



February 2016

# The Messenger

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

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### February 7 The Spirit of Generosity

Rev. Sue Gabrielson and the UUCSB Choir

As we anticipate our annual stewardship campaign we will reflect on what it means to be generous. The choir will be singing.

Church School.

### February 14 At the End of the Rainbow

Canvass Committee

This is our annual canvass kick off Sunday. Our theme this year is "At the End of the Rainbow". Expect participation from many of our members and friends. A lively and moving (not as far as Kansas) experience is planned.

Church School.

### February 21 Jesus of Our Hearts and Minds

Rev. Sue Gabrielson

As we enter into the holiest time of year in the Christian tradition we will reflect on our ideas, knowledge and relationship with Jesus. The choir will be singing.

Church School.

### February 28 An Early History of Sanford UU Church

Helen Cane

Helen Kane, historian at Sanford UU Church, will narrate the early history of a church much younger than our own, with which we share some surprising things in common.

Church School.

### Pay Your Pledge Automatically!

Annual pledges paid in regular installments help the Church's cash flow - and yours! You can set up an automatic debit from your bank directly to the Church account - no checks or mailing hassles. You may also use a credit or debit card for pledge payments. These too can be set up ahead of time to transfer automatically an amount you choose on the date you select. These Electronic Giving options can help you manage monthly expenses and help the Church have funds available regularly to meet our payroll and other bills.

Contact Brian in the Church office to set up a payment plan. Automatic payment arrangements are kept confidential.

- Finance Committee

### Sunday Happenings

8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship

11:00 am: Join us for Coffee!

## From Our President

Believe it or not, I've actually been enjoying winter, in spite of icy sidewalks. I strapped on my shiny new LL Bean snowshoes, and have taken some very peaceful and beautiful walks in the woods. And it's quite a workout!

Are you familiar with "Share the Plate"? It's a program that helps churches support organizations whose missions are consistent with the churches' missions. Rev Sue and the board have been discussing this idea, and I'm pleased to announce that we will be starting a program of our own on the third Sunday in February, and on the third Sunday of each month throughout the church year.

Here's how it will work – Each month, a committee of church members will recommend an organization, and will submit that recommendation to the board. Once the board has approved it, information about the organization will be shared with the congregation via the Messenger and through Sunday announcements. Half of the plate offering from the third Sunday will then be donated to the selected organization. What a wonderful way for us to reach out to the wider community!

If you have organization that you would like the committee to consider, please feel free to contact me.

Winter's been lovely, but I look forward to the first day that I'll need my sunglasses when I drive home from work...

**Niki**

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## Rev. Sue's Incidental Inspiration

*For everyone who has ever experienced the loss of a pet*

### Reminders of a Dog Now Gone - Ken Nye

We no longer have dog-hair tumbleweeds blowing along the surface of the hardwood floors or lurking in corners and crevasses of wall and baseboard.

But occasionally, cleaning an out-of-the-way closet, I come across another dainty phantom-like wisp of golden retriever under down that reminds me of him.

Waxing the bathroom floor, I see the chewed edges of the baseboard where he experimented with wood trim as a way to pass the time until we got home.

Out in the garage, looking for the plumber's snake with which to probe the septic line, I confront at eye level his choke-chain collar with the license tag hanging from a nail in one of the ceiling joists. It seems to be out of place, hanging from a nail. It belongs around his neck.

I wonder what the point is now of a car with a sunroof. No big golden retriever to stand on the center console and make the world smile.

Rather than making me sad, though, these unexpected encounters with a dog now gone warm my mood, soften any edges clinging to thoughts and attitudes of the moment, much in the same way he leveled my emotions and put a smile on living. He is still here and there, still a presence in my heart.

## Minister's Musings-February

Grace, Ellie and I (and Penny, our dog) would like to thank everyone who helped make our re-entry from sabbatical soft and smooth. We are so appreciative of all of the support we have felt throughout our personal transitions and around our healing time away in Costa Rica. I was thoroughly impressed (although not surprised, I know you are all amazing) at how beautifully things ran while we were away and by all the positive feedback I have received about worship and all aspects of church life. This is true at both the Sanford and the Saco congregations. I am thrilled to be returning to full time ministry, with two locations. I suspect that we will be continuing to find rich ways to collaborate and to blossom even more as we pool our resources.

Some details:

**Office Hours:** Generally, I will be in Saco all day on Wednesdays (8:30-5:30) and in Sanford all day on Thursdays (same times). If you want to just stop in, I would love to see you, BUT if you definitely want to spend some time with me, please call or email ahead of time, since there are always things that come up that may take me away or occupy my time. I am also available lots of other times and will surely be in both churches on other days of the week, so just let me know if you need an appointment or would like me at one of your committee meetings, etc.

**Worship:** Most of the year I will be in the pulpit in Saco/Biddeford on the first and third Sundays of the month and in Sanford on the 2nd and 4th. Of course there are a few times that this gets all mixed up, so please look at the websites or newsletters if you want to know where I will be preaching. I will be in both places on Easter, with special times and meals planned in each location.

**New collaborations and some changes:** As I figure out how to best serve both congregations and how we can take advantage of the fullness of ministry, you may notice some small changes. For example, in Sanford we will be reducing out newsletter to once a month. This will now correspond with UUCSBs newsletter schedule. In addition, you can expect to see the church's activities posted in both newsletters. Also, PLEASE KNOW that you are welcome AND ENCOURAGED to attend each other's church activities.. For example, everyone is warmly welcome to the book group meeting in Sanford which includes a potluck meal on the last Friday of the month January 29th at 6:00 pm. And, everyone who is interested in volunteering at the non-food pantry in Sanford, "The Corner Cupboard", is welcome (please let me know).

And speaking of newsletters, we try to make them both informative and inspiring. In addition to the Incidental Inspiration I choose each month, also look for reflections from our worship associates and brief inspirational quotes from a good friend of mine, Bhante, who is a Buddhist monk.

There are so many exciting things happening at church right, I can't wait to be back in the middle of all of it with you! See you in church.

Rev. Sue

### **Please Wear Your Nametag**

We're very fortunate to have many new people attending our church. 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.

The Membership/Welcoming Committee has designed a new nametag board to hold clip-on tags, so you do not have to pin tags through your clothing. There is a basket next to the door so it will be easier to drop your nametag before leaving. If you need a new nametag, please see the signup sheet on the nametag board.

## News and Events

### B&G 411

Here's some up dated information from B&G. Roger T. Paneck, architect, has finished his preliminary review of our building needs. The Board of Trustees has engaged Mr. Paneck to do cost estimates and final drawings relative to the identified needs. We expect these to be available in a month or so.

In the meantime, Carlo and I have been gathering preliminary information about funding sources for the recommended structural work. As soon as we get all the recommendations and costs, you will be invited to discuss plans and directions. So stay tuned.

If you want to review the initial report and drawings, please contact me or the church office.

Anne Dobson

### Bowling for Buddies!



Beat the winter blues and meet some cool dudes! RE friends and family invite you to come to Vacationland Bowling on February 21 at 1pm to laugh, play and get to know each other better. All spectators and bowlers are welcome. Contact Randa T (randat@gwi.net) for more information or to RSVP.

### CLYNK

Please remember to help UUCSB by returning your bottles and cans through the CLYNK service at Hannaford. Green bags may be picked up at the welcome table when you come to church on Sundays. Please remember that Market Basket labeled bottles and cans are not accepted by CLYNK.

### BOT Notice

Board of Trustees agendas are posted one week prior to the meetings. Approved Board minutes are also posted. You can find these items on the bulletin board nearest the Sanctuary.

### Memoirs Group

The next Memoirs Writing group series will start on Thursday morning, March 10, meeting from 9:30 to 11.00, and run for 6 weeks. See sign up sheet on wall outside the office.

More information? Call Nancy Knights at 282- 5249.

### Sledding



Several of our kids and families have enjoying sledding together at Rotary Park in Biddeford. Maybe that's something you also enjoy or used to enjoy or would like to try. When the mood strikes you or if you want to be invited the next time someone gets a hankering to play in the snow, check in with an RE kid or parent or Randa T. during Coffee Hour to find some sledding pals.

### Fellowship Dinner

As part of our canvas kick off this year, UUCSB is having a Fellowship Dinner. A Fellowship Dinner is just like a Circle Dinner, except that all of the dinners will be at the church. Each table will be hosted by a member of the Board of Trustees, who will call/email the people assigned to their table to coordinate which part of the dinner they will bring. There will be entertainment and pledge cards available. I will be putting up a sign-up sheet shortly. It will be a fun evening, so please plan to attend and sign the sign-up sheet. If you have any questions, please ask me or any member of the board.

Thank you,  
Wendy

### Faith In Action: Film and Discussion Series

Race: The Power of an Illusion film showing and discussion- Sundays February 28, March 6, March 13 at 3:00-4:30pm in Parish Hall

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement and discussions and presentations around the MLK holiday, the newly revived Faith In Action Committee met to explore action avenues. We have decided to purchase the film and offer public showings of this 3-part PBS documentary that explores what we think we know about race.

Please join us for any or all segments of this eye-opening reflection on race. Bring a friend!

### Clothing Exchange

Our annual clothing exchange will take place on Saturday, March 19th, from 9:00 - NOON in the Parish Hall. Please go through your closets and bring in all clean, gently worn clothing that you no longer have a need for. Then start shopping! For \$5 a bag, you can go home with a whole new wardrobe, which we take great delight in showing off in church the next day. All unsold clothing will be taken to Goodwill. Please contact Anne C. or Anne D. if you would be willing to help run this fun fundraiser for our beloved church.

## News and Events

### Confused by the Committee on Ministries?

If so, you are not alone. You may wonder:

- ⇒ What the committee does,
- ⇒ Why this committee is needed,
- ⇒ If this committee exists to support the minister,
- ⇒ What is meant by "ministries,"
- ⇒ How conflicts are resolved.



The purpose of this committee is to attend to the Ministries of the Church, making sure that all support our Church Mission and Covenant. The CoM observes and listens. It exists to promote a healthy environment for lay leadership and minister in serving the congregation. It seeks to understand, support, assess, and advocate for vigorous and wholesome Ministries within the Church community. When needed, it mediates internal conflicts.

**Ministries:** The term includes Worship, RE, Music, Membership, Caring, Social Justice, and more. All that we do in this Church to support our Mission and Covenant is Ministry - leading services, raising funds, serving on the Board or committees, planning events, singing in the choir, teaching our children, painting the Sanctuary, scrubbing the bathrooms.

**Supporting the Minister:** It is the Ministerial Relations Committee - not the Committee on Ministries - that supports the minister. (Jim B. and a couple of other members of the Church will be on that committee to support Sue.) Having a separate committee for support of the minister allows the CoM to be impartial in relation to all of our ministries.

**Conflicts:** The CoM has created a pathway that members are encouraged to use to resolve conflicts. If there are issues of safety or if members are unable to find resolution, the CoM may step in to mediate. Read our brochure to learn more about our committee and its process.

**Who are we:** CoM members can be identified by our yellow nametags. Talk to us. We welcome your questions, observations, and thoughts. We are Paul C., Dorinne S., Jane H., Odette D., and Donna B.

### Become a Hospice of Southern Maine Volunteer

We are currently accepting applications for our spring training which begins in March. If you are interested in becoming a hospice volunteer, and would like more information, please contact our volunteer department. You may also visit [www.hospiceofsouthernmaine.org](http://www.hospiceofsouthernmaine.org) and click on Volunteering. Please inquire asap, as training sessions fill quickly.

Phone: (207)289-3652 Email: [volunteer@hospiceofsouthernmaine.org](mailto:volunteer@hospiceofsouthernmaine.org)

Volunteers help form the heart of hospice. Their dedication and compassionate care support the well-being of our patients and their families in immeasurable ways. Volunteers are needed in your community. Trained hospice volunteers provide an average of 3-4 hours per week of non-medical assistance and support to patients and families, including the following:

- Emotional support to patients and caregivers
- Respite care to allow caregivers time to themselves
- Assistance with light household chores, light meal prep or family concerns
- Help with errands

### Storm Closings

It is getting to be that time of year, folks. In the event of bad weather, the board president and vice president will make the decision to cancel Sunday services by 7:30 a.m. The church administrator will post the cancellation on television (WCSH-6, WMTW-8 and WGME-13) as well as on the church voice mail message. An e-mail message will also be sent out from the church office if possible. As always, please use your own best judgement for safety.

## Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford FY15-16 Operating Budget vs. Actual YTD

July–December 2015

	<u>Jul - Dec 15</u>	<u>Budget</u>	<u>\$ Over Budget</u>	<u>% of Budget</u>
<b>Ordinary Income/Expense</b>				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	29,164	31,470	(2,306)	93%
002 RENTAL INCOME	2,623	3,780	(1,157)	69%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	4,073	3,875	198	105%
004 OTHER INCOME	2,325	1,900	425	122%
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>38,186</b>	<b>41,025</b>	<b>(2,839)</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Gross Profit</b>	<b>38,186</b>	<b>41,025</b>	<b>(2,839)</b>	<b>93%</b>
<b>Expense</b>				
101 STAFFING	21,220	10,827	10,392	196%
102 MISSION	3,625	3,045	580	119%
103 OPERATIONS	10,026	11,380	(1,354)	88%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	1,207	1,600	(393)	75%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	3,601	3,654	(53)	99%
Hannaford Card Purchases	1,000			
<b>Total Expense</b>	<b>40,679</b>	<b>30,506</b>	<b>10,172</b>	<b>133%</b>
<b>Net Ordinary Income</b>	<b>(2,493)</b>	<b>10,519</b>	<b>(13,011)</b>	<b>(24)%</b>

**Greetings from the Treasurer,**

Account balances as of 11/28/2015 are as follows:

Checking	\$3,224.77
Accounts payable	\$534.84
Moulton Trust	\$2,598.21
Restricted Savings	\$22,172.34
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$118,789.28

Any questions, just call.

Sincerely, Wendy

**Morning Coffee With Bhante Sujatha**

For all the different troubles life presents, their ending result for us are all the same; we either accept them, or allow them to cause us suffering.

**B**usiness

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

**To learn more about our congregation:**

Please speak to any member or someone from the Membership- Welcoming Committee. Plan to attend a Sharing Your Spiritual Journey orientation.

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

Various aspects of Unitarian Universalism are explained in brochures kept in a rack as you enter the sanctuary. You are welcome to take these home. You can also talk with members 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. Web sites [www. uuchurchsacombiddeford.com](http://www.uuchurchsacombiddeford.com), or [www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org), contain more information on the traditions, activities and people of our church and association. Our Membership-Welcoming Committee is also willing 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:

- Attend a Sharing Your Spiritual Journey orientation offered by the Membership Committee to find out more about Unitarian Universalism and our church's history and traditions.
- Attend church for a while to get to know the community and think about whether you share in our common values and feel ready to make a commitment to the shared spiritual journey.
- Decide your financial and time commitment to this church community.

**When you're ready, speak to the chair of Membership or president about signing the Membership Book!**

# February 2016

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1	2	3	4	5	6
	11:00 am: Memorial 4:30 pm: Bon Appetit	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	6:30 pm: Finance 6:30 pm: COM 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: SMGM		
	7	8	9	10	11	13
<b>Bread Sunday</b> 11:15 am: Faith In Action 11:30 am: RE Committee	5:45 pm: Membership	7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	6:30 pm: Trustees 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: SMGM		
	14	15	16	17	18	19
11:15 am: Faith In Action		7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: SMGM		3:00 pm: Dinner
	21	22	23	24	25	26
<b>Bread / Food Pantry Sunday</b> 9:50 am: Morning Song 11:00 am: Congregation Q&A 11:15 am: Faith In Action		7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	7:00 pm: SMGM		
	28	29				
11:15 am: Faith In Action						