

CROSSROADS

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

March 2011

Sunday Services

March 6 - Rev. Detering
preaching

March 13 – Kate Landis,
Student Minister, preaching

March 20 – Rev. Detering
preaching

March 27 – Youth Service

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Minister's Message

By Reverend Nathan Detering

Nourish Our Spirit, Our Vision, Our Faith, Our Community

If you're like me then anywhere between 100-200 emails flood your inbox every day, much of it landing deservedly in your 'junk box,' others, likely work-related, demanding your attention NOW!, and still others that you don't quite have the motivation to read or the heart to delete. Falling into this latter category is likely an email from our congregation's Stewardship Team inviting you to a Nourish Party during the month of March. What's a Nourish Party? Think high-taste, high-calorie dessert, think escaping this cabin-fever winter to gather with a small group of friends from our church community, think stories about how our congregation and Unitarian Universalist faith nourishes your spirit and helps to heal the world, think invitations to help nourish our Church with your time, talent, and your treasure.

When it comes to invitations like these asking you to support our church, some of you tell me you resist because you think you will be pressed for money and made to feel uncomfortable. By way of response imagine me on bended knee, encouraging you to believe that pledging to our church needn't be something to avoid or dread, encouraging you to go to one of these parties and see how pledging can instead be a way for you to share your passion, your joy even, for our church and this religion we share. The Stewardship Team is hosting gatherings in all of our towns, and childcare is available. Look below for one that fits your schedule and then reply to that email that is waiting for you in your inbox. RSVP to Stewardship@uuac-sherborn.org.

With love,

Nathan

Upcoming Nourish Parties

March 6 – Sunday 6pm at Church

March 9 – Wednesday 12 noon at Town House in Sherborn

March 11 – Friday 7pm in Holliston

March 13 – Sunday 4pm in Hopkinton

March 19 – Saturday 7pm in Sherborn

March 20 – Sunday 4pm in Ashland

March 20 – Sunday 6pm in Holliston

March 25 – Friday 7pm in Sherborn

Reflections

Kate Holland, Director of Religious Education

Last month I had the good fortune to be a part of the Sr. Youth Groups "Fresh Coffee House". What a great evening our youth put together to raise money for their trip to New Orleans. We had an evening of bands and performers from many of the towns our youth go to school. Despite some questionable weather, we managed to fill Unity Hall with great music good food and a fun raffle. I think a good time was had by all and at the end of the night the Youth had raised \$610.

The youth will continue to work to raise money for their trip by selling soup and pastries at coffee hour over the next month so continue to look for that. We will also be having another fun night out. On Saturday March 12 at 5:30, please join us in Unity hall at 5:30 for a Pasta dinner. We will do the cooking of pasta, sauce, meatballs, bread and beverages for just \$5 a person or \$20 max for a family. We will have a raffle for fun, you just bring a game to play after dinner and we will do all of the cooking!! Please come out of the house for this fun event!!

I wanted to also remind every one that the spring trimester of teaching will begin on March 13. I encourage you to get into your child's classroom and thank the winter teachers for their work over the last few months and to welcome in our Spring teachers as they join our classrooms over the next few weeks. Thanks to all of the amazing volunteers that make our program so great for all of our children!

Kate



Communications and Conversations

by Katherine McHugh

A Life of Intellectual Vitality

The UUAC is indeed fortunate to have as a member Dot Widmayer, who shares her gifts of a keen mind and committed heart with our congregation. Dot's journey with the UUAC began in 1978, when she and her partner Eleanor (Ellie) Webster began attending services. Dot has seen our church through some challenging times and is now glad to be a part of the growth and welcoming community that her work, along with others, have helped to make happen. An octogenarian, she continues to inspire us all with her energy and a life of rich experiences.



Her childhood faith was that of the evangelical and reformed tradition, German Lutheran. Growing up in Washington, DC, her father took she and her brother to church every Sunday. Dot was always involved in the activities of church and was confirmed at age 12. While she had her doubts, she figured she would begin to understand the notions in her faith that didn't make any logical sense.

While an undergraduate at Wellesley College (a place where she would eventually receive both her BA and MA), Dot regularly attended chapel. It was more of an intellectual rather than a religious experience. And it was this, the exchange of ideas and the pursuit of knowledge that would give shape to her life (and inform her faith).

(cont. on page 3)

A Life of Intellectual Vitality cont....

After receiving her MA from Wellesley, Dot taught at Simmons College for two years before getting her PhD at Indiana University in Bloomington. She chose Indiana so that she could work with a prominent professor who was doing genetics research using paramecium. She continued this line of research in her own laboratory during her 35 year teaching career in the biology department at Wellesley College.

Dot has enjoyed a lifetime of travels since the close of WWII, and has roamed the world. During college vacations and after retirement in 1996, she and Ellie traveled to every continent except Antarctica and circled the globe. The Galapagos Islands and boating in the Caribbean remain favorites.

Dot has been a member of the Internal Review Board for Metrowest hospitals for 25 years. The National Institutes of Health mandates that hospitals set up a board for the purpose of reviewing any proposed research to be funded by the government. Some of these responsibilities are to review plans and protocols for medical research with a view to protecting patients in clinical trials, to guard against conflict of interest between physicians and drug companies, and to approve compassionate use of drugs.

Another long held passion for Dot is book collecting. If you are interested in old and rare books, please ask Dot about her wide collection. What began with old and venerable textbooks has in time expanded to cover the spectrum including children's literature. She is particularly drawn to the many translations of *Aesop's Fables*, often for their fabulous illustrations, and to miniature books. Her home in Sherborn is bulging with them!

An Intern's Journey

by Kate Landis

'Tis a gift to be simple, 'tis the gift to be free,
 'Tis a gift to come down where we ought to be,
 And when we find ourselves in the place just right,
 'Twill be in the valley of love and delight.
 When true simplicity is gained,
 To bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed,
 To turn, turn will be our delight,
 Till by turning, turning we come round right.

I love this traditional Shaker hymn because it has an infectious melody and because its words are so true. It is a gift when we are simple, when we are simply who we are, without pretence. It is a gift to be freely ourselves. It is pure love and delight to be our unique self, unlike any other in the universe.

Recently I have been pondering the second half of the verse: "When true simplicity is gained, to bow and to bend we shan't be ashamed." Bowing and bending is hard. To me these words mean to change, to bend, to be flexible and bow, to acknowledge that I might be wrong. I bet I am not the only one who isn't crazy about being wrong, about bowing to someone else's way. However, I am discovering a great freedom in bowing and bending. Bowing and bending, admitting I might be wrong, means I don't always have to be right. It means I don't have to have all the answers. It means I can learn from everyone I meet. I don't have to be a stick in the mud, I can turn, turn, delighted to find myself closer to right, closer to the truth.

Perhaps the Shakers were on to something. When we are ourselves- just ourselves, not gussied up so that we seem smarter or fancier, brighter or more worldly- we are in a place just right. We are in a place of love and delight. And in that place, that place where we are our amazing, flawed, broken, holy selves, it is okay if we make mistakes. It is okay if we are wrong. Because learning from our mistakes will be our delight. Because learning from our mistakes brings us closer to coming round right.

As Spring (finally!) nears, may we all find the courage to be our un-gussied- up selves, delighting in our freedom. Let's sway as the growing tulips sway on their slender stems, bending and bowing. May we be free to move and change and be wrong. And let's allow others to move and change and be wrong too. Because eventually, all this bending and bowing will be a delight, and from turning, turning we'll come round right.

Board Notes

Board Notes – January 2011 Meeting

Major topics at the UUAC board of directors' November meeting included:

- **Finance** – Due to significant ledge removal and other unforeseen issues, there was a cost overrun for the new septic system. Income is tracking well to the budget. The long-term and bridge financings are scheduled to close in January.
- **Stewardship** – Nathan and the Stewardship Committee have met several times and plan to have a novel approach to this year's pledge campaign.
- **Board votes** – The process for board actions between regularly scheduled meetings, particularly with respect to the building project, was discussed.
- **B&G** - Roger Demler will develop a "who to call" list for B&G issues such as plumbing, electrical, water, and snow. The list will be posted in the office and will also be distributed to board and ministry council members as well as other key people.

Building Update - The amount we anticipate will need to be borrowed under the bridge loan has declined both because pledges have come in more quickly than expected and because the construction timeline was somewhat delayed. The status of change orders was discussed, and the board approved five changes totaling approximately \$8,300; this is within budget. The board also approved up to \$2,000 for rough AV wiring.

Upcoming Adult Programs

Church Based Social Action in Cuba - with Cris Crawford
March 27th 12:30-2:00, The relationship between religion, politics, economics, and social action in an evolving Cuba.

"Transgenderism 101" -- A Panel Discussion for a Better Understanding April 3, 2011 12:30-2:00 PM, Unity Hall, following coffee

Islam Program (Roots of Islam II)-- Katherine McHugh
Tues, April 26, 2011 7:30 - 9:00 PM Unity Hall

" Growing Elders" -- A Workshop Series with Polly Leland-Mayer Wed April 13, 20, 27 and May 4, 11, 18 2011, Evenings, 7-8:30 PM at Woodhaven in Living Room

"UUAC Art in Bloom" - with Cathie Healy
April 17 & 23 (RE Kids), Sunday May 15th

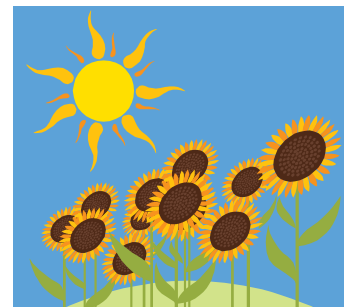
"Auras and Chakras and Meridians...Oh MY!" -- with Linda Crawford Date TBD, stay tuned!

Visit to the Mosque in Wayland -- Islamic Center of Boston
Date TBD, stay tuned

People We Care About

Our heartfelt condolences to **Helen Sicotte**, whose husband Ross passed away after a brief illness.

Our prayers of healing for **Lois Harper**, who is recovering from a broken foot at Mary Ann Morse Rehabilitation Center.



Social Action Happenings

Volunteer Opportunities

As our construction draws to a close, we are going to once again be able to host homeless families through our membership in the Metrowest Interfaith Hospitality Network. With our next hosting here at UUAC scheduled for **April 10 – April 17** there are many volunteer opportunities available.

As Meals Coordinator, I am looking for people to help with dinners – this involves working with others to provide a meal for our guests as well as visiting with them. The work is shared, the menus are provided, and the experience is invaluable. Our friends at St. Theresa's provide the meals on Tuesday and Thursday, so we are only responsible for 5 dinners. We are also looking for someone to help the overnight people cook a hearty breakfast on Saturday morning when the guests can have a more leisurely meal. Please contact me (Barbie Breer) at wambarb1959@comcast.net (or tel. 508-653-0636) if you are interested in participating this time around.

If you are interested in other ways to help with our hosting, please contact the following:

Jill Carroll for help with supplies: bjcarroll4@comcast.net

Katie Frassinelli for help with activities: katefraz@yahoo.com

Kathy Coplestone for help with laundry: kcopples@wellesley.edu

Joan Hunter for help with staying overnight: jbh_11@verizon.net

Barbie Breer for help with set up (4/10) and take down (4/17): wambarb1959@comcast.net

We have a wonderful base of volunteers and would love to see this expanded – this is a great experience for all ages. (Note: volunteers must be CORI checked and attend a training session.)

1500 Acts to End Hunger, 2011 Program

As we approach the first quarter of 2011, our donations to A Place to Turn, the emergency food pantry serving the metrowest area, is lagging a bit. I am hoping that March turns out to be a banner month and we can get on track for donating 1500 items (& therefore \$1500 with our matching dollar program) for this year. The need for food has not abated and our donations are most welcome at A Place to Turn. Just an item or two each week from our members can add up to much needed help. Please place your donations in the baskets provided at the rear of the sanctuary and at the north entrance of the church. Our efforts are much appreciated.

Suggested items to donate: canned soups, stews, vegetables

The Annual Church Retreat, April 19 - May 1, 2011



““Attending the retreat reminds me why I like being a UU so much, and how much I have in common with other UU's who share my value system for family, the environment, etc.”

2010 Retreat Participant

The retreat is held at the beautiful Cape Cod Sea Camps in Brewster, MA. It is a wonderful opportunity to meet more people from the church and take a "time-out" at the beach. This is a fairly unstructured program, with lots of time for relaxation and reflection, walks on the beach, and just pure fun. For more information, email Kathy Greer at kgreerassoc@earthlink.net or call 508-561-0764.

<http://www.uuac-sherborn.org/news/retreat.php>

Scholarships are available for those who otherwise might not be able to attend. Talk to Nathan or Kathy about a confidential scholarship to the retreat.

Upcoming Events:

Quilt-a-thon

Saturday, March 26th 9am to 4pm , Unity Hall

The Power of the Quilt Project, sponsored by the Rhododendron Needlers Quilt Guild (www.rnqg.org) and the UUAC Social Action committee, will hold its last quilt-a-thon of the 2010-2011 year on Saturday, March 26th.

Everyone is invited to come help put together quilts that will be distributed to local chemotherapy centers. No experience is needed. There are many jobs involved in creating a comfort quilt from piecing the top; ironing; pinning; cutting fabric; sewing on labels; to helping fix and serve lunch to all the VOLUNTEERS. The more volunteers we have, the more quilts we can distribute.

Please come help us make our goal of 200 quilts this year.

For more information about the Power of the Quilt Project please go to www.uuac-sherborn.org/quilt.html

Hope to see you on March 26! Lunch will be served.

Workshop: Uni-what? Constructing Your UU Elevator Speech

Being a part of this Unitarian Universalist congregation is amazing-but how do you tell people about it? Have you ever become flustered trying to explain your denomination to a new friend? Join me at this fun workshop where we will discover ways to describe our beloved tradition in 30 seconds or less.

March 8: "Is it like a religion or something?:" Explaining Unitarian Universalism.

March 15: "So why do you like it?:" Sharing what this congregation means to you.

March 22: "I should check it out!:" Inviting them to see us in action.

For best results, attend all three sessions. However, if you just can't make them all, come to the ones you can. This fun and useful workshop series is geared toward adults and teenagers. Questions? E-mail student minister Kate Landis at in-tern@uuac-sherborn.org, or call the church. See you there!

UUSC GET TOGETHER - Sunday March 13 from 3:00- 5:00 pm

For questions about Haiti, register at www.uusc.org/readytalk to have a conversation on March 13th with Edwidge Danticat and other UU callers from around the country. Ms. Danticat is a Haitian author and MacArthur Genius Grant recipient. Her book *Krik? Krak!* was nominated for a National Book Award and tells of traditions in her native Haiti and the wisdom of its people.

Caring Ministries - We, the Caring Ministries at UUAC, share a covenant with our congregation to help one another in time of need.

The **Caring Committee** provides short-term, physical help to individuals and families within our congregation who are in need. While we cannot offer emergency or ongoing services, we can offer our collective love through support with:

- meals
- rides for medical appointments, transportation to church events
- check-ins for those who feel isolated

cards for celebrations as well as hardships, and 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.

Our **Lay Pastoral Care Ministers** offer emotional and spiritual support to individuals and families going through difficult challenges. We are called to be a caring presence and witness to those struggling with:

- bereavement, death and dying
- illness and medical difficulties
- marital and personal crises

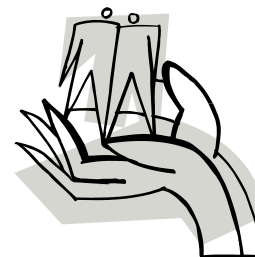
other life-altering events

Lay Pastoral Care Ministers participate in training to educate and enhance their ability to be a supportive, pastoral presence. We do not counsel, perform therapy or offer advice. In all contact, we honor confidentiality.

Contact

Caring Committee: caring@uuac-sherborn.org or Sara McKenzie (sarajane39@comcast.net) to ask for help or volunteer.

Lay Pastoral Care Ministers: caring@uuac-sherborn.org



**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 US or electronic mail. Non-members receive a complimentary three-month subscription. 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 (*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.

UUAC Board of Directors

President: Jeff Barton
Treasurer: Hank Rauch
Clerk: Deb Boyce
At-Large: Peter Gormley
Buildings and Grounds: Roger Demler
Finance: Jon Treon
Personnel: Adrienne Walker
Minister (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering

UUAC Ministry Council

Chair (Ex-Officio): Reverend Detering
Adult Programs: Gage Heath
Caring Committee: Sara McKenzie
Caring Ministries/Lay Pastoral Care: Becky Sheble-Hall
Denominational Affairs: Jill Carroll
Celebrations: Darrah Bryans
Membership: Katherine McHugh
Music: Cathy Leonard
Religious Education: Gary Leonard
Social Action: Vicky Diamond
Women's Alliance President: Dot Widmayer
Worship:
Youth Representative: Rachel Ansell
President (Ex-Officio): Jeff Barton

UUAC STAFF CONTACT INFORMATION

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Bookkeeper:
Linda Melanson
bookkeeper@uuac-sherborn.org

Director of Religious Education:
Kate Holland
508-653-1422/ dre@uuac-sherborn.org

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communications@uuac-sherborn.org

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

Sexton: Kevin O'Gorman
508-653-1422/ sexton@uuac-serborn.org