - check the Friday flyer every week). If you're interested in singing with the choir just for the holidays, contact Ellie R., choir director. Rehearsals in January will be January 10<sup>th</sup> and 31<sup>st</sup>.

Check out the new Music Ministry bulletin board in the Parish Hall. Our music ministry extends beyond our Choir and includes the amazing organ music we hear every week from our organist, Paul Benya; special music by other members of our congregation; guest musicians; the occasional appearance of the UUCSB Spirit Band, the Saco Coffeehouse and our support of the Harbour Singers. If you play an instrument or would like to sing a solo or in a small group, sign up for special music on the bulletin board.

Holiday Pageant: Families and individuals needed to help us with our holiday pageant. There will be lots of singing and lots of fun. We need some simple make-shift costumes and people who are willing to do a reading or pretend to be a character or animal. Interested? Contact David ASAP.

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### Saco Coffeehouse

#### Vocalist and Folk Guitarist Vanessa Torres

**Saturday, December 19 @ 7 p.m.**

Inspiring, tender and passionate, vocalist and folk guitarist Vanessa Torres' songs and performance are soulful personal portraits rooted in universal themes of compassion and hope. Straddling the lyrical and the political folk music realms, Torres' songs are full of raw emotion and a strong call to justice. It is her unique blend of authenticity and grace that makes her music both refreshing and inspiring.

Torres has toured nationally and performed a number of showcases at the National Folk Alliance, as well as Austin's South by Southwest. She has opened for Erin Mckeown, Kaki King, Anais Mitchell, Ellis, Natalia Zukerman, Sarah Bettens and many other inspiring female artists, as well as played the side stage of the Women and Music Festival, where such notables as Toshi Reagon, Patty Griffin and Jill Sobule performed. She has released two albums—*Vanessa Torres* (2005) and *Witness* (2008).

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 and Biddeford, Coffeehouse proceeds from the 2009-2010 performance season will be used to purchase a sound system.

To learn more about ticket sales or for the list of upcoming performers, visit [www.sacocoffeehouse.com](http://www.sacocoffeehouse.com). If you would like to volunteer at the Saco Coffeehouse—marketing, poster distribution, baking, stage crew or greeting guests—contact Donna B.

## News and Events

### Next Bottle Drive is Dec. 6!

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

### Prayer Shawl Making Dec. 15

Our Prayer Shawl Ministry will hold its monthly meeting Tuesday, Dec. 15, 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

### Ladies Night Out - Dec. 18

This is an invitation to all women and other interested parties to a Holiday Celebration Dec. 18 at 5:00 PM, in the Parish Hall. The event replaces (as if it ever could) our annual Sigma Delta bash at Wormwood's. So get out your glad rags, jewels and such and join us for this celebration

of the Holiday Season.

This is a true pot luck. Bring what you feel like eating and we'll all share.

Beverages will be provided.

- Ladies of the Church

### One More Opportunity for Storm Windows

The Green Committee, with the help of the congregation, has been making economical removable/reusable inside storm windows. So far in the last two fall seasons we have completed 96 windows.

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 over a single pane window is \$4 to \$10 per square foot of window per heating season.

We will again be making windows on Saturday, Jan 16. If these windows could help you stay warm and save energy this winter, please place your order for windows by Jan. 5. For more information or to order windows please contact Mogens R.

- Green Committee

### Save the Date!

Spring Auction & Dinner

Friday, February 26, 2010

(Snow Date--Sat., Feb. 27)

## Classifieds

### C.J.'s Home Aid

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12:30 PM  
11/04/09  
Accrual Basis

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

	Jul - Oct 09	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
<b>Income</b>				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	13,138	24,940	(5,732)	77%
002 RENTAL INCOME	4,248	3,960	289	107%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	1,530	4,240	(2,710)	36%
004 OTHER INCOME	6,352	6,300	52	106%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>31,239</b>	<b>39,340</b>	<b>(7,801)</b>	<b>80%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
101 STAFFING	24,363	26,448	(2,085)	92%
102 MISSION	304	1,971	(1,667)	15%
103 OPERATIONS	2,911	4,522	(1,611)	64%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,075	1,350	25	102%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	1,435	1,722	(287)	83%
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>33,059</b>	<b>35,713</b>	<b>(5,624)</b>	<b>84%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>1,180</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>(2,177)</b>	<b>35%</b>
<b>Net Income</b>	<b>1,150</b>	<b>3,327</b>	<b>(2,177)</b>	<b>35%</b>

SUNDAY WORSHIP SUPPORT DECEMBER 2009

DATE	Coffee Hour Set Up	Coffee Hour Food	Flowers	Ushers
<b>Dec 6</b>	Sonja/ Matt G.	Rhonda M. Alicia / Carl F.	Sally C.	Wendy C. Anne D.
<b>Dec 13</b>	Catherine / Paul G.	Edite K. / Keith W. Myra / Charlie R.	Rose P.	Joyce R Richard B
<b>Dec 20</b>	Myra / Charlie R.	Jane F. Andrea / Dylan S.	Randa T.	Inga S.
<b>Dec 27</b>	Joan /Guy F.	Gina / Brad O. Veronica H.	Sue N.	Sonja / Matt G.

## Church Info

### 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@gwi.net](mailto:uuchurch@gwi.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

### 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

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.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.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!**

# December 2009

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 7:00pm: AIDS Service	2 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	3 6:00 pm: GO Saco	4	5
6 11:30 am: Green	7 4:30 pm: Bon Appetit 6:00 pm: Membership	8 6:30 pm: I Group	9 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers 7:00 pm: Finance	10 7:00 pm: GO Saco	11 5:30 pm: Private Event	12 8:00 am: Private Event
13	14 6:00 pm: Membership	15 6:30 pm: I Group 6:30 pm: Prayer Shawl	16 6:30 pm: Trustees 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	17 7:00 pm: GO Saco	18 5:00 pm: Ladies Night	19 5:00 pm: CH Set-up 7:00 pm: Coffeehouse
20 All Ages Service 11:30 am: Caring	21 7:00 pm: Solstice	22 6:30 pm: I Group	23 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	24 5:00 pm: Worship	25 Office Closed	26
27 Parnty Sunday 11:30 am: RE Team	28 7:00 pm: Com on Min.	29 6:30 pm: I Group	30	31 5:30 pm: New Year's party (off site)		