



CROSSROADS

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

June 2, 2008

Minister's Message

~ Reverend Nathan Detering

BECOMING A TEACHING CONGREGATION

On page 2 of this issue of Crossroads you will find an introduction from Laura Randall, recent graduate of Harvard Divinity School and a candidate for our Unitarian Universalist ministry. Laura also has the distinction of becoming our congregation's first (in recent memory) Student Minister. If you were to see me as I write this, you would see me with arms upraised in full-joy, full-celebration position.

Why I am so excited to welcome Laura as our Student Minister? As one of several candidates who interviewed with our Student Ministry Committee (see names below), Laura impressed us with her poise, insight, and deep sense of vocation to the Unitarian Universalist ministry. She comes to us with a love for our faith and with a desire to learn about how to 'do' ministry in a dynamic, growing congregation. Come September, Laura will join us for 15 hours a week, including most Sundays, to engage in all aspects of our congregation's life, including helping to lead worship, occasional preaching, time with religious education, pastoral care, and social justice work.

The other reason I am excited to have Laura join us is because I believe the old maxim that we learn and grow the most when we have the opportunity to teach others. For me this learning will occur by having someone ask me to discern why and how I practice ministry the way I do, including my participation in a year-long supervisor's course I will be taking at Andover-Newton Theological School. For us this learning will occur by paying attention to the ways in which we model healthy congregational life for one of our up and coming ministers. I believe we have a lot of health to model, and by becoming a Teaching Congregation we are saying we want to share it with others. This is why I also see our welcoming a student as an expression of service, of service to the future of our faith.

Seven years ago this June I completed my year as Student Minister at First Parish in Lincoln, MA, - the place where I gave my first real sermon, the church where I was ordained, the church where I caught fire with this work that is Unitarian Universalist ministry. To this day I still look back to that parish and to my mentor, Rev. Roger Paine, as a touchstone and benchmark for what ministry can be and should be. I nourish the hope that Laura might say the same about her time with us.

Yours in faith and in love,

Nathan

PS: Please thank our Student Ministry Committee when you see them: *Barbara Allen, Ginny Evans, Marco Kaltofen, Gary Strichartz, Becky Sheble-Hall, and J.T. Mann.*

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Please note, our lay-led summer services begin on Sunday, June 15th. All services begin in Unity Hall at 10:30a.m.

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 on 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

Enjoy the summer!

Deadline	Issue Date
June 23	July 7

UUAC STAFF OFFICE HOURS & CONTACT INFORMATION

Minister: Reverend Nathan Detering

Hours by appointment
 508-653-1422/minister@uuac-sherborn.org

Congregational Administrator: Kate Garretson

Wednesday, 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

508-653-1422/dre@uuac-sherborn.org

Membership Development /

Communications Coordinator: Maureen Gormley

508-653-1422/communications@uuac-sherborn.org

Music Director: Laura Jensen

401-787-3032/music@uuac-sherborn.com

MEET OUR STUDENT MINISTER

I was born and raised in Rochester, NY. My spiritually adventurous family was UU in spirit if not in name. My father enjoyed taking my little brother and I to the many houses of worship in the Rochester area. I discovered Unitarian Universalism for myself while going to Alfred University where I was an English major. Like so many people say, finding the UU faith was like coming home for me. After I graduated from college, I went to work in a nursing home. It was here that my faith was both challenged and strengthened. I knew then that I wanted to offer spiritual support to people for a living. Being with the residents, especially those affected by Alzheimer's disease, made me feel that I was doing truly important work. My partner, Luke, and I moved to Boston so I could attend Harvard Divinity School and pursue my dream of becoming a UU minister. Luke and I now live in Somerville with our two dogs, Lexi and Jake. We are getting married in November.

I am very excited to be joining the First Parish of Sherborn as your first ministerial intern. I am sure we will all learn and grow a great deal in the coming year together. I look forward to the journey!



It is hard to believe that the church year is coming to a close. We have had such an amazing year of growth and change in both the church and in our R.E. program. Our Religious Education Program offered our third Our Whole Lives class to our 7th and 8th graders this year and offered Small Group Ministry to our 7th to 12th graders for the first time. Our Senior youth group had its first large service trip in many years and ten of our senior youth had an incredible experience working in New Orleans. Our R.E. Program was very excited to offer Spirit Play training year with Nita Penfold and we look forward to beginning Spirit Play in our first grade classroom next year. I will be contacting first grade parents about this wonderful curriculum over the summer and the committee and I will be working on materials and the classroom over the summer. We have continued to grow steadily and we finish the year with 121 children and youth enrolled in our program. We have also managed to accommodate our growing population with amazing teachers each trimester (thanks to all that helped out) and we are still (just barely) squeezing everyone in to our classroom space. Thanks to the Sherborn Community Center for helping us by letting us use their space for our third and fourth grade classes. Speaking of registrations, the R.E. committee and I are working hard to get next year's registrations processed and to fill our teaching grid for next year. If you haven't turned in your registration in yet please help us make our program planning easier by turning it in as soon as possible. I will contact every one over the summer to let you know your teaching position as the grid gets filled. I hope that the summer break gives every one time to relax and enjoy life. I look forward to seeing every one in the fall!

Kate

PEOPLE WE CARE ABOUT

Our wishes of recovery to **Nancy Levy** and **Samantha White-Morin**. Nancy is recovering from recent knee surgery and Samantha is healing from a hip replacement.

Congratulations to Don Keiser and Carol Esler. Their son Cody recently graduated from college.

Best wishes to Donna Allen. Her son graduated from college in May.

Robert Angell, Rory Sheble-Hall and Emma Shannon are performing in the Open Fields community theatre show **Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor DreamCoat**. Performances are Thurs. June 12 at 7:30 PM; Friday, June 13 at 8PM; and two shows Saturday June 14 at 3PM and 8PM. Shows are at the Mudge Auditorium at Dover-Sherborn Regional High, 9 Junction St. in Dover. Tickets can be ordered on-line at www.open-fields.org. Tickets are \$15 for Students and Seniors, \$20 for Adults.

Our sympathies are with the family of longtime UUAC member **Jan Vanderbie**, who passed away peacefully in his sleep on Monday, May 26th. A memorial service celebrating Jan's life will take place on Friday, June 27th at 1:00 p.m.

PLEASE WELCOME...

Please warmly welcome, if you have the opportunity, the following people who have visited our church for the first time in the last few months: Anne Cody Botticelli, Zoe and Tommy Grave, Betty Ripley, Norman Jason, and Sharon Webb.

Foundation Member **Rev Polly Leland-Mayer**, by **Maureen Gormley**

As I had the honor to interview another Foundation Member of our church, I realized our lovely church building itself probably knows our own Rev Polly Leland-Mayer better than anyone. The building has welcomed her shining light since her parents brought her here as a child into a community in which it was "obvious that I was cared about and cared for" and was "always a growing space for me...I was encouraged to continue to ask questions, search, and grow in understanding of the mystery of which we are a part." As a piece of history, she recounted that although there were many Unitarian humanist congregations in the 1930's, liberal Christianity was the philosophical base of this church at that time. Polly was still exposed to world religions and philosophies in her RE classes, and it was within this "warm community" that she decided to go into the ministry. She was ordained a "Minister of Religious Education" in our church in 1984, and shortly thereafter received her Master of Divinity from Andover-Newton Theological Seminary. She has worn many hats in this church – first paid Director of Religious Education in the early 1960's, Church Administrator, and President – as well as in others throughout her years – Associate Minister at the Winchester Church and on faculty at Meadville/Lombard in Chicago and Harvard Divinity School. She returned here to her original "growing space" and can be seen serving the church in a sundry of arenas, including ministering to us from the pulpit, informal pastoral care, helping in the Good as New Shop, and singing in the choir. Welcome any opportunity you get to speak with Polly... you'll be glad you did!

Social Action

1250 ACTS TO END HUNGER, 2008

Thinking about your summer plans? – it is going to get warm one of these days! – before you start enjoying that vacation, please help our less fortunate neighbors by donating items to A Place to Turn, the emergency food pantry serving the Metrowest area. Donations are welcomed and **needed all summer long**, especially at this time with the weak economy. Please consider dropping off an item or two this summer when going by the church during church office hours, GANS hours, or if coming to a Sunday service. Donations of food, toiletries or paper products may be left in the basket located conveniently by the North Entrance to the church. Donations may also be dropped off at Bill and Barbie Breer's, 53 Woodland St., Sherborn, if that is more convenient. Just give us a call first at 508-653-0636 to be sure we will be home. Listed below is a reminder of what items are needed:

White Rice	Juices	Paper Towels
Beans	Jell-O	Tissues
Pasta	Pudding	Toilet Paper
Rice-a-Roni, etc	Crackers	Disposable Diapers
Spaghetti Sauce	Lunch Box Snacks	Feminine Products
Other tomato products	Peanut Butter	Toothpaste
Canned Vegetables	Jelly	Toothbrushes
Fruit	Hot Cereal	Shampoo
Stews	Cold Cereals	Conditioner
Meat	Coffee	Deodorant
Tuna	Tea	Soap
Soups	Hot Chocolate	Shaving Supplies
Brown Paper Bags	Cleaning Supplies	Laundry Detergent

Please note that all items should be in good condition, unopened (except for diapers), not perishable, and not beyond their expiration date. The Social Action Committee much appreciates your donating during our summer hiatus – it really is needed!

INTERFAITH HOSPITALITY NETWORK

Volunteers Needed for Hosting Week



If you have not filled out a Volunteer sheet yet for our first hosting week with the Interfaith Hospitality Network, please do so before the end of church. They can be found in the church during services or in the office during the week. They can be left in the specially marked IHN box or given

to Barbie Breer, in person or mailed to 53 Woodland St., Sherborn, MA 01770. Please note that we are hoping people might sign up for meals as a **group** to share the burden of cooking for 14 guests plus UUAC volunteers. This could be one or more families who would like to work together, or a committee, or a covenant group to name a few ideas. Individuals, of course, can also sign up, but would not be expected to do it alone. On the last Saturday that our guests will be with us (8/30) we plan a couple of special things – a hearty breakfast in the morning (weekdays the breakfast is quick since guests have to leave by 7 AM) and a barbecue that night (weather permitting). Anyone that would like to help with either of these events please contact Barbie Breer, IHN Meals Coordinator: e-mail at wmbarb1959@comcast.net or telephone at 508-653-0636. This is an exciting ministry for us and we look forward to our first hosting!

UUAC SOCIAL ACTION MEDALS OF SERVICE PRESENTATION

If you missed this year's Annual Meeting, you missed the presentation of two UUAC Social Action Medals of Service given by the Social Action Committee to two very deserving individuals. The giving of these pins was inaugurated in 2004 by the SAC under the leadership of Devon Kinkead. The recipient was to have met the following criteria: 1. Her/His actions were aligned with UU principles, 2. She/He led by example, and 3. She/He supported and engaged in an action-oriented project. The idea behind this award was especially to reinforce great committee work – action aligned with virtue, as Devon put it. We have continued the tradition this year by honoring **Jan Mitchell** and **Gwyned Trefethen**. Jan has headed up the **Salvation Army dinners** for many years, doing so tirelessly, efficiently, and with grace. It is a great deal of work and her efforts have helped feed many hungry souls over the years. Gwyned has served on the SAC admirably, always ready to help and always ready with good analysis. She developed her idea of the Quiltathons into the **Power of the Quilt Project** which this year surpassed its record with over 200 quilts made. These quilts bring comfort to so many and we honor her perseverance and plain hard work.

The Social Action committee salutes these two individuals and by the awarding of these pins hopes to show our deep gratitude to them.

Barbie Breer, SAC Chair

Church Affairs

Adult Programs

WHAT'S GOING ON IN OUR UU WORLD

In October 2004 the the UUA Board formed a committee, the Consultation on Ministry to and with Youth, that presented recommendations this past fall for moving away from "youth programming" and toward "youth ministry". Over three years the Consultation had 90 meetings with U.S. and Canadian UUs and surveyed 1,400 youth and a smaller number of youth workers.

Following are a few of the 60 recommendations as noted in UU World, Spring 2008, page 55.

- * Create a resource book with readings, hymns, and activities for worship that appeal to youth.
- * Invite theological schools to provide education in youth ministry and require such coursework in the credentialing of new ministers.
- * Develop a training that will help youth talk about Unitarian Universalism with their friends.
- * Develop antiracist, antioppressive, and multicultural youth curricula to ensure that all youth are welcome in our congregations.
- * Provide quality training for those who work with youth.
- * Identify and support eight congregations in creating models of multigenerational worship.

Jill Carroll, Chm., Denominational Affairs

NEWS FROM THE ALLIANCE

At its annual meeting in April the Alliance increased its gifts to six local food banks by 50%. The Alliance also voted to support Homestart, the Power of the Quilt Project, and the Unitarian Universalist Urban Ministry. The Alliance continued to maintain a fund to give grants to members attending Unitarian Universalist activities. The money for the gifts and the Alliance pledge to the church comes from the proceeds of the Good as New Shop.

HISTORY OF GANS

On July 31, 1963 the Good as New shop opened its doors. Half of that day's profit was earned through the sale of homemade baked goods. Prices ranged from \$10.00 for a dress to \$1.00 for a tack braid. Most items sold for \$1.00. Among the first customers was Eleanor Suckerts, who is still a weekly visitor after 45 years.

BOOK DONATION PROGRAM

THANK YOU, UUAC!

Our book donation bin for Hands Across the Water is full! Hands Across the Water will be picking up the books and distributing them to needy schools, libraries, and community organizations around the globe. Your 'previously loved' books will help combat illiteracy around the world, while also eliminating waste here in our communities. Thanks again for helping to make a difference both for the environment and for global literacy and education. Let's keep filling up that container!

Lisa Palmer
Social Action Committee

IHN PLANNING MEETING

The next planning meeting for our hosting of the MetroWest Interfaith Hospitality Network (MIHN) will be **Tuesday, June 17** at 7:30 PM. Come and help us get ready to provide food, shelter and companionship to some homeless families with children.

BOOK CLUB

For July, the Book Club will read *Cod* by Mark Kurlansky. The meeting will be on **Saturday, July 13 at 4 PM** at the home of Rita and Gary Ghilani, 491 Main Street, Ashland, 881-7386. New participants are always welcome.

SALVATION ARMY DINNER JULY 23

Our next turn to serve dinner at the Salvation Army in Framingham will be **Wednesday, July 23**. As always, we will need many meat loaves as well as volunteers to serve and clean up. Meat loaves (NOT frozen) may be brought to the church on Wednesday between 10 AM and 4 PM and left in the kitchen refrigerator. Address any questions to Joan Hunter, 508 533 6202 or jbh_11@verizon.net.



We are a Welcoming Congregation 

Next *Crossroads* deadline is Monday, June 23 for the July 7 Newsletter.

OUR CARING COOKBOOK

Maura Shannon is recovering slowly but surely from her recent knee injury and wanted to express her deep gratitude to everyone who was so kind and supportive to her during this and her family's recent difficult times. As delicious, nourishing, and nurturing meals came in for her and her family, she came up with the idea of putting together a new UUAC cookbook. Now she is collecting recipes from anyone and everyone who would like to donate to the cookbook. She would love to incorporate those that were provided to her family and would greatly encourage anyone to donate any family favorites, easy cooking, great for 1 or crowds or any other recipe that anyone used to help themselves, a family member, friend, relative or anybody to feel better (You can also add an insightful comment/words of wisdom/prayer/story/etc. if you want). Please email Maura at mltshannon@netzero.com, call her at 508 650-0687 or 508 653-9008, or send recipes to her at 51 Bacon St. Natick, MA 01760. Recipes can also be left with Kate in the church office. She is looking at an early fall publication.