

# CROSSROADS

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

February 2012

## **Service Information:**

Feb. 5 – Kate Landis,  
Student Minister,  
preaching

Feb. 12 –Rev. Detering  
preaching

Feb. 19 – Matt Meyer,  
guest worship leader

Feb. 26 – Rev. Detering  
leading worship; multi-  
generational service.

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## **Minister's Message**

**By Reverend Nathan Detering**

“Share the Love with a Service Pledge”

Living out our Unitarian Universalist faith is a two-step tango – one step is made by performing acts of charity, the other step by performing works of justice. What's the difference? Bill Sloane Coffin, that great lion of ministry, says that ‘charity seeks to alleviate the effects of injustice, and justice seeks to alleviate the causes of it.’ Charitable acts – like our serving meals to the homeless in Framingham, like housing homeless families in our church as part of our work with Interfaith Hospitality Network, like joining the upcoming WinterWalk (March 4<sup>th</sup> at noon in Holliston!) to help end homelessness one person at a time – is necessary work. Also necessary is the justice work of advocating for the homeless at the political level. It takes both– charity and justice – to walk the talk of our faith.

On Saturday night, Feb.11 at the home of Bob and Alison Murchison, and then at our service fair after worship on Sunday, Feb.12<sup>th</sup>, we will have the opportunity to learn more about how we can commit to performing both charity and justice by making a Service Pledge. What is a Service Pledge? Initiated last year, this is a faith-inspired pledge we make over to some agency, cause, or initiative outside our the walls of our congregation. You will remember that my service pledge is participating in the mentoring of a prisoner, Daniel, as he gets his college degree.

The Service Pledge team and I would love to have you join in thinking about how you can share the love ethic of our faith with a service pledge this year. Please mark your calendars for the 12<sup>th</sup>, and if you want to come to the Saturday evening event please email me asap (minister@uuac-sherborn) to ensure there is room.

Yours in love and faith,

Nathan

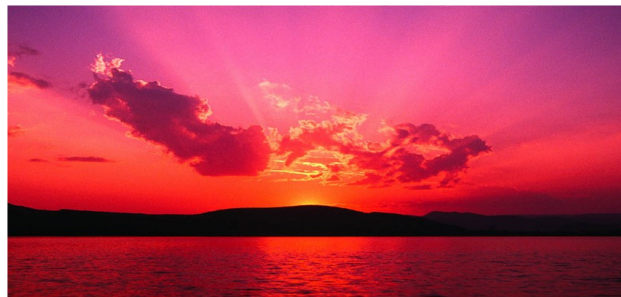


## Membership and Communications

by Katherine McHugh

### The Power of Our Caring Ministries

To witness faith in action, to actually see what love together with service looks like is to know what a church community can be at its best. It is truly life affirming. Recently, several of our members and their families have suffered the effects of physical injuries and illnesses, both chronic and acute. There has been the passing of longtime members and the accompanying grief, losses of those we held dear. Issues of unemployment and financial woes continue to plague more than a few. In ALL of these cases, I have watched in awe and humble gratitude that I am part of this loving and other centered community.



There are the daily meals home cooked and delivered for whatever may be the ailment. Food that feeds the soul as well as the body. There are the weekly rides to church, for those impaired temporarily and those now infirm. As a member, when you sit in the pews and start to notice, really notice, you see these quiet acts of kindness from one to another. It warms you.

I was recently at a memorial service on a beautiful sunny Saturday afternoon and the church was full, of parishioners, young and old, those with young families, to celebrate the life of a member...and equally importantly to support the rest of the family. Having attended many churches and being from a devoutly religious family, I can tell you from experience that this dynamic is a rarity amongst many churches. But it is alive and well and thriving here at the UUAC.

While many of these acts of love are spontaneous to be sure, much of what we see accomplished in times of life changes and stress is the result of the work of our Caring Ministries here at the UUAC.

The Caring Ministries is comprised of two groups, The Caring Committee and the Lay Pastoral Care Ministry Team, and they **share a covenant with our Congregation to:**

**Help one another during times of emotional, spiritual, or physical need.**

**Sharing our loving faith during times of joy as well as sorrow.**

**Support and affirm each other's dignity and worth during life altering challenges.**

**Offer connection, so that no person need struggle alone.**

That no person need struggle alone. As part of the Caring Ministries, **The Lay Pastoral Care Ministers** have been trained and are called to their ministry by our Minister, Rev. Nathan Detering. Their goal is to offer emotional and spiritual support to ANY INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY in our midst going through difficult challenges. They are called to be a caring presence and BE with those who are going through bereavement, death, and dying. They witness to those with illness, medical difficulties, marital or personal crises. Births, adoptions, parenting issues, the stuff of life...these are all areas of ongoing training for the pastoral care team. We are indeed fortunate to have such an invaluable resource available for comfort and support.

**The Caring Committee** provides short-term, physical help to individuals and families within our congregation who are in need. While they cannot offer emergency or on-going services, they offer collective love and commitment with: meals, rides for medical appointments, transportation or church events, check-ins for those who feel isolated, and cards for celebrations as well as hardships, and to help to organize resources during times of crisis.

Because it is sometimes difficult to ask for help, the Caring Committee relies upon our entire congregation to identify and communicate the needs of our parishioners. They work with our Ministers and Lay Pastoral Care Ministers, in confidence, to coordinate care.

Our current Pastoral Care Team includes: *Becky Sheble-Hall (chair), Alan Cantor, Michael Healy, Gage Heath, Ellen Kerstein, Cheryl Perreault, Pam Teibel, Darrah Bryans, and Jud Wolfskill.* Please connect with any of them or Nathan, if you or those you care about in the congregation could benefit from some much needed support. We truly are all in this together.

## REflections

Kate Holland, Director of Religious Education

### The Practice of Hope

This month our worship theme is Resilience: The practice of hope. As the Senior Youth start to prepare to go to New Orleans in April, on this church's 11 service trip to New Orleans, I am proud to see the many ways that we are teaching our children and youth about how to support others so they can keep hope alive in their lives. Besides the Youth Service trip, we offer many opportunities both large and small for the children of our church to help support others in keeping hope alive. The Religious Education program has a food drive two times a year to help to support the work the social action committee does with the 1500 Acts to End Hunger program. This gives children and families a chance to talk about those that are hungry in our area and how it is important to support them. Our Next food drive will be on May 20. We have also made and sold Empty bowls to help support local food pantries. The 7 & 8 grade class has helped to create quilting kits for the quiltathons that our church does several times a year. The quilts made at the quiltathons go to those that are going through chemotherapy and to children in need of comfort. The 7 & 8 Grade class has also started a new project this year. They will be making Jared Boxes. Jared boxes are boxes put together of donated items to be given to children in hospitals with chronic illnesses. We are asking for donations of the following NEW items to fill the boxes:

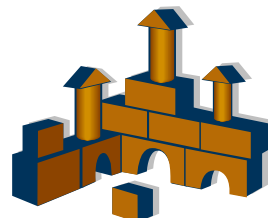
crayons, markers  
 coloring books, puzzle, word search or journal books  
 match box cars  
 cards  
 jigsaw puzzles  
 play dough or silly putty  
 bubbles  
 stickers  
 costume jewelry (child safe)  
 small toys  
 small stuffed animals



You can find more information on the Jared Box project at : [www.thejaredbox.com](http://www.thejaredbox.com) .

May we all find ways to keep hope alive in our lives, and to help others do the same.

Kate Holland



## Denominational Affairs

Submitted by Jill Carroll, Chair

The UU Service Committee has initiated a campaign to ask Senator John Kerry to bring to the Senate a vote to ratify the **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)**

**Treaty.** This treaty was adopted by the UN General Assembly in 1979. All but 7 countries have ratified the treaty. In addition to the United States, the list includes Iran, Somalia, Sudan and three Pacific island nations.

To date there has been a hearing on the treaty by the Senate Judiciary Committee. This is a good first step. Now UUSC is asking UU Congregations in Massachusetts to sign and send a post card to Senator Kerry asking him to act on the treaty. **Postcards** for this purpose will be found in your order of service on Sunday February 12th. They **should be stamped and mailed to Senator Kerry by March 1st so that he will have them by March 8th which is International Women's Day.** Post cards will also be available in Erika Schaad's office and at Sunday coffee hour.

Please help achieve the UUSC's goal of sending 3,000 post cards to Senator Kerry. The hope is that the United States, by ratifying this treaty, will join the global community in expanding the protection of women's rights.

## Save-The-Dates for these special upcoming Ordinations

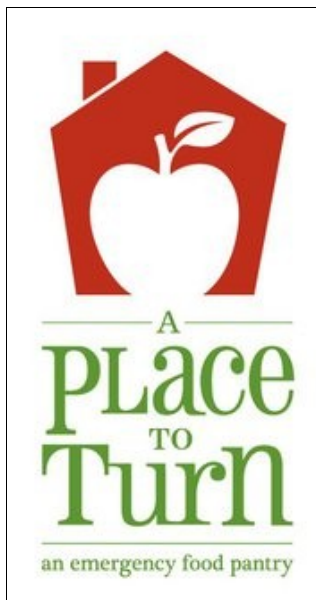
Please save these dates for upcoming ordinations of our past and current student interns! Ordain **Laura Randall** (UUAC ministerial intern from 2008-2010) **on Saturday, March 10<sup>th</sup> at 1p.m.**; Ordain **Kate Landis** (UUAC ministerial from 2010-present) **on Sunday, May 6 at 3p.m.**

## 1500 Acts to End Hunger

Submitted by Barbie Breer, Social Action Committee

Our 1500 Acts to End Hunger, 2011 Program, was a great success thanks to all of you. We donated 1545 items to A Place to Turn, the emergency food pantry which services all of the metro-west area, in 2011. This was over our goal of

1500 items, which in turn allowed us to send them \$1500 to help buy much needed items including perishables. We met the challenge and the Social Action Committee is most grateful to all who contributed throughout the year. The Board of Directors of A Place to Turn sent their heartfelt thanks to our church for our continuing support.



Now we begin a new challenge – our 1500 Acts to End Hunger, **2012** program. Again, we remind you to leave an item or two each week in the marked baskets in the rear of the sanctuary and at the north entrance to the church. Our donations make such a difference to people who are in need. A Place to Turn tells us that they particularly need **white rice** and **jelly** at this time.

Many thanks to you all for your generous support of this program.

## UUAC Adult Programs Presents...**"THE ROUNDERS"** IN A WARM, INFORMAL EVENING OF **LIVE MUSIC AND POETRY....**

On **Saturday night, February 4th**, come and bring your friends.. *young and old..* for a special evening of Folk, Poetry, And Pop.

**"The Rounders"** feature UUAC's own **Cheryl Perreault**, with her cadence-driven spoken word performances to guitar... She spin stories about the light, the dark and the quirky aspects of daily life.

Other artists performing with **The Rounders** are:



**Chris Pahud** -- bass-baritone singer, guitarist and songwriter... currently has a CD *"Red Sky in Morning"*

**Tom Smith** – singer/songwriter and plays guitar, banjo, mandolin and harmonica among other instruments

**Steve Rapson** - singer/songwriter and author - Steve's debut CD *"Christmas Guitar"* is sold around the world.

**Ken Batts** – singer/songwriter and accordionist ...his accordion playing evokes the instrument's many regional styles, including Cajun, Irish, Mexican, French, Klezmer and Scandinavian  
And join us for special guest appearances by **Abbey & Jaclyn Perreault** -- in delightful duet of current pop, folk and original songs

**"The Rounders"** have performed their diverse themes and styles of music at Amazing Things Arts Center, Emerson Umbrella for the Arts, The Parish Center for the Art, New Years Needham, The Homegrown Coffeehouse and other local venues.

**Light refreshments - Free Admission - Donations go to support NOLA 11 (UUAC's Youth Trip to New Orleans)**

UUAC Sherborn Saturday Evening , February 4th 7 PM in Unity Hall

### Register NOW for Winter Walk 2012



Register now for Winter Walk 2012! Winter Walk started here, at the UUAC, in 2003. In the intervening 9 years, Winter Walks have raised over \$100,000 to prevent and end homelessness in greater Boston. On Sunday March 4<sup>th</sup>, Winter Walk 2012, a 5-mile interfaith walk, will start at 1pm and end at the First Congregational Church in Holliston. Come join us for song, prayer, laughter, food and drink as we take steps to prevent and end homelessness right here in Boston. Register at [winterwalk.org](http://winterwalk.org),. 100% of Winter Walk proceeds benefit HomeStart.



### Talkin' Trash

Bob Buntin, lifelong member and supporter of our church, rebuilt our dumpster this summer. He welded on a whole new section at the turn of the bilge. This is the second time that he has rebuilt the dumpster. A replacement would cost more than \$1,000. The Ruane's, operators of the Sherborn Transfer Station, transported the container to and from Bob's house here in town. They also provide free trash pickup for the church. Small towns are nice.



## Reach Out ... Share your Faith ... "Share Your Love" with Service Pledge 2012

Almost a year ago, Reverend Detering introduced his concept for "Service Pledge", a faith-based personal pledge to show our commitment to the greater communities we live in.

Service Pledge was conceived as a way for each of us to deepen our values and our engagement as Unitarian Universalists by sharing the faith that we cherish with those that need us...*beyond the walls of our church*. Many of us have opened our hearts and committed ourselves in the last year to working in some way with outside causes or organizations.

In 2012, new opportunities abound. For those of us who want to reach out, in February we invite you to *"Share the Love"* at an Evening Pledge Celebration on Saturday, February 11, 6:30 at the Murchison's. Come for Light Supper and some Inspiration from outside Service Organizations. If you have not already responded to your email invitation, please RSVP to Bob Murchison at [bob.murchison@me.com](mailto:bob.murchison@me.com).

On the next day, **Sunday February 12**, join your friends in Unity Hall for a special Service Sunday Coffee. Once again, representatives of local and national Service Organizations will be there to describe opportunities for you to *give your time, talent and your heart* to the places that need us.

The Service Pledge Committee  
And Reverend Nathan Detering  
Invite you to

## Share Your Love

<p>Saturday February 11<sup>th</sup> 6:30 PM Light Supper</p>	<p>177 Lake St Sherborn Bob and Alison Murchison</p>
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Come prepared to celebrate the idea of service, explore service opportunities, and consider a pledge of your time and heart

RSVP to [bob.murchison@me.com](mailto:bob.murchison@me.com) if you have not already responded to the emailed invitation



love

## Get to Know Their Face

You've recently read Katherine's Membership articles on Jud, Miranda and Susannah Wolfskill. Additionally, Amy And Michael Curmi, and their children Maddie and Charlie. Now you get to meet them face to face. Again, please welcome our newest members!



**Unitarian Universalist Area Church  
at First Parish in Sherborn**

11 Washington Street, P.O. Box 158  
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(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 electronic mail. The newsletter may be viewed at the church website. Printed copies can be picked up at church.

**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.

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**UUAC STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION****Minister:**

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[communications@uuac-sherborn.org](mailto:communications@uuac-sherborn.org)

**Music Director: Laura Jensen**

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**Sexton: Kevin O'Gorman**

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