



March 2010

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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Sunday Happenings

8:30 am: Choir rehearsal
10:00 am: Worship
10:00 am: RE

Services

Mar. 7 Caring in Community

Caring Committee

A church congregation is more than the sum of its individuals. Our Caring Committee reminds us of the many ways we can and do meet pastoral needs of our members, and why we make this promise.

"Souper Sunday" brunch follows for all.

Church School.

Mar. 14 Commitment Sunday

Rev. David W. Chandler

This is the formal kick-off day for our Annual Pledge Drive to support UUUSB over the coming year. Together we celebrate our accomplishments and size up our challenges as a growing community. "Open to Possibility" is the homily theme.

Church School.

Mar. 21 Worry Carefully

Rev. David W. Chandler

Worrying in some way, shape or manner is a central focus of everyday life. There are good reasons why we should spend our energy on the authentic – the eternal human challenges – and let the rest pass by.

Who has time for small stuff?

Church School.

Mar. 28 One Step Forward

Rev. David W. Chandler

How is the future working out for you? Are you more serene, more focused, more loving than you were last year? Maybe it is our vast ambition that leaves us short in the end.

Maybe we would do better sneaking up on the life we want to have.

Church School.

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 We do not publish individual e-mail addresses or telephone numbers.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 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

The Parson's Packet

We could use a fresh coat of paint. Have you noticed? We could also use a new roof on the west (downtown) side of the Sanctuary – the side we didn't replace a couple of years ago.

I mean the church needs these items, not any of us – although I have once or twice in my lifetime been characterized as a few shingles shy of watertight.

Being watertight is critical for any building you expect to have around very long. Even a small amount of water coming in will inexorably destroy a structure. Wooden buildings are especially vulnerable. We have water coming in toward the front of the Sanctuary and also in the back, probably around the stump of the former bell tower where the flashing is in very bad condition. You can see the brown stains on the ceiling. The roof is also likely to need some repair before new shingles are applied

Our Building & Grounds Committee is looking at two bids for the roof work, and will send a recommendation to the Board of Trustees, which will in turn schedule a congregational vote on whether to proceed. Look for an announcement during March of a congregational meeting, and please plan to attend.

The painting is not something we are going to be able to put off much longer either. A wooden building with bad paint will also disintegrate quickly in our climate, between the harsh winters and the ocean air. We are going to have to repair both siding and trim before painting.

These projects will cost some money. Projects always do. Two points occur to me that seem particularly important.

The first is that we are very lucky. We have problems with our old New England church building as it nears its 200th anniversary, but they are far less daunting – and less expensive to overcome – than is the case in many churches. Our facilities are a manageable size, almost completely accessible, and structurally in pretty good shape. Hard as it must have been, the church fathers and mothers made the right choice 45 years ago when they kept this building and sold the Universalist Church in Biddeford.

We have in addition made wonderful improvements in recent years, refurbishing the Sanctuary, modernizing the bathrooms, adding emergency lighting and exit signs, and many other items. Dedicated volunteers accomplished much of this work at relatively low cost with their expertise and effort. They also keep our facilities in good shape week by week.

Here's our other advantage: We have no mortgage debt. Thousands of churches across America are in the same fix as homeowners. We have dodged that bullet, and we enjoy the luxury of a fully functional church largely paid for by the generosity of people decades ago. When we confront the expense of repairs, we need to remember we are getting a useable structure at far less than replacement cost.

We are also paying much less than renting – and of course, no rental will match the history and beauty of our own church. Our home and our future are both worth the investment.

– Best wishes, David

RE Update from Sarah

Hello from Religious Education! It has been exciting getting to know so many great kids and seeing familiar faces each week. I am still trying to learn everybody's names (but the name tags really help)!

We have had an active February with the Small Group Ministry teaching a multi-age group on 2/7/10. Thank you Donna B. and Donna R. for preparing a wonderful lesson on similarities and differences with an art activity to go with it.

Valentine's Day was another fun day at the RE Program, with younger kids and older kids working together to make Valentines. We read stories and talked about tangible vs. intangible gifts.

There was also Church School on the 21 and 28 – where did the month go?

We are still looking for volunteer helpers to assist in the classrooms on a rotating schedule. If you are interested in being added to the list, please feel free to get in touch. I also welcome you to send along any ideas that you might have for kid-friendly events. I appreciate your feedback!

– Sarah Reidy, DRE

jsw@maine.rr.com

Green tip of the Month – Buy Local:

When you buy locally it not only helps out Maine businesses, but also reduces the transportation involved with importing products, saving money and energy. Look for local produce and other products made in Maine at your local grocery store chain. Farm stands and farmers' markets are also great options when the weather gets nice!

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, uu-church@zwi.net. If you wish to communicate in confidence, please use my personal e-mail, dchandler@uuma.org.

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

– David

Music Notes

...from Ellie R., Choir Director

Choir: Calling all Singers (high school age and above). All are welcome who love to sing! We are currently rehearsing music for Easter and other spring services.

Rehearsals begin at **8:30** (set-up and chit-chat) with warm-ups starting promptly at 8:45. We rehearse until 9:45. Our upcoming rehearsal schedule includes: February 28, March 7, 14, 21 and 28. We are singing in church on February 28 and twice in March.

Music Ministry: Check out the Music Ministry bulletin board in the Parish Hall for the latest on how we weave music into our congregational life.

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 sign up on the sheet on the Music Ministry bulletin board. Looking for a small group to sing with, notify Jeannine W. or Ellie R. They may be able to hook you up with other singers for a small group.

Harbour Singers: The Harbour Singers, hospice choir of Southern Maine (and a Social Action project of our church) has been in full swing for over a year. We rehearse every Wednesday from 7-9 p.m. in the Parish Hall. Our repertoire continues to grow and we are now doing regular bedside sings at the Gosnell House in Scarborough and other venues thanks to recommendations from local hospice organizations.

We are still accepting new members. If you are interested in joining us or know of someone else who is, please contact me or Peggy B. for more details and to register. If you know of someone who needs our services, please call 286-7678. Check out our website at www.harboursingers.org for more information.

Music Ministry Committee: We are currently seeking additional members to help with our music ministry. No musical talent necessary – just a desire to help our programs flourish. Interested? Please contact Jeannine W. or Ellie R.

Weather Emergencies

Sunday services will normally be held regardless of the weather, but please use good judgment when it may not be safe for you to travel to church.

If a Sunday service will NOT be held, the decision will be made by 8 AM. We will e-mail members and friends and phone those who do not have e-mail. We will notify TV and MaineToday.com.

Please check e-mail or call the office before coming to any church event in severe weather. Programs and meetings are much more likely than services to be cancelled.

News and Events

Small Group Ministry – Sign up for new sessions starting in March

Who We Are:

Small Group Ministry is a network of small groups that strengthen the congregation by drawing us into mutual ministry

What We Offer:

- ◆ In small groups of people we are supported to:
- ◆ Develop deeper connections and a caring community within the church.
- ◆ Explore and be encouraged on our spiritual paths.
- ◆ Serve our greater community.

If a committed small group that meets regularly to explore the meaning and practice of spiritual connection is what you seek, it's time to sign up for this session!

Sessions:

Meetings: twice monthly, 1-2 hours, at church or participants' homes. Groups are currently meeting on Monday evening at 6:00 pm and Thursday evening at 6:30 pm. These groups will be open at the beginning of March for the next series of sessions, through mid-June.

To join one of these or another group, fill out a registration form (download from the church web site or pick one up from the church office) or contact:

Ron F., Donna R., Randa T.

Church Office: 207-282-0062

Group assignments:

Rev. Chandler will make group assignments with consideration to your preferences for days/times. If you are new to the church or have no prior SGM experience he may meet with you to find the best match.

Facilitators:

Training and support will be ongoing for all participating facilitators on a monthly basis. If you have past Small Group Ministry experience and/or want to ensure the viability of this powerful and important experience by learning to be a facilitator or co-facilitator, please let Donna R. or Rev. Chandler know.

Want to know more?

- ◆ Talk to one of us: Wendy C., Ron F., Elizabeth F., Donna R., or Randa T.,
- ◆ Check out the Small Group Ministry section of our church web page <http://www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com/smallgroup.html>
- ◆ Look for the yellow **Small Group Ministry** brochure for more details.

– SGM Facilitators

Classifieds

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Thayer McCain, OTR/L
www.ThrivingAtHome.com

Thriving HOME 571-8148

*News and Events continued . . .***Bread & Bones Plays Saco Coffeehouse**

A Vermont-based acoustic trio, Bread and Bones will play Saco Coffeehouse on Saturday evening, March 20. In addition to original music, the group performs traditional songs from America and the British Isles, songs by other songwriters and a few jazz standards. Their CD, *I Know Stories* was named Vermont's Best Traditional Album of 2008. The evening begins with "open mic" at 7 p.m.; Bread and Bones goes on at 8 p.m. Comprised of Richard Ruane, Beth Duquette and Mitch Barron, Bread and Bones' sound is characterized by imaginative two- and three-part harmonies over solid guitar and bass work. Richard's warm baritone voice blends with Beth's expressive alto. Mitch adds his wonderful presence on fretless, fretted and upright bass and vocals. Richard also plays guitar, ukulele, mandolin and banjo. Members of the group are veterans of a number of different bands, including Wild Branch Bluegrass Band, Feast or Famine, Womensing, Sundog, The Hibernators, The Michelle Fay Band, Trout and The Don Sheldon Trio.

The Coffeehouse is located in the Parish Hall at the UU Church. The suggested donation is \$10. After "splitting the door" with performing artists and providing support to the Church, Coffeehouse proceeds from the 2009-2010 performance season will be used to purchase a sound system that can be used more widely by the Church community.

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. For additional information about the 2010 Saco Coffeehouse performance schedule, visit www.sacocoffeehouse.com. To learn more about volunteer opportunities, contact Donna B.

– Coffee House Committee

Special Thanks to Auction Donors

We are grateful to the following, who helped make our "Spring for Community" Auction a success. Please be sure to thank them when you do business in their establishments.

Sponsor

Saco & Biddeford Savings Institution

Patron

Saco Valley Credit Union

Supporters

Patriot Subaru, Prime Motor Group, Sam's Place

Friends

Mountain Energy, People's Choice Credit Union, Wendy Crowell

Others

Dupuis Hardware, Joyce Rowland

– Auction Team

Next Bottle Drive is Mar. 7!

Gather up your rinsed, redeemable bottles & cans and bring them with you to church on the 1st 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

UNIVERSALIST CONVOCATION 2010

May 14-16, 2010

First Universalist Society of Rochester, NY

Keynote: The Rev. Mark Morrison-Reed, "Dragged Kicking and Screaming to Heaven"

For more information please go to nmuc.org/Convo

March into Springtime – March 19th

Our second Ladies' Potluck Supper of the year will take place in the Parish Hall on Friday, Mar. 19.

We will gather at 5:30 PM. . . buffet @ 6:00 PM.

Good company, good food, good fun!

Dinner will be followed by a rousing competition...New England Trivia...test your knowledge...all women of the church are welcome...coffee, tea and soft drinks provided.

Be there or be square!

11:25 AM
02/03/10
Accrual Basis

Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford
FY09-10: Budget vs. Actual
July 2009 through January 2010

	Jul '09 - Jan 10	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
Income				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	37,004	44,750	(7,746)	83%
002 RENTAL INCOME	7,188	6,690	498	107%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	6,151	5,745	406	107%
004 OTHER INCOME	9,053	10,100	(1,047)	90%
Total Income	59,396	67,285	(7,889)	88%
Expense				
101 STAFFING	46,910	48,349	(1,438)	97%
102 MISSION	1,002	2,966	(1,964)	34%
103 OPERATIONS	8,228	10,660	(2,432)	77%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,667	1,838	(171)	91%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	2,277	2,534	(257)	90%
Total Expense	60,085	66,347	(6,262)	91%
Net Ordinary Income	(689)	938	(1,627)	(73)%
Net Income	(689)	938	(1,627)	(73)%

SUNDAY WORSHIP SUPPORT FEBRUARY 2010

DATE	Coffee Hour Set Up	Coffee Hour Food	Flowers	Ushers
Mar. 7	Souper Sunday	Souper Sunday	Donna & Mogens R.	Donna & Mogens R.
Mar. 14	Laura S. John R.	Rose P. Peggy B. Jamie C. Mike B.	Edite K.	Jill A. Wendy C.
Mar. 21	Myra & Charlie R.	Dick S. Thayer M. Shirley & Hal S.	Anne & Conrad C.	Jane F. Joan G.
Mar. 28	Sonja & Matt G.	Mae B. Carol C. Pat P.	Nancy K.	Elizabeth F. Jill H.

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.

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.uuchurchsac-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!

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

March 2010

	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1	2	3	4	5	6
		4:30 pm: Bon Appetit	6:30 pm: I Group	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	6:15 pm: SGM 7:00 pm: GO Saco	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbohydrates	
	7	8	9	10	11	12	13
11:00 am: Souper Sunday 11:30 am: Green	6:00 pm: SGM	6:30 pm: I Group 7:00 pm: Saco Bay Trails	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers 7:00 pm: Finance	7:00 pm: GO Saco	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbohydrates		
	14	15	16	17	18	19	20
	6:00 pm: Membership	6:30 pm: I Group 6:30 pm: Prayer Shawl	6:30 pm: Trustees 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	6:15 pm: SGM 7:00 pm: GO Saco	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbohydrates 4:30 pm: Ladies Potluck	5:00 pm: CH Set-up 7:00 pm: Coffeehouse	
	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
11:30 am: Caring	6:00 pm: SGM 7:00 pm: Corn on Min.	6:30 pm: I Group	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: GO Saco	10:00 am: Coffee & Carbohydrates		
	28	29	30	31			
Partry Sunday		6:30 pm: I Group	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers				