



CROSSROADS

The Newsletter of the Unitarian Universalist Area Church at First Parish in Sherborn

April 7, 2008

Minister's Message

~ Reverend Nathan Detering

My colleague in ministry, John Buehrens, recently attended the installation of Dan King as the new minister of the UU congregation in Kingston, MA. Before the service, John said that Dan handed out little cards that he found in the parsonage closet. They were printed all the way back in 1934 and this is what they said, under the heading "Good Resolutions for the Church Year:"

1. I won't take it for granted that church work will "get done" by somebody; but will take it for granted that it won't "get done" unless I help to do it.
2. I won't hope for a larger congregation while I stay away myself.
3. I won't expect the Church to be a cheerful place while I retain the liberty of growling.
4. I won't be a sensitive pain and think somebody is always seeking to offend me.
5. I won't expect the Church to be in fair financial condition while I fail to do my part faithfully and regularly as I can, my conscience being my guide.
6. I will make the Church a spiritual storehouse by looking beyond its wheels and organizations to the reality of its inspiration and comfort to my soul.
7. I will never forget that the Church consists not of one Minister and an audience, but of me, the people, responsible together with the Minister for the advance of spiritual life in this community.

These words have spent the last 74 years buried in a parsonage closet in a little town in Kingston, MA. Here's to digging words that still seem to ring true.

With love,
Nathan

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Sunday Services

April 6th – Rev. Detering preaching.

April 13th – Rev. Polly Leland-Mayer, Guest Preacher.

April 20th – "Pulpit Swap" with Sherborn's Pilgrim Church, a UCC congregation. Rev. John Hudson will be preaching with us while Rev. Detering gives the sermon at Pilgrim.

April 27th – "Poetry Sunday" with lay leader Cheryl Perrault.

Unitarian Universalist Area Church
 at First Parish in Sherborn
 11 Washington Street, P.O. Box 158
 Sherborn, Massachusetts 01770-0158
 (508) 653-1422
<http://www.uuac-sherborn.org>

Worship Service: Sunday Mornings at 10:30 a.m.
Crossroads, the newsletter of the UUAC, is mailed to all members and pledging friends via US or electronic mail. Non-members receive a complimentary three-month subscription. The newsletter may be viewed at the church website.

UUAC Board of Directors

President: Doug Brown
 President-Elect: Howard Teibel
 Treasurer: Sara McKenzie
 Clerk: Lynne Swenson
 At-Large: Loretta Lee
 Buildings and Grounds: Allan Green
 Finance: Hank Rauch
 Past-President: Pat Manley
 Personnel: Diane McNamara
 Minister (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering

UUAC Ministry Council

Co-Chair: Howard Teibel
 Co-Chair (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering
 UUAC President (Ex-Officio): Doug Brown
 Adult Programs: Gail Donaldson
 Denominational Affairs: Jill Carroll
 Hospitality: Judy Maguire
 Membership: Cathie Healy
 Music: Sally Demler
 Religious Education: Jennifer Smudin and Pam Kading Webb
 Social Action: Barbie Breer
 Women's Alliance President: Helen Sicotte
 Worship: James Francis
 Youth Representative: Robert Angell

Crossroads Listing Policy

Submissions to **Crossroads** are always welcome and may be e-mailed to uuac@uuac-sherborn.org (*word format preferred*); or typed/legibly handwritten copy may be dropped off in the Church Office by noon on the deadline date.

We are happy to publish any announcements about UUAC, UU-sponsored events and other non-profit activities of interest to the community. We are sorry we cannot list for-profit announcements.



MONTHLY CROSSROADS

Springing Forward Together

Deadline	Issue Date
April 25	May 5

UUAC STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister: Reverend Nathan Detering
 Tues./Weds./Thurs., 9:00 a.m. – Noon
 Other hours by appointment
508-653-1422/minister@uuac-sherborn.org

Congregational Administrator: Kate Garretson
 Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
508-653-1422/uuac@uuac-sherborn.org

Bookkeeper: Janet McKetchnie
 Contact via e-mail at imjanet@comcast.net

Director of Religious Education: Kate Holland
 Tuesday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.
508-653-1422/dre@uuac-sherborn.org

**Membership Development /
 Communications Coordinator: Maureen Gormley**
 Tuesday, 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. & by appointment
508-653-1422/communications@uuac-sherborn.org

Music Director: Laura Jensen
401-787-3032/music@uuac-sherborn.com

COUNTING GOD

The assured voice on NPR spoke of the man
 who made his life work to count and name
 of all the gods of India—
 every deity of tribe or clan or village,
 each rock and dung hill spirit,
 all of the many names for every apparition.
 After many years he had to swear defeat,
 no one can count and name them all—
 there are more gods than Hindus.

Jew and Muslims are appalled
 and vow there is but one God
 to die or kill for.
 Christians quite concur,
 but opt to slice Him into Three,
 then bind Him back together.
 Some Amerinds know each tree and rock,
 each crawling thing
 is and has the Spirit.
 And there are Buddhists who do not care
 if God be one or man,
 or even if he be at all.

This quibble over name and number
 engages a murderous passion,
 a lethal zeal and worse—
 stands between Is What Is,
 and us, restless and lonesome.

- Patrick Murfin, in *We Build Temples in the Heart*
 ([Skinner House Books](#))

PEOPLE WE CARE ABOUT

With the warm spring weather the R.E Committee and I have started our planning process for next year’s religious education program. Next month, we will be sending out registrations for the 2008-2009 R.E. program, asking parents and children both to take the time to commit to coming on Sundays to both teach and learn in our classrooms. I know that as a church we ask all parents who have children in our Sunday morning program to make a commitment to be a teacher for one trimester each year. I think sometimes it is easy to feel like this teaching commitment is a “Have to do” in our church life. I hope that as we all work together we can begin to see this commitment not as a burden but as a call to minister to the wonderful children and youth that we are blessed to have as a part of our community. I know often it is hard to see that teaching once a week makes a difference in the lives of the children of our church. Each of us that have children in the program is so lucky to have a community willing to work with parents by teaching our children about our faith. Throughout our program, from babies that learn that there are always loving hands to hold them to senior youth that are given opportunities to explore making a difference in a world larger than their own communities, we as a church community have been blessed with many wonderful, giving volunteers ready to offer their talents and perspectives to help our children grow and learn spiritually.

I know how difficult it can be for a parent to get up, dress and feed themselves and their kids and make it to service on time. I am always amazed and grateful that so many not only manage that, but also manage to be ready and prepared to teach a lesson on Sundays. The Religious Education Committee and I look forward to helping our community do the important work of ministering to our children and youth as we look forward to next year’s Religious Education Program.

Kate

Our sympathies are with **Dave Hatton**, whose father passed away in March.

Our continued care for those in our midst who are ill or injured, including **Jan Vanderbie** and **Maura Shannon**.

Congratulations to **Jack Francis**, who recently qualified to compete at the National Fencing Tournament this summer in California

Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network Update

There’s nothing but good news and progress to report on our burgeoning Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network. We now have ten official host congregations in our network (and four support congregations) – just three short of the suggested 13 to open for business. Here is a list of current member congregations:

Host Congregations:

Wellesley Village Congregational Church; First Congregational Church, Natick; Christ Lutheran Church, Natick; UU Society of Wellesley Hills; **UU Area Church, Sherborn**; First Parish Church, Wayland; Christ the King Lutheran Church, Holliston; Dover Church; St. Paul’s Episcopal Church, Natick; Pilgrim Church, Sherborn

Support Congregations:

St. Theresa’s Catholic Church, Sherborn; Fisk United Methodist Church, Natick; Temple Beth Elohim, Wellesley; Holy Spirit Catholic Community

We also recently received a 15-passenger van as a gift from Good News Garage (a non-profit which provides repaired vehicles to people in need). The lightly used van is in very good shape and we are arranging for insurance and the required paperwork.

Our day center (at First Baptist Church in Natick) is coming along. We are working with helpful volunteers from the Village Church to come up with the plans and permits for installing shower facilities in the space the church has generously donated.

Stay tuned for further updates but it’s looking like we will be able to offer shelter and comfort to homeless families very soon.

Joan Hunter and Barbie Breer
UUAC IHN Coordinators

Mark Your Calendars!

The Women’s Alliance annual meeting will be held on Saturday, April 19 at the home of Sally Demler, 169 Maple Street in Sherborn. Breakfast will be served at 9:00 a.m. All members and prospective members are welcome. Please RSVP to Barbie Breer at 508-653-0636 by April 16.

In addition, all the ladies of the church are invited to attend an alliance sponsored potluck supper on Sunday, May 4th, at 5:00 p.m. in Unity Hall.

Social Action

Historic 40th Walk for Hunger, Sunday, May 4

Starts at the Boston Common, 7:00 – 9:00 A.M.

Since 1969 The Walk for Hunger has been supported by religious organizations. Over the years, that support has grown from one to more than 1,000 religious and community organizations that come out to protest the social injustice of hunger in our midst. This is our historic 40th Walk. It's a year to find out what we've accomplished and what our plans are for ending hunger in the years ahead. Now is the time to dig out your Walk memorabilia and join us for Project Bread's special 40th Walk for Hunger on Sunday, May 4. Enjoy a festive day walking through Boston and surrounding neighborhoods while you help our hungry neighbors in Massachusetts. With the high cost of living in the Commonwealth, hungry people need your help more than ever. Your pledges feed people through emergency food programs throughout the state and through our many food programs in schools, after school programs, and pediatrician offices that integrate help into the ordinary fabric of every day life. Celebrate the spirit of giving along with 43,000 other concerned citizens by participating in this historic Massachusetts experience. For more information, call 617-723-5000 or visit www.projectbread.org/walk

A Bit of History

In the early 60's, fifteen years of a financially necessary federation with Pilgrim Church "down the hill" came to an end. Late in that association, a new minister was called and it quickly became clear that theological diversity was no longer honored in our joined congregations.

The nature of a "federation" made it possible for First Parish to withdraw - to re-claim our church. But, there was a problem! The building First Parish had used as a non-worship gathering space prior to the federation had been sold. We were left with this Greek Revival Temple, with no water, no bathrooms and no kitchen or space for Sunday School. We were at that time, a fairly small group, who felt strongly that our U.U. heritage and aspirations should continue to be present in Sherborn.

It was then that the U.U.A. came to our rescue. Through a diminishing grant over a few years, we were able to call a part time minister and reach out to surrounding communities. Together, we attracted members from Holliston and other nearby towns as well as more from Sherborn. Finally, we could move toward building our new Unity Hall, kitchen and R.E. space. A few years later, we were here to join with the Natick UU congregation and become UUAC.

Today there are many services and resources available from the UUA, but without that help so many years ago, we would not have been here for many of you.

Polly Leland-Mayer, Denominational Affairs Committee

1250 Acts to End Hunger, 2008

We continue to strive for our goal of 1250 items donated to A Place to Turn in Natick, the emergency food pantry serving the metrowest area. Unfortunately, people are still going hungry in this affluent metrowest area and your donations each week really make a difference. Please keep up the good work!!

Suggested items for the next few weeks: coffee, tea, and hot chocolate

Massachusetts Coalition for the Homeless – Legislative Action Day

Nathan, Becky Sheble-Hall, Barbara Allen, and Barbie Breer attended this informative and inspiring program at the State House. There were many excellent speakers including Joshua Rubenstein, Amnesty International USA, who talked about housing as a human right. There was also a panel discussion with Representative Byron Rushing, Co-chair, Commission to End Homelessness; Bob Holster from the Dept. of Housing and Community Development, Sue Beaton, One Family, Inc. and Chair, Family Work Group, Commission to End Homelessness, and Joe Finn, Mass Housing and Shelter Alliance and Chair, Individual Work Group, Commission to End Homelessness. Simply put, housing is the answer to homelessness. And the Commission to End Homelessness is seeking new approaches to this problem. There is not a plan to end poverty, but a plan for permanent housing for the poorest. Early intervention (before people lose their homes) and prevention were stressed. The right resources to the right people at the right time. Many of the bills that the Coalition is supporting in FY2009 were mentioned including First Stop Health Center Homelessness Prevention Collaborative and Emergency Aid to the Elderly, Disabled, and Children Program. The Social Action Committee has a complete list of these bills and other information for those interested – and we hope to have a bulletin board soon to post this information.

Barbie Breer
Social Action Committee

New Orleans 2007

And Service Is Our Prayer - NOLA 2 Trip

It's better late than never to thank all those who supported the November trip to New Orleans with their frequent flier miles, rides to the airport, fund raising, financial contributions, etc. We can't forget our families who took up the slack at home and let us go. These service trips could not happen without your support.

The November trip had 15 members of our congregation teaming with 10 people from Follen UU Church of Lexington. Two days were spent repairing a church run by an inspirational street minister named Reverend Josephine. She reaches out to neighborhood children, the elderly, and has an anchoring effect on the whole community. Our clapboard patching, insulating, electrical work and painting made her building watertight for the first time since Katrina. Within weeks the inside of her building proceeded to be sheet rocked, painted, curtains hung and opened for her loving work.

Our other 4 days were spent in the Lower Ninth Ward working on a 3 bedroom home that had been flooded to the roof-line. The Williams are a hard working middle-class family with a teenage daughter and a son in college who are trying to get back home. Royce, the father, worked with us every day learning along side us and enhancing our experience with his personal connection to our group. We insulated, sheet rocked, taped, and jointed 90% of the house making it ready to sand the plaster and paint. Our resident electrician Dave Hatton got some lights and circuits running as he has done on all our previous sites.

I estimate the \$4,000 spent on materials and the 6 days of free labor would translate into \$25,000-\$30,000 in professionally contracted work. Quite a remarkable accomplishment for our crew.

To me personally, our trips to New Orleans speak to all the things that our church represents; the clear purpose in helping others, the reaching outside ourselves, the sense of community within the group that travels, and the sense of support we receive from those left behind. The opportunity to bond so closely with other parishioners in such a clear common purpose is unique for most of us in our adult busy lives. We all got more than we gave.

Peace

Terry Combs

New Orleans 2008

We are helping the children in New Orleans

Our NOLA 2 group began the rebuilding effort at Rev. Josephine Philips' mission church in the 7th Ward. Rev. Josephine infected us with her passion for helping the children, the elderly, and the homeless of her neighborhood.

When we arrived early in November the church was a gutted building, not weather-tight. Two days later we had repaired/replaced siding, re-wired, and insulated. Later teams put up drywall, painted, and did other necessary work. She is now holding regular church services. But there is no indoor plumbing. The NOLA 2 team and friends from the Follen Church (Lexington, MA) and Mainline UU (Devon, PA), who were with us in November, are committed to giving our own funds to help her get a water and a wastewater system for her stark building.

Reverend Josephine Philips is what you might expect in a 21st century (Baptist) Mother Theresa. She has dedicated her life to the children of her 7th Ward neighborhood and her energy provides much of the glue that holds this flood-ravaged community together.

Please consider joining us in contributing to Rev. Josephine's mission. We already have commitments of over \$3,000. Checks should be made out to UUAC Sherborn, with "Rev. Josephine" on the memo line. Contact demler@msn.com for more information.

Elect to Serve in New Orleans!

We are organizing what will be our fourth trip to New Orleans to help with the re-building/recovery efforts. Following our youth group trip during April school vacation, the next adult trip will be taking place November 1 - 8, 2008. We are looking for people to sign up now, as it takes a while to organize the trip's details. We have a handful of people already committed to return, but welcome new people as well. Please contact Molly Howes (molly.howes@comcast.net) or Terry Combs (ginnycombs@msn.com) to sign up to go. Please ask any of our previous NOLA volunteers about their impressions of the experience. (Also, please note the trip will occur across election week, so you will have to obtain an absentee ballot if you go. We can call this trip "Elect to Serve in New Orleans"!)

MEMBERSHIP CORNER — Maureen Gormley

Let's give a warm welcome to following people who have visited our church in the past month or so: Alexandra Gaetano and Ken Pryde, Michelle Clancy, Leila and Kevin Lamoureux, Jennifer Rosenfeld, and Lisa Wood. Say hello if you happen to have the pleasure of crossing paths.

Again this month, I am continuing to present testimonials I've received from members. May they warm you and reinforce your shared appreciation of this community we call church.

"Although initially skittish about attending church services when I first attended, I was so struck by the warm welcoming and non-judgmental nature of this church."

"I appreciate the deep sense of community that truly exists at this church."

"The powerful, connecting and often soul stirring words of each sermon, as well as the genuine kindness and warmth and sense of belonging extended to us by minister Nathan Detering."

"I joined UUAC because I felt it was really important to have my child involved in a religious community. I also was yearning for a meaningful spiritual home where my beliefs and values would be supported. I am still here for those reasons and for Nathan."

"I feel like I've finally found a place of worship that doesn't create parameters around belief, background, sexual orientation or questioning our government in order to be accepted as part of the community. At UUAC I have learned what being non-judgmental truly means: no life is worth any more or any less than my own. I also feel that I have learned what it means to love and care for all people as children of God and therefore I celebrate who I am in the world as a child of God."

Many Blessings, Friends!

Maureen

New Member : Katherine McHugh

If you haven't already met Katherine McHugh, a new member of our church as of December, I recommend you catch up with her soon, especially if you're looking for great spiritual conversation. She lives in Sherborn with her husband, Mark, and 3 children: Abby, 17; Jess, 15; and James, 14. Katherine was raised locally (Needham) in the Catholic tradition, and was involved at St. Theresa's in Sherborn with her family until seven years ago when she left the faith. Her husband and son still choose the Catholic church. For the past 5 years, she has been attending Andover-Newton Theological Seminary and will be graduating in May. She has written many essays exploring diversity in religion and ways to express spirituality in community and individually. She is also on the Board of Epiphany School in Dorchester, a charter middle school whose mission is a passion of hers. Due to the fact that at any given time up to 50% of the students and their families are homeless, the school runs 7-7 to assure that the children get 3 meals and has a washer and dryer to clean clothes. (I think Katherine and I were both tempted to make this an article about the school, as there is so much good to say.) Next year, she will be running the "open spirituality" time at the school. She is "very happy and feels blessed to be part of this (UUAC) community."

ADULT PROGRAMS

Exploring Buddhism

Samantha White is seeking others who share her interest in Buddhism for a discussion meeting which might develop into a regularly meeting group. If you have practiced Buddhism or want to explore Buddhist practices and philosophies, please e-mail Samantha at SamanthaMWhite@comcast.net, or call her at (508)207-7149 (work) and mention days and times that might work for you.

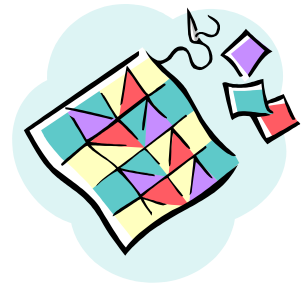


Love is the Spirit of the Power of the Quilt Project

Have you ever thought how we apply our UUAC Covenant:

Love is the Spirit of this Church, and service its law. This is our great Covenant: To dwell together in peace, to seek truth in love and to help one and other.

Certainly the Power of the Quilt Project is living testament to our Covenant. The Power of the Quilt Project provides lap quilts for people with cancer. Anyone with cancer may receive a quilt; anyone who knows someone with cancer may give that person a quilt; and anyone who wants to help on the project is welcome.



Please take a moment to learn more about PQP. Gwyned can be reached at gwynedtrethethen@mac.com or information can be found at <http://www.uuac-sherborn.org/quilt.html>.

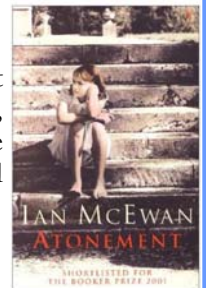
FRIDAY NIGHT FILM

The Adult Programs committee presents *What a Way to Go: Life at the End of Empire* on Friday, April 18 at 7:30 PM in the Cooney Room. It presents a compelling explanation of climate change, peak oil, population overshoot and other crises facing our planet. Understanding of these issues is critical to finding ways to deal with them.



Book Club

The book club will meet on **Friday, May 2** at the home of Kristen Sokol, 20 Marshall Road, Natick, 508-650-1419. New participants are always welcome. The book to be discussed will be *Atonement* by Ian McEwan



Salvation Army Dinner Wednesday April 23

It's our turn again to serve dinner at the Salvation Army on **Wednesday, April 23**. Sign up in Unity Hall or contact Joan Hunter (jbh_11@verizon.net) if you can make one or more meat loaves and/or help serve and clean up. Dinner is served promptly at 6:00 p.m. Children age 8 or over are welcome to help.



Cape Cod Retreat 2008

The Cape Cod Retreat is schedule for April 25-27 at the Cape Cod Sea Camps in Brewster. The retreat is a great chance to relax and reflect on the year. It is a great time to get to know people better than is possible at coffee hour or brief events. Please consider coming, if only for the day.

To date, we have more than 50 people attending. Some people will stay at the camp in the camp lodging, while many others are staying in apartments, rooms, and cottages nearby. We still have plenty of room, so please contact Kathy Greer at 781-934-2609. Also, if you have not received a confirmation about your registration, please call Kathy as well.



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We are a Welcoming Congregation 

Next *Crossroads* deadline is Monday, April 25 for the May 5 Newsletter.