



# CROSSROADS

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

April 6, 2009

## Minister's Message

~ Reverend Nathan Detering

“Remaining Hopeful in Hard Times”

*Ministry in Difficult Times; How to Remain Hopeful in the Recession; Congregations Learning to Do More with Less* – these are just a few of the stories and headlines that have crossed my desk and my laptop screen over these last many weeks. I've taken to scanning them for little insights, little pearls. Here are a few that resonated with me:

- From my colleague Lindsay Bates: *“We're aware that many families are having challenges. We try to track that so people who start to have trouble don't just drop out because they can't pay their pledge. We want to make sure they understand we want them for themselves, not their checkbook.”*
- From my colleague Linda Anderson: *“I'm seeing more anxiety than usual in people, not just about the economic situation, but about everyday things and the uncertainty of life right now. There's some irritability, some impatience. Other people are more lethargic. I think our day-to-day struggles have gotten harder to navigate because times are so uncertain.”*
- On the positive, these words: *“People are more committed than ever. The current crisis has it made it clear how important our congregations are for them.”*
- On the importance of staying focused on our mission in lean times, and not succumbing to scarcity, these words from my colleague Dan Hotchkiss: *In lean times we are called to not just keep our doors open, the lights on, the staff paid; we are called to think about and dedicate ourselves to our ministry in times of trouble.*
- What does staying focused on mission look like for us? I think this means making sure we spend time thinking about and affirming our programs, our worship services, our religious education, our social justice projects, and each other. A colleague of mine put it this way: when you are busy, wake early and meditate for one hour; when you are impossibly busy and distracted worried and can't possibly spare the time, wake early and meditate for two.
- The importance of saying thank you. It's easy in hard times to forget to share our appreciation, our joy, with one another. Thank you, and let's thank each other, for all we do to help support the life and work of our congregation.

Yours in faith and in love,

Nathan



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## Sunday Services

April 12 – Easter Sunday – Rev. Detering preaching

April 19 – Laura Randall, Student Minister, preaching

April 26 – Katherine McHugh, UUAC Member and recent M.Div. graduate, preaching.

May 3 – Poetry service led by lay leader Cheryl Perreault; UUAC retreat on Cape Cod

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: Howard Teibel  
 President-Elect: Sara McKenzie  
 Treasurer: Hank Rauch  
 Clerk: Alice Clattenburg  
 At-Large: Deb Boyce  
 Buildings and Grounds: Allan Green  
 Finance: Roger Hering  
 Past-President: Doug Brown  
 Personnel: Diane McNamara  
 Minister (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering

**UUAC Ministry Council**  
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 Celebrations: Darrah Bryans  
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 Music: Cathy Leonard  
 Religious Education: Jennifer Smudin and Barbara Bolten  
 Social Action: Barbie Breer  
 Women's Alliance President: Helen Sicotte  
 Worship: Jeff Barton  
 Youth Representative: Robert Angell

**Crossroads Listing Policy**  
 Submissions to **Crossroads** are always welcome and may be e-mailed to [uuac@uuac-sherborn.org](mailto: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**



Issue Date	Deadline
May 4	April 24

**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](mailto:minister@uuac-sherborn.org)

**Ministerial Intern: Laura Randall**  
 By Appointment  
 508-653-1422/[intern@uuac-sherborn.org](mailto:intern@uuac-sherborn.org)

**Congregational Administrator: Kate Garretson**  
 Monday – Friday, 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m.  
 508-653-1422/[donations@uuac-sherborn.org](mailto:donations@uuac-sherborn.org)

**Bookkeeper: Janet McKetchnie**  
 Contact via e-mail: [imjanet@gmail.com](mailto:imjanet@gmail.com)

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

**Music Director: Laura Jensen**  
 401-787-3032/[music@uuac-sherborn.com](mailto:music@uuac-sherborn.com)

**ECDC NURSERY SCHOOL ANNOUNCES ITS SUMMER PLAYGROUND PROGRAM**

The ECDC Summer Playground Program, in Sherborn, is a summer of “fun in the sun”. Our early childhood developed curriculum consists of music, stories, crafts, sensory play, nature exploration, games and playtime all centered around weekly themes..

The program will begin June 8th and end July 31st from 9am to 12pm, Monday through Friday. It is open to all children ages 2.9 years-5. ECDC is offering this program at the 2008 rate of \$30 per day or \$150 per week. Our Lunch Bunch Program will be offered Monday through Thursday from 12-1 for an additional \$10. Children bring their own lunch. There will be no camp July 3rd. The camp runs Monday through Friday however a child may attend any combination of days during the 8 weeks. A mid-morning snack will be provided by the program each day. In case of inclement weather, sessions will be held in the ECDC classrooms.

Registration is open. For registration materials and any questions, please call the school at

508-653-9149 or check the website [www.ecdcpreschool.org](http://www.ecdcpreschool.org).

# ReFlections - Kate Holland, RE Director

This Month finds myself and the RE committee busy with many things but mostly we are working on registrations for next church year. At this time we not only collect our numbers and ages of children to set the next years classes but we also ask parents to make their teaching commitments for the next church year. We are a cooperative church school and we ask that parents who have children in our program commit to the ministry of our children throughout the year. With that in mind Mike Brewer has graciously agreed to write about his teaching experience in our program. Please look for Registrations in your mailboxes at the end of the month.

Kate

## Why I Teach

My first experience teaching Religious Education (RE) classes at UUAC came in the fall of 2007. I had volunteered the previous Spring when I signed my kids up for RE, right after we became new members of the church. I had no idea what it meant to teach, but I knew I wanted to contribute to the community, and that this would be a way for me to get involved.

At the time, however, I was rather intimidated at the prospect of teaching. I didn't know a lot about Unitarian Universalism. How could I teach what I didn't know? Would I be able to manage the class? How much work would this be?

Attending the teacher orientation offered by Kate Holland, the Director of RE, was helpful. We received teacher guides and a very well laid out curriculum to follow, and Kate made it all pretty easy to digest. I still felt a little overwhelmed, but I also knew it would be a good learning experience for me. And it was.

I learned a lot about the kids in my class and got to know their bright personalities. I also got to meet and get to know some of the parents throughout the term, which connected me more to the church. I learned more about the principles of Unitarian Universalism and gained a perspective about our faith that I probably would not have gained in another way outside the classroom. I learned how satisfying it feels to teach a lesson and see the reaction of eight small faces as they absorb what you're saying to them. Or when they get excited about a fun activity you bring to the class. Or when the light bulbs go on as they grasp a new concept. Most weeks, I learned that 45 minutes goes by really fast and I wished that there was more time.

I've learned what an empowering and energizing experience teaching can be. Kids are total sponges. They love to learn. And so do I.

So, I teach to learn.

Mike Brewer

## Participate in the RE Survey!

The RE Committee is conducting a survey of the congregation to help us improve our RE programs. We encourage all members of the congregation—parents/guardians with children in the program as well as members that are not directly involved in RE-- to participate in this brief survey. Your feedback will help us to continuously improve RE programs and experiences to meet the needs of our families and our congregation. Look for an email invitation that will provide you with a link to the survey. Thank you for participating!

# Social Action

## 1500 Acts to End Hunger, 2009 Program

Calling all UUAC members to continue contributing regularly to A Place to Turn where our contributions of food, paper products, and toiletries are most appreciated and in these times, much needed. Just an item or two each week can make such a difference.

Suggested Items for the Next Few Weeks:

canned fruit and vegetables

## IHN Opportunities in May

Our church is again hosting homeless families here at UUAC through the Interfaith Hospitality Network from May 17 – May 24. We have over 80 volunteers in our database for IHN, but we would love to involve even more church members. There are many ways to volunteer – helping with dinner, staying overnight, helping with set up and take down, helping with supplies, helping with laundry to name a few. As meals coordinator I would love to see some new faces getting involved in meal preparation – it is really an easy way to participate for a few hours and see what it is all about. Committees, covenant groups, and families may sign up as well as individuals. Individuals who sign up to prepare dinner will be put with others so no one is overburdened. Menus are provided. Basically, you need to be at the church by 5:00 p.m., ready to serve dinner by 5:30 – we encourage volunteers to eat and socialize with our guests, as well as clean up afterwards. Tuesday and Thursday night meals are taken care of by our friends at St. Theresa's.

Anyone who is interested in joining us for this rewarding ministry, please contact Barbie Breer (for meals) at [wambarb1959@comcast.net](mailto:wambarb1959@comcast.net) or call at 508-653-0636. If you are new to the program, you need to have a background (CORI) check and attend a training session.

The available sessions are:

Thursday, April 16, First Parish Framingham

Wednesday, May 6, Wellesley Hills Congregational Church

Both sessions begin at 6:30 p.m.

Please let Joan Hunter ([jbh\\_11@verizon.net](mailto:jbh_11@verizon.net) or 508-533-6202) know if you will be attending one of these and/or if you need a CORI form.

## Additions to Church Library

The Social Action Committee is donating three books to our church library. They are: [The Prophetic Imperative, Social Gospel in Theory and Practice](#) by Richard S. Gilbert; [Ending Slavery, How We Free Today's Slaves](#) by Kevin Bales; and [Trafficking in Persons Report, June, 2008](#) – put out by the US State Dept. Richard Gilbert, a UU minister, in his book gives us an excellent resource for social justice work in our congregations. Kevin Bales is President of Free the Slaves, an organization dedicated to freeing modern day slaves world wide as well as ridding the world of slavery entirely. His book gives an update of what is happening in this area and offers concrete ways of how to abolish slavery in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. For those interested in the statistics of modern day slavery, the US State Dept's report offers amazing statistics. Please feel free to check out any of these interesting books.

## First Ever International Convocation of UU Women Meet to Affirm Support for Women's Issues

March 1, 2009 - Houston, TX: The energy was high as UU women from 38 states, 20 countries and 5 continents met for four days in Houston to pledge their commitment to improving women's lives around the world.

The International Convocation of UU Women, the first in UU history, connected experts in global women's issues with almost 600 Unitarian Universalist women. UUAC sponsored four delegates to the Convocation, viewing participation as a key ingredient in the church's broadening commitment to service.

*Economic and political empowerment of women and cessation of poverty* were overriding themes addressed by keynote speakers and experts from all over the world. Congregants divided into action-oriented "Global Sisters" groups to explore a myriad of related, universal issues, driven by the twin themes of *women's empowerment* and *ending poverty*, eventually focusing on three as the most critical: Education; Health Care; and Ending Violence Against Women

Every group was responsible for developing a range of tactics to address each specific issue; these were combined and endorsed by the plenary session before adjournment.

But work done at the Convocation was just the beginning. Delegates left with the commitment of the ICUUW, its organizers, speakers and members to help individual congregations begin to put ideas from the convocation into action -- locally, nationally, or internationally.

## MEMBERSHIP CORNER – Maureen Gormley

I finally had the opportunity recently to interview (now relatively) new members, Tim Roper and Kelli Connelly, and enjoyed learning more about them. They have become so involved both as RE teachers and as Children's Chalice Choir teachers that most of you at least know who they are. Tim grew up in Nebraska and has a degree in violin performance. After college, he became a member in a variety of rock/pop bands and symphonies. When he joined an established band in Colorado, "Acoustic Junction" he began regular national performance tours (playing keyboards, flute, violin, harmonica...). Reed Faehl from Dover was also in the band, and during one fateful visit home with Reed, he met Kelly. One thing led to another and soon Tim and Kelli were married and living in Dover. Tim and Kelli have two children, Paxton, 9, and Tika, 7, and around the time of Tika's birth, he stopped touring to stay close to home. He now teaches music at Bennett Hemenway Elementary in Natick as well as private piano and plays in the Dover band, *Centre Streeters*. Kelli had many formative experiences – like having a pet monkey - while her family lived abroad quite a bit while she was young (Thailand, Hong Kong, Germany), settling in Situate, MA when she was in 4<sup>th</sup> grade. She has a degree in German – speaks fluently - and a Master's in Education, now teaching first grade at Lilja Elementary in Natick. When they were invited to the church by their friends, the Kerrisseys, they came looking for a community for the children. Tim's father was a liberal United Methodist minister and he had enjoyed the culture and community of the church growing up. He finds that this community "feeds his spirit". Kelli had been generally against organized religion but is glad to be involved with this community, both for their children and themselves.



Maureen Gormley

## An Intern's Journey - Laura Randall

First off, let me just say that I am a big fan of the seasons. Each of them in their turn, I love them all. I spent the first 22 years of my life living in western New York, so I can take big winter wallops on the chin. No problem. That said, I really think this past winter has overstayed its welcome. It seems like we've been getting teasing little nibbles of spring sporadically throughout March. Enough already! We are ready for a heaping helping of spring renewal!

Luckily for me, since I couldn't rely on spring weather to rejuvenate my spirit, I've been able to experience renewal through this congregation. At the beginning of March, I shared my passion for working with people with Alzheimer's disease. In response, many of you shared your own stories of how this disease has affected your life. Both through sharing my call to ministry with you and by hearing your stories in turn, I have felt my passion for this work renewed. I cannot tell you what a gift that is. On March 21<sup>st</sup>, I joined several other members of UUAC at a conference offered by the Mass Bay District that addressed the building and sustaining of Lay Pastoral Care Teams. The possibilities and challenges brought up by this workshop certainly got our creative ministry juices flowing and I think it is safe to say that we all left the conference feeling inspired and renewed in our commitment to serving this community that we care so much about.

Spring will settle in soon, I have no doubt. Summer will be here before we know it. I'm grateful that whatever the season and whatever the weather, there is a place we can count on for renewal and inspiration.

In Peace,

Laura Randall

## UUAC News

### Sabbatically Speaking

The members of the Sabbatical Committee are beginning to prepare for Nathan's sabbatical, the plan for which was unanimously approved by the Board of Directors at its February meeting.

*When will Nathan's sabbatical begin?* Great news – he will be here for his famous first-Sunday-in-January “top ten” sermon on January 3, 2010, and will return the first of June in time for our traditional end-of-year picnic. He says he wouldn't miss either of these for the world! He will also be on sabbatical for the month of July 2010.

*What will happen while he's on sabbatical?* Those of us on the Sabbatical Committee are working with Nathan on preparations for his sabbatical – including plans for interim ministerial responsibilities, pastoral care, committee interaction, church administration, and basically every aspect of Nathan's tremendous (alternatively, comprehensive or multi-faceted) role as our minister. Look for updated information from us on a regular basis. And please let us know if you have any questions or concerns. This will be a time for growth and renewal for Nathan as well as for us.

#### *The Sabbatical Committee*

Jeff Barton, Worship Committee Chair

Deb Boyce, Board of Directors At-Large Representative

Sally Demler, Committee on Ministry Member

Pam Kading-Webb, Committee on Ministry Member

Becky Sheble-Hall, Caring Committee Chair

To members and friends of the UUAC:

After considerable deliberation, and conversations with Nathan and Howard, I have decided that I cannot assume the position of President of the Board of the UUAC for the next fiscal year. I will serve out my term as President-Elect this year.

This was a very difficult decision for me, and one that I have not taken lightly. The other members of the UUAC Board have been very supportive, and together we are considering the best next steps forward for identifying a new candidate to fill the position in the next fiscal year.

I continue to be a strong supporter of the UUAC, and enjoy the community that we share. See you at church!

With warmest regards,

Sara McKenzie

### People We Care About

Our heart-felt prayers of support and strength go out youth group member Tommy Weaver, who recently received a cancer diagnosis. Let the love of our faith community surround him and his family during this very difficult time

# ADULT PROGRAMS

## Book Club

The Book Club will meet **Friday, April 3** at the home of Shin and Jim Freedman, 269 Rolling Meadow Drive, Holliston, 508-429-8248. The book will be *Something for the Pain (One Doctor's Account of Life and Death in the ER)* by Paul Austin. The May meeting will be **Friday, May 8** at the home of Heather Banting, 190 Capt. Eames Circle, Ashland, 231-8705, to discuss *The Brief Wondrous Life of Oscar Wao* by Junot Diaz. New participants are always welcome.

## mUUsical Notes

You won't want to miss the next Music Sunday, scheduled for May 31<sup>st</sup>. The program will be A Morning of Mozart. Practices have begun. If you would like to join the Celebration Choir for the spring program contact Laura Jensen at [music@uuac-sherborn.org](mailto:music@uuac-sherborn.org) or just come to practice. It's fun! Thursdays, 7:00-8:00 and Sundays at 9:45.

The March Appleseeds Coffeehouse was a great success! Thanks to Woodwork for an inspired performance and for donating their time to the cause. Thanks to all the UUAC talent that performed at open mic – we are truly blessed. And thanks to all who baked, to the senior youth, adult programs and music committee members who made it all happen, and to Greg Mager and his company for donating and preparing the coffee. We were thrilled to be able to donate \$572 to our New Orleans rebuilding fund after enjoying a music-filled evening with friends.

## UUAC NETWORKERS

Announcing the formation of UUAC Networkers, Tuesdays, 8:00 a.m. in the Cooney Room. This is a forum for people "in transition," i.e. between jobs, seeking to change employer, seeking to change industry or job function, facing a significant career management challenge, looking to start or grow businesses, or any other status that one self-defines as a "transition." Membership at UUAC is not required to participate. Weekly meetings, led by UUAC member Alan Cantor, are Tuesdays at 8:00 am in the Cooney Room, and last up to 1 1/2 hours. Attendees are encouraged to focus on their current events in their professional life and on what others can do to help with next steps. Please contact Alan at [alancantor@gmail.com](mailto:alancantor@gmail.com) with any questions. RSVP is NOT required.

## Annual Church Retreat!

The church retreat will be held at the Cape Cod Sea Camps in Brewster from Friday, May 1, to Sunday, May 3. It is a wonderful opportunity to get to know people better and get away from it all. The camp cooks our meals and there is a lot of time for just relaxing.

For questions, please call Kathy Greer 781-934-7317 (home) 508-561-0764 (cell)

## The UUAC Cookbook Needs Your Recipes!

We know there are some fabulous cooks in our midst, and even if you don't think you are, we still want your favorite recipes!

Trying to make this a collaborative effort, representative of the full talent of our congregation (and that means you also, men and kids), we would love to gather at least one recipe from each person in the church. We are also looking for any comments/philosophies/words of wisdom or stories surrounding the use or origin of your recipes. Wouldn't that make a wonderful book? And an even better gift! And the best part is that all the proceeds will come back to the church!

Please send your recipes to Maura Shannon. You can call and dictate them at 508-650-0687, email [mltshanon@netzero.com](mailto:mltshanon@netzero.com), send to Maura at 51 Bacon St, Natick 01760, or drop off any recipes in the folder in the church office. Thanks!

The next *Crossroads* deadline is Friday, April 24 for the May 4 Newsletter.

We are a Welcoming Congregation 

## UUAC CALENDAR: APRIL Dates to Remember



### Every Week:

#### Sunday:

**Adult Choir Rehearsal**  
Choir Loft, 9:00 a.m. – 10:15 a.m.

**Chalice Choir Rehearsal**  
Choir Loft, 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

#### Wednesday:

**Good-as-New Shop**  
Unity Hall 10:00 a.m. – 4:00 p.m.

#### Buddhism Group

Library, 7:00 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

#### Thursday:

**Adult Choir**  
Choir Loft, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

### ONGOING

#### Wednesday, April 8

**Buildings and Grounds Committee**  
Cooney Room, 7:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.

#### Sunday, April 12

**Easter**

#### Monday, April 13

**Religious Education Committee**  
Cooney Room, 7:00 p.m.

#### Tuesday, April 14

**Space Planning Task Force**  
Cooney Room, 6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 16

**Worship Committee**  
Cooney Room, 7:30 p.m.

#### Adult Programs Committee

Library, 7:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 18

**Youth Group Travels to New Orleans**

#### Monday, April 20

**Space Planning Task Force**  
Cooney Room, 6:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 23

**Adult Programs Committee**  
Purple Classroom, 7:30 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 25

**Women's Alliance Annual Meeting**  
Unity Hall, 9:00 a.m.

**Youth Group Back from New Orleans**

#### Sunday, April 26

**Social Action Committee**  
Library, Noon

#### Monday, April 27

**IHN Planning Meeting**  
Purple Classroom, 7:30 p.m.

#### Thursday, April 30

**New Member Open House**  
Cooney Room, 7:00 p.m.

#### Friday, May 1

**Cape Cod Retreat**

#### Saturday, May 2

**Cape Cod Retreat**

#### ECDC Yard Sale

Church Lawn, 8:00 a.m. - Noon

#### Sunday, May 3

**Cape Cod Retreat**

### RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

#### Sunday, April 12

**Easter  
Special Sunday**

#### Monday, April 13

**Religious Education Committee**  
Cooney Room, 7:00 p.m.

#### Saturday, April 18

**Youth Group Travels to New Orleans**

#### Saturday, April 25

**Youth Group Returns from New Orleans**

#### Sunday, May 3

**Special Sunday - Nursery Care Only**



For an updated listing of all UUAC activities,  
including Religious Education,  
visit the Church Website: [uuac-sherborn.org](http://uuac-sherborn.org).  
Follow the links on the lower left of the home  
page.