



October 2017

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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October 1

Blessing of the Animals Vicki Boucher & Religious Exploration

Bring a pet. Bring a picture of a pet. Today we will celebrate our traditional blessing of the animals. Pets will be welcome in the Sanctuary during the the service. Following the formal service, we will gather or pets and process to the park behind the church for our blessing ceremony. **Animals will be IN the sanctuary on the left side when facing the pulpit. All Ages Service.**

October 8

Freedom of the Pulpit Rev. Steve Cook

The first of two sermons on the distinctive Unitarian Universalist principle of "Freedom" that applies both to ministers and congregations, yet in somewhat different ways. **Church School.**

October 15

Be the Light – Practicing Love and Compassion in Dark Times Rev. Myra Robinson

Are you overwhelmed with the state of the world today? Contemplating just turning off all the bad news? Wondering how you can possibly make a difference? Don't despair! Your light is needed now more than ever. Come share a Sunday *nurturing the divine light within you ... (before the dark of winter comes).* **Church School.**

October 22

Freedom of the Pew Rev. Steve Cook

Our second sermon on "Freedom" in Unitarian Universalism. **Church School.**

October 29

Samhain Vicki Boucher & Earthen Spiral Community Coven

As the final of three Harvest celebrations, many pagan and earth based religions take this time to show respect for those who have passed on and reflect on the love and wisdom we have gleaned from them. Come celebrate the mysteries of life and death and discover how we cannot have either without the other. Please bring in photos and memorabilia of those passed by, both human and otherwise. Wisdom comes from many places. **Church School.**

Capital Campaign News

Did you know that we have some very important contributors who have donated their time and talent to our Capital Campaign?

Roger Panek, a semi-retired architect with world class credentials, volunteered over 40 hours of his time to evaluate our building needs. He visited us many times and submitted a report that has become the blue print for our structural work.

Maine Preservation has provided us with invaluable material relative to providers and funding sources for the work we would like to do.

Partners for Sacred Places, recognizing our past involvement in their training about raising money to keep our "sacred places" viable, has continued to consult with us and work with us in laying the ground work for and carrying out our campaign.

The Sanford UU Church attended the Partners for Sacred Places training at the same time that we did several years ago. They have supplied materials, instruction book updates and graciously answered all our pesky questions about how they organized and implemented their recent, successful capital campaign.

We are very thankful to these folks for their interest and fine work on our behalf.

Several of our members have made time and talent contributions as well. Some names are listed on the **Opening the Door to Our Future** board in the Parish Hall. Other folks have indicated their wish to donate in this way on the donor card that has been sent to our members and friends.

If you are wanting to make a contribution of time and talent to **Opening the Door to Our Future**; please contact Peter Marks, Betsey Pace or Anne Dobson. Check out the donor board just outside the sanctuary for a listing of gifts and donors. Please consider adding your name to those already on the board.



Sunday Happenings

8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal

10:00 am: Worship

Along the Way

Here are a couple of poems about hawks:

HAWKS

I loved seeing those hawks
 just now, how obliquely the sun gave tinge
 fleeting and flushed to steering feathers.
 Red-tailed we call these hunting creatures,
 though when close, not fifty feet above,
 they are buff and bland in the belly.
 Only astroke the curving air
 in afternoon light do some feathers flicker
 rouge enough to suggest that name to we
 who are the naming creatures.

A HAWK AT TWENTY YARDS

Has eyes
 of jewel blackness
 needs not
 our admiration.

I have never been a serious birder—no expeditions, no life lists—and only in latter years have come to a keener appreciation of these dinosaur descend-

ants found almost everywhere—ground and sky, wood and lake, ocean and desert, winter and summer. I happened to live for a time near a reserved area of ponds, woods and meadow crossed by very tall, high-voltage transmission lines. You couldn't design a better habitat for raptors and soon I came to recognize the little, hawk-formed apostrophes on the spars of the towers. They spent their time doing what raptors do, looking for things to eat at the interface of tall grass, trees and streams. They were also bold, perching at times in small trees if that's where they thought they could find a meal, and couldn't have cared less about the occasional human with binoculars leaning on a car roof at twenty yards, breathless with excitement at seeming to look directly into their enormous, hunter's eyes.

I also lived for a few years in Arlington Heights, Massachusetts, a densely populated suburb of greater Boston that borders Belmont and Cambridge. Thus, it is hardly a nature preserve, but many times saw a pair of red tailed hawks hunting over a patch of scrub bordering a ball field hard by busy Route 2, and more than once perched in a poplar bordering my backyard, smack in the middle of fifty homes. They hardly seemed bothered by cars, humans and houses, in fact, didn't seem much to notice us. I'm happy about that. With all of our human self-centeredness, it is well to be reminded of our true place in the world.

See you in church,
 Steve

From the President

October is here – already! I mourn the passing of Summer, right up until the cooler days and changing leaves arrive. Then I'm reminded again how lucky I am to live in New England. No one does Fall as well as we do. And I love the energy that comes with the start of the new church year.

The Ministerial Search Committee is at work preparing the Congregational Record that will be available for prospective ministers, and I hope you were able to attend one of their recent Cottage Meetings. There was excellent discussion, and the meetings were a reminder for me that we all play a role in choosing our next minister. My sincere thanks to the committee members.

The October Q & A will be all about our committees. Come and learn how each committee contributes to the operation of the church, and perhaps find

a committee that you'd like to be a part of. Please stay tuned for more information.

Here's a gentle reminder as the new year gets underway - let's leave Sunday mornings for fellowship and spirituality, and leave non-critical church business for the other days of the week. I know it's tempting when we're all together – Brian has had to remind me more than once that he doesn't work on Sundays!

See you in church. Now I'm off to the Fryeburg Fair...

Kind regards,
 Niki



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.

Hannaford Gift Cards

Do you shop at Hannaford? Please consider participating in our fund-raising project. When you buy your groceries with a Hannaford Gift Card purchased at church, Hannaford donates 5% towards our operating budget. You can support the church at no additional cost to yourself. Hannaford cards make good gifts, too. Look for the table during coffee hour for more information.

Office Hours
 Brian, Administrator: Mon-Wed-Thu 8 AM to 12 PM
 Rev. Steve, Wed 12-5 PM

**Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco & Biddeford
FY 17-18 Operating Budget vs. Actual YTD
July through August 2017**

	Jul - Aug 17	Budget	\$ Over Budget	% of Budget
Ordinary Income/Expense				
001 CONTRIBUTION INCOME	17,682	8,200	9,482	216%
002 RENTAL INCOME	750	1,375	(625)	55%
003 FUND RAISING INCOME	128	122	6	105%
004 OTHER INCOME	2,200	200	2,000	1,100%
Total Income	20,759	9,897	10,862	210%
Gross Profit	20,759	9,897	10,862	210%
Expense				
101 STAFFING	8,504	7,776	729	109%
102 MISSION	780	962	(182)	81%
103 OPERATIONS	2,914	4,065	(1,151)	72%
104 ADMINISTRATIVE COSTS	482	575	(93)	84%
105 OTHER EXPENSES	1,105	1,043	62	106%
Total Expense	13,786	14,421	(634)	96%
Net Ordinary Income	6,973	(4,524)	11,497	

Website Update—September 2017

Thank you to everyone who has visited the website at www.uuchurchsacobiddeford.com. Since the March 2016 launch, there have been over 17,774 page visits with an overall average of 31 hits per day. If you have something that you want to add, or if you see something that should be corrected, please let me know. **Please be specific with**

corrections as we have over 75 pages on our site. Also, we still have some pages that are blank except for the title. If you want to add content for those areas, it would be gratefully accepted. Thank you to those folks who have provided content and updates..

Brian D., Webmaster

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

Music Notes

Music Notes from Choir Director, Ellie R.

“The world's most famous and popular language is music. “

Psy

Choir & Choir Rehearsals: New members are always welcome. We are rehearsing at 8:45 almost every Sunday until Christmas. We sing about twice a month during Sunday services and a couple of special services in the fall as well. Pick up choirs and short-term commitments also exist. Let me know in advance if you want to join us so we can have materials for you.

Special Music: Looking for singers and/or instrumentalists to offer their special gifts during services when the choir isn't singing.

Morning Song: At 9:45 on the 2nd Sunday of each month I am in the sanctuary leading 'gathering singing'. Please join us in singing! If you prefer not to sing, please sit quietly in the sanctuary and enjoy the music or gather with friends in the parish hall or hallway for conversation. The next 'Morning Song' is on Sunday, October 8th.

Who's in the Choir Loft? This year's 'Music Notes' will focus on the folks who sing in the choir. I have asked everyone to fill out a short questionnaire and I'll highlight one choir member each month. This month is Heather Anne Wright.

Reflect on your experience in the UUCSB Choir: I've enjoyed renewing my passion for singing and performing music with a group of dedicated UUs.

How long have you been a UU? Since 1989

How is singing part of your spiritual life? Singing is pure voice and harmony. It focuses my breath and provides reflective moments.

Other music experiences (e.g. playing instruments): I am classically trained in composition and performance for piano and studied flute with the New England Conservatory in Boston.

Other interests or hobbies: Travel, growing organic food, making handmade paper and books

Occupation: Marine microbial ecologist - R&D scientist for a Maine Biotech firm

Travels and favorite places: wild scenic places with few cars or people

Favorite kinds of music: classical, jazz, period (renaissance)

**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.

Information

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.uuchurchsacoiddeford.com, or 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!

News

Share the Plate—October

In October we will be sharing our collection with the Maine Unitarian Universalist State Advocacy Network (MUUSAN). MUUSAN is a statewide advocacy and public policy network anchored in our Unitarian Universalist faith and animated by its principles. This legislative ministry links Maine's 25 Unitarian Universalist congregations to promote just, humane laws and policies in keeping with our principles.

UU congregations and individuals are creating Advocacy Networks, including MUUSAN, because they realize that, vital as they are, worship services, good works, and study groups are not enough. In a denomination that is characterized by social activism, we are called to bring our values to bear in the public arena: in the State Legislature, the news media, the development of policy, and the pursuit of justice.

Greetings from the Treasurer Account

balances as of 9/30/2017 are as follows:

Checking	\$999.42
Accounts payable	\$-0-
Moulton Trust	\$2,652.05
Restricted Savings	\$24,617.59
Saco/Bidd Investments	\$133,911.82

Any questions, just call.
Sincerely, Dick

Caring Connection

We, as a committee, would like to extend our appreciation and thanks to all those able and willing to support the members of our church community. Support has come in the way of preparing food, providing rides, visiting those in need of company, calling on those people who are hurting, lighting a candle and sending cards.

We would like to remind everyone if you know of a need please feel free to call any of us on the committee:

Anne C.
Donna R.
Gloria Sheehan
Pat Snyder
Marilyn Stoesser-Casad

Search Committee Update

Greetings Fellow Congregants!

I just wanted to pop in and let you all know, on behalf of the Ministerial Search committee, how much your input and encouragement has meant to all of us! The survey and the three cottage meetings really give us a great deal of information about exactly whom we might be looking for in a new minister. Although we find ourselves very busy compiling a moun-

tain of data and statistics about everything from the history of our town the past finances of our church, this information alone is not enough. To ensure our goal of guiding us toward a new and fantastic future together, we need the help and support of our community and you all have been standing up to be heard when needed. Thank you very much for that!

Our progress so far has been fast moving. The required mountain of information for our church record is almost all gathered including several personal interviews. Our final cottage meeting will be on October 1st right after church. Soon be completed; a tally of that information is to begin the middle of this week. Our neutral pulpits have been scheduled, and we have begun work on the website that will represent us to prospective candidates. These are just a few of the committee's accomplishments. It's truly amazing to me how quickly and efficiently things are being pulled together in such a short time!

Watching our bond as a congregation grow throughout this process has been an honor. We look forward to the times when you all can really begin to see how our bond to our sister church in Sanford has also begun to grow. Many of their concerns and challenges are similar to our own and sharing in the joys of overcoming these challenges is all the sweeter. I cannot think of a more inspirational group of people with whom to work and worship.

As we continue this journey you will continue to get updates from us right here in the *Messengers* so stay tuned and again, thank you all for your encouragement in these very busy times!

Yours in service,



Vicki Boucher

Ministerial Search Committee Secretary

High Priestess, Earthen Spiral Community Coven
(an outreach of UUCSB)

TD Bank Affinity Program

UUCSB is in the TD Bank Affinity Program, which is only for nonprofit organizations. TD Bank will make a donation for each church member that has a TD Bank checking account. This is a way for the church to get donations without having to do anything. Church member personal accounts are associated with the church account and in doing so the church benefits. It in no way affects member's personal accounts and no information is shared. Church members that have TD Bank checking accounts just need to call TD Bank or stop in at any location and tell them that you are a member of UUCSB and what your TD Bank account number is. If you have any questions about the Affinity Program, Tracey Bell, the TD Bank manager in Biddeford would be happy to answer your questions. Her phone # is 283-8590.



Southern Maine Gay Men

SMGM would like to extend a warm welcome to all who would like to join our group. The name will change starting on October 28, 2017 at the Annual Anniversary Dinner, anyone is welcome to join us any Thursday evening from 7:00 – 9:00 PM.

Here is our calendar of events for the month of October. For further information contact Tom Muise at tmansmk49@gmail.com. We hope to see many of you at our meetings, we try to make the evenings fun for all.

Ghostly Themed Pot Luck Dinner Night

Thursday, October 5, 2017 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB
Join us for a relaxing evening of socializing and eating. Some type of Meat will be provided. Beverages will be provided, just please bring salads side dishes and desserts to share please.

Board Game Night

Thursday, October 12, 2017 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB
Bring a friend or two and join us for a fun packed evening playing a board game and socializing. Beverages will be provided, just please bring snacks to share.

Gay Themed Movie Night

Thursday, October 19, 2017 – 7:00 – 9:00 pm - Location: UUCSB
Please note that this movie night is earlier due to other events later this month. Bring a friend or two and join us for a relaxing evening watching a Gay Themed Movie and socializing. Brian usually finds a good movie for us to watch. Beverages will be provided, just please bring snacks to share.

Annual Halloween Costume Party

Thursday, October 26, 2016 – 7:00 – 10:00 pm - Location: UUCSB
This is our Annual Event, in which everyone is asked to dress up in costume and come enjoy a night of refreshments and fun party type games. Folks are asked to bring some type of snack finger food to share. There is also a costume contest, best costume, original costume, and scariest costume. The winners will receive a special prize. This is just a fun evening, invite your friends and family to come with you and ask them to join in the fun.

Annual Anniversary Dinner Night

Saturday, October 28, 2017 – 5:00 – 8:00 pm - Location: UUCSB
Join us for our Annual Event, we will be celebrating our 10th Year as a group. You are all invited to come and share our excitement. This year we will also unveil the groups new name and tell you all where we will be going for the future. We are very excited about this event and hope you will all come and join in the fun. Dinner will include, appetizers, salad, choice of Stuffed Pork Tenderloin, Baked Stuffed Chicken, and some Vegan Dish, and then a Dessert. Please RSVP by Monday, October 23, 2017 to Tom M. The cost of the dinner will be \$10.00 a person. Please talk to Tom if you have a problem with paying.

Admission: \$ 10.00

TD Bank Affinity Program

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**What should I do if I have a conflict with a church member or group?
Conflict Resolution Process**

The Unitarian Universalist Church of Saco and Biddeford is committed to fostering right relations among its members, friends, and staff. We understand that conflict can be an inevitable part of a healthy community and can serve as an opportunity for growth and development. As members of this congregation, it is incumbent on all of us to handle conflict in ways that are reflected in our covenant.

You are welcome to speak informally with any member of the Committee on Ministries, we are easily identified by our yellow nametags. When needed, the CoM will assist in developing a mediation plan with all involved parties.

Please read the Conflict Brochure developed by this committee and follow the Conflict Resolution Pathway that applies to your situation. When needed, the CoM will assist in developing a mediation plan for all involved parties.

Keep in mind that the CoM doesn't handle anonymous input.

Be assured that information communicated will be handled with appropriate confidentiality.

October 2017

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
1 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am: Cottage Meeting 11:30 am: RE Committee	2 4:30 pm: Bon Appetit	3 7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	4 6:30 pm: Finance 6:30 pm: COM 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	5 7:00 pm: SMGM	6 9:00 am: Meditation	7 9:00 am: Meditation
8 Bread Sunday 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal	9 5:30 pm: Membership	10 7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	11 6:30 pm: Trustees 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	12 7:00 pm: SMGM	13 9:00 am: Meditation	14 9:00 am: Meditation
15 Food Parnty Sunday 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am: Cong. Q&A	16	17 7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	18 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	19 7:00 pm: SMGM	20 9:00 am: Meditation	21 9:00 am: Meditation
22 Bread Sunday 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal	23	24 7:00 pm: Earthen Spiral	25 Newsletter Deadline 7:00 pm: Harbour Singers	26 7:00 pm: SMGM	27 9:00 am: Meditation 5:00 pm: SMGM Anniversary Dinner	28 9:00 am: Meditation
29 8:45 am: Choir Rehearsal 11:30 am: FIAT	30	31 7:00 p : Earthen Spiral				