



### From the Minister

*Rev. Frank Clarkson is generally in the church office on Tuesdays, Wednesday and Thursdays. Friday is his sermon writing day and Monday is his day off. You can reach him by phone at 978-372-5173 or by e-mail at [frank@uuhaverhill.org](mailto:frank@uuhaverhill.org).*

We certainly gave our student minister Dawn Fortune a good sendoff on May 20. It was great having Dawn with us this year. I am grateful for what she brought to our community--her intelligence, her willingness to try new things, her passion. One Sunday she told us that one of her professors had said that ministry is like the hokey pokey: you put your whole self in. Dawn certainly put her whole self in this year. She benefitted from this, by learning and growing, and we benefitted by having the chance to companion her on part of her journey.

It's not easy to say goodbye, because that means acknowledging that our time together has come to an end. But we need to let Dawn go, so she can move on to what comes next for her. One of the difficult aspects of parish ministry is leaving people that you have come to care for when the ministry has ended. That's what Dawn needs to do now, and she needs us to help her by respecting this boundary. I'm not saying we won't ever see her again--we will. I hope and expect that she will at some point come back and preach here. But she won't be our student minister any more, and it's good and healthy for us to be clear about that.

On the same Sunday we said farewell to Dawn, we welcomed seven new members to our congregation. It is such a joy when people join the church. I see it as an affirmation of what we are creating here, and I hope you do too. You can read more about our new members in this issue of the *Communicator*.

It's been a good year for us. I am so grateful for the energy and vitality here, and for all that you bring to this community. When people ask me about this church, I tell them that we have the most wonderful people here: "good-hearted, salt of the earth people," I say. I'm reminded of the last lines of the poem by Denise Levertov that Dawn chose for the reading on May 20: "It starts when you say We and know who you mean, and each day you mean one more."

We shift gears at the end of June; Sunday worship moves to 9:30 am, our office hours are reduced, I take some time off, time for family and for fishing. But the church doesn't close. Our community life continues, albeit at a different pace. I hope you will stay connected with your church community, as you are able, over the summer. The weekly e-news and the website will have the latest information about what's going on here.

In these warmer and brighter days, I wish for you the blessings of this season--some time to stop and smell the flowers and hear the birds sing; to watch the clouds drift by overhead and to be with those you love. It is my joy to share this journey with you.

Yours in faith,  
Frank

## **Greetings from Religious Education**

It's hard to believe that another church year in Religious Education is drawing to a close. We have covered a lot of ground in the past ten months –learning, growing, adapting, changing and questioning, and it has been a wonderful year! In March I reported that our R.E. Committee had recently charged two sub-committees with examining our R.E. policies, procedures and roles of staff, volunteers and committee members. Both groups have worked to identify areas of programming and structure that serve us well and both have identified areas where we can strengthen policy and clarify roles to enrich our collective R.E. experience. Some wonderful ideas, suggestions and changes have emerged from this collaborative committee work and I'm pleased to announce that this year R.E. will publish our first Religious Education Handbook. Similar to handbooks used in public school settings, this resource will include fundamental information about our program including our mission, philosophy and goals, alongside practical information such as established procedures and policies regarding enrollment, volunteering and participation in R.E. at UUCH. We look forward to issuing a yearly prospectus that identifies our selected curricula and maps a course for each age group for the next several years. You will find these resources both online and available in print.

In the next weeks, we will publish our registration form for next year. We ask that you support our process by completing your registration form and returning it to the office by June 15. Your early registration allows us to plan properly for Fall 2012. Ours is a cooperative program and we ask that all parents, guardians and adult loved ones register with a volunteer commitment to support R.E.. Your early volunteer commitment is a blessing that allows us to plan orientations and leader trainings before the start of the church year, which in turn, enables us to offer structured programming in September. On family registration forms you will see many different opportunities to support programming throughout the year. We will establish teaching teams for each grade level consisting of 4-5 adults who will rotate time in our classrooms and at group activities and other R.E. related events. Our preschoolers will gather in circle to share ritual and stories, snack and free play. Children in Grades K-5 will explore stories from the Bible and learn about the people who told and heard these stories in ancient times. Our Middle School youth will explore other faith traditions while reinforcing their understanding of Unitarian Universalism. Our Senior Youth will continue their journey along the path to Coming of Age. Please reflect upon these journeys to determine where you might like to join our young people on their paths. Teaching teams will work together to deliver lessons from pre-selected curriculum, prepare classrooms, select games, music and fun, enriching supplements to our program. Class leaders learn wonderful things about history, about human nature, about UU'ism and about their young church friends. Leading R.E. is a commitment~ one that contributes to, and complements, the spiritual path. We look forward to working with you, learning from you and traveling with you!

I wish to thank all of our children, our youth, our families and our wonderful staff here at UUCH for the many kindnesses extended to me personally, and for the generosity of spirit that consistently supports our Religious Education program. Please join me in thanking our wonderful cast of many volunteers who give so freely of their time and their energy and make R.E. happen! We will celebrate our year at worship on June 10 and hope that you will join us. There will be an opportunity to visit R.E. volunteers with a special smile, handshake or hug of thanks-please watch for details in the coming weeks!

As summer approaches, I wish you long hours of light with your loved ones and hope that your summertime brings rest and reflection. With best wishes, I look forward to seeing you in September!

Sally Liebermann  
Director of Religious Education

## **Notes from the Music Director**

Thanks so much to Connor Wertz, Aidan Wertz, Valerie Walton and Suzanne Spaihts-Mohns for their recent musical contributions to our worship services. What a talented congregation we have!

### Two Upcoming Events:

1. Organ Loft Clean-Up Day: Join us on Saturday morning, June 2 at 9:30 am to clean the dust and dirt from the organ loft! Wear grubby clothes and bring your cleaning supplies (dustbusters welcome!), and be prepared for a fun morning of cleaning and straitening. We'll enjoy a pizza lunch together when our work is done. Please contact me if you would like to help; Claudia@cclaudiamusic.com or 978-462-3405.
2. Impromptu Choir Day: Sunday, June 10 is our third and final pick-up choir day for the church year. Join the choir for the day. Come to rehearsal at 9:00 that morning, and learn the music we'll be singing during that Sunday's service. All in grades 6 and higher are welcome to participate.

Claudia Keyian  
Music Director

## **Office Outreach (office@uuhaverhill.org)**

### Wish List this month:

- Please come take your refrigerator dishes, platters, plates and bowls from the kitchen! We are overwhelmed with the generosity of your own kitchens' largess, but can no longer accommodate the accumulation!
- Does anyone have a square/rectangular basket (wire or straw) that could serve as a receptacle for our mail? We had to take down the large metal mailbox for safety reasons, but we need a replacement, so that the mail does not end up on the floor (where it gets trampled on and wet on rainy/snowy days). The idea is to have a basket that hangs under the mail slot in the back door to catch the mail when it is delivered.
- There is an ample collection of jewelry and reading glasses in the office; these items have been found throughout the church building. Please claim, or they will be donated to appropriate causes.

We are most grateful to those folks who have responded to our Wish List in the past!

As we head into the summer months, please know that the weekly e-News will continue to be sent to everyone who has provided the office with an e-Mail address. There will be two Communicators during the summer in addition to this one: one for July 1 and one for September 1. The Communicator deadline, as always, will be the 25th of the preceding month. E-News deadline will remain Thursday at 9:00 am, as it is produced and sent on Thursdays. Because of reduced office hours over the summer, these deadlines will have to hold fast!

Lisa Compton  
Office Administrator

**ANNUAL MEETING IS ON SUNDAY, JUNE 3, 2012 at 11:30 AM!!!**

## Meet Our New Members

On May 20 we welcomed seven new members to our congregation. We are glad to have them among us, and grateful for the ways they are already enriching our community. You can learn something about these new folks by reading the short bios below. Please make a point of welcoming them, by introducing yourself and getting to know them better.

**Roger AuClair** is a native of the local area, growing up in Georgetown. He followed his husband (Brian Bomersbach) to the UUCH and has found a warm and welcoming community here. Roger (with Brian) is the father of Jonathon, age 14. Working as a data engineer in Boston, when afforded free time, it is most enjoyed with family and avidly collecting antique porcelain.

**Brian Bomersbach** is a New York native who has settled into the Haverhill area with his husband Roger Auclair and young son Jonathon. After 25 years of agnostic spirituality, he came to change his perception of the world, and by extension 'the word,' and has recently found comfort and meaning at the UUCH. Brian's an information security analyst-auditor, a traveler, a pug snuggler, an intentful reader and a good friend and neighbor who is happy to meet you and join in our shared human, spiritual experience.

**Melissa Dalphin** lives in Haverhill and teaches physics and chemistry at Essex Agricultural and Technical High School. She is the mother of Katie and Lizzie, and says she enjoys reading when she actually has some free time.

**Suzanne Spaihts-Mohns** is a lifelong UU, a mother, and an occasional freelance editor. She loves community singing, contra dancing, and eating plants she found in a field somewhere.

**Jeremey Spears** had lived with Diane Brokvist for the past couple of years. A young adult, he is a student at Northern Essex Community College and started singing this year in the Boston Gay Men's Chorus.

**Rich Welch** recently relocated back to his hometown of Haverhill after living for over twenty years in New York City. Here in Haverhill, Rich is beginning a new career in social work, enjoying being back with family, and rediscovering life in this neck of the woods.

**Jessica Woodard** grew up in a faith based community, dedicated to social justice work among the poor. She is thrilled to be joining a community with the same social ideals that she was immersed in as a child. It feels like coming home. She lives here in Haverhill her spouse and two children, Elliot and Charlotte.

## Report from the "Freely Gathered" District Assembly

April 28, 2012, First Unitarian Church of Worcester

Claudia Keyian, Kevin Backman, Vicki MacLean, Nancy Rusk and student minister Dawn Fortune attended the first ever combined Clara Barton and Massachusetts Bay Districts assembly. Over 200 people from 118 congregations came together in celebration of song and word to worship, connect, and be nourished. The music, rich and dynamic, filled all with an exuberant joy. One of the music leaders was Matt Meyer who brought us his gift of drumming and worshipful song earlier this year. We heard two amazing sermons: Arlington Street's Rev. Kim Crawford Harvie spoke on "Fierce Grace," and First Unitarian Church of Worcester's Rev. Tom Schade's, sermon was entitled "A Different Life." The themes for consideration were: What would it feel like to be free? What is my call? Am I prepared to answer that call?

A short business meeting was held to elect the board for Clara Barton, approve minutes for each District, and look at fiscal issues. There were brief remarks by the Districts' leaders. The union of the two districts comes in part because of our close proximity and the sharing of one staff. Tables filled with new books were made available during the ample time availed to us for fellowship.

Consider attending next year's. It was a wonderful experience.

## **Social Justice Committee Update**

On Wednesday April 25, 2012, UU Mass Action Advocacy Day brought together over 100 UU's to the State House to address an array of issues currently on legislative slates. An advocacy issue relevant to prison justice this year advocates for taking action against the Habitual Offender or Three Strikes Bill. So far, 140 UU communities joined this action and the UU President sent a letter to Massachusetts legislators urging them "to reject the Habitual Offenders bill, which we believe is unjust, inhumane and will have terrible unintended consequences."

Demet Haksever, Julia Nye, and Nancy Rusk from The Social Justice Committee attended and spoke with Jonah Beckley, Legal Counsel in Senator Tarr's office. Julia spoke eloquently about how the current legal system puts the control in the hands of the prosecutor who has unfettered discretion due to the power of plea bargaining, thus removing the power from the judge or jury. Please see the UUCH website for a more thorough description of the proposed law. Thank you to all who signed the UUCH Three Strikes Petition!

Nancy Rusk

## **Plant Sale Report and THANK YOU!**

The 11th Annual Plant Sale was a wonderful success this year. On May 12 we had over 450 plants lovingly prepared for sale and by Sunday afternoon only a few were left! The sale would not have been a success without the help of the many volunteers who participated in various ways: from donating plants and containers, helping to dig and pot plants, pricing and labeling, transporting, set up and clean up, and helping on the day of the sale.

The list of volunteers is long (thankfully!) and fantastic: Delight Reese, Don Reese, Terry Koukias, Connor and Aidan Wertz, Evan Martin (a youth and friend from Calvary Baptist church), Leslie McGrath (flyer design), Sally, Charlie, Luke and Jesse Liebermann, Di Kinsman, Edith Foy, Anne Beaulieu, Carol Allen, Collette (sister of Diane Brokvist), Betsy Robertson, Kristie and Jac Colton and his assistant Ava F., Frank Clarkson, Sandra DeVellis, Cil Dullea, Tad Hitchcock, Valerie Walton, Tom Ellis, Richard Smyth, Libby Jensen, Margaret Rosene, and DeAnna Tashjian. Thank you to all the volunteers, to those who spread the word about the sale and to those who came to shop. May your plants be happy and your garden grow beautifully!

Abbe Wertz and Pat Bowe, co-chairs

## **Red Sox Raffle to Honor Peter Cameron**



Please buy a chance (or many!) for two GREAT Red Sox tickets. The game is Sunday July 22 at 1:35 against Toronto. Tickets are \$10 a piece with only 125 tickets printed. The winner will also get \$100 for parking and Fenway goodies. Our choir is sponsoring this raffle to honor Peter Cameron, who retired from the choir this year. Funds will be used to maintain the organ and other musical needs of our church. On June 17 at coffee hour, we will draw the winning ticket. Please buy your ticket from any choir member. Buy them for friends and family and help us celebrate Peter's contribution to the choir, organ, archives and the church.

Pam Pearson

## **Gay Pride March and Festival June 9**

This Year's Annual Boston Gay Pride March and Festival is on Saturday June 9, with a Pride Service beginning at 11:00 AM at Arlington Street (UU) Church in Boston with the parade kicking off immediately following at 12:00 Noon. For those wishing to coordinate shared transportation, there is a sign up sheet in The Murray Room. For more information please contact Nancy Rusk at Namaste\_1953@yahoo.com.

## **Merrimack Valley String Orchestra Spring Concert June 9**

The Merrimack Valley String Orchestra will hold their Spring Concert Saturday June 9th at 7 pm at the Fine Arts Center of Zion Bible College. Music selections include Vivaldi, Beethoven, Bartok's Romanian Folk Dances and selections from Pirates of the Caribbean and the Wizard of Oz. Come hear the result of all the hard work that has gone on in the church on Thursday nights! Admission is free and the music is beautiful.

## **Salsa Classes This Summer on July 19 and 26!**

Two classes will be held— come to the Murray Room and learn to salsa, or perfect your skills! July 19 and 26 at 7:00 PM. Although not yet confirmed, the price per class for UUCH members is approximately \$3.00~ a modest fee for getting good exercise and enjoying some Latin rhythms!

## **A Day in the Life... of the Office Administrator**

[Editor's note: From time to time, we will include a column about some of the behind-the-scenes happenings at UUCH, just for the fun of it.]

On the serious side: Ordering paper towels, and toilet paper for the entire building... unjamming the copier... printing the order of service each week... watering the plants... patrolling the kitchen for nut products... producing the e-News each week... paying the bills (very serious!)... keeping the calendar... dealing with nearly 100 emails per day (much of it is spam)... checking the local paper for items which should be posted on the bulletin board... answering the mail... vacuuming the office... ordering office supplies (I am intimately acquainted with Eric at Staples!)... meeting with prospective wedding couples... assisting our drop-in guests in maintaining proper church property decorum... making nametags... producing and sending the monthly Communicator... collecting rent from our various tenants... supporting Frank, Sally and Claudia in any way possible... attending bi-weekly staff meetings and weekly supervisory meetings... occasional staff retreats... ordering janitorial and office supplies... making weekly bank deposits...filing, filing, filing...

And on the humorous side: drying the condensation off of four dozen Easter eggs so they could be decorated by the children without running... labeling bottles as to whether they are soap or hand sanitizer... calling the exterminator (maybe that's not humorous?)... practicing the organ after hours (at Claudia's invitation)... giving a can of dog food to the new puppy of one of our drop-in guests (puppy's name is Cocoa)... having brown-bag "Lunch with the Minister" upon occasion... searching for "stuff" that I know must be around here somewhere... changing batteries in clocks, flashlights, etc.... remembering people's names and faces, and hopefully putting them together... politely saying "no" to people who want to donate the contents of their attics... ordering lunch... receiving mail for every address on Kenoza Avenue and Ashland Street EXCEPT ours... buying 500 stamps at a time (ouch!)... filing, filing, filing...

Please note that the humorous side offsets the serious side! Thank you all for making this job a very pleasant one!

# June 2012

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					<b>1</b>	<b>2</b> 9:30-Organ Loft Clean-Up 2:30-Community Meals
<b>3</b> 9-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship 11:30- <b>Annual Meeting</b> 3-Wight Memorial Service 5-Meditation Grp	<b>4</b> 7-Artist Way	<b>5</b> 12-Lunch w/ the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	<b>6</b> 6:15-Knitting Circle 6:30-Men's Spirituality Grp	<b>7</b> 5:45-MVSO Rehearsal 7-Membership Cmte	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7-MoonPool Coven Meeting 9:30-Spirit Band 1-Ladies Circle
<b>10</b> 9-Choir Rehearsal 9-Book Grp 10:30-Worship 5-Meditation Grp 6-MoonPool Coven	<b>11</b> 7-Artist Way	<b>12</b> 12-Lunch w/ the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice 7-Cmte on Ministry	<b>13</b> 7-Board of Trustees	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> 2:30-Community Meals 6-Private Piano Recital
<b>17</b> 9-Choir Rehearsal 10:30-Worship 5-Meditation Grp	<b>18</b> 7-Artist Way	<b>19</b> 12-Lunch w/ the Minister 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	<b>20</b> 6:15-Knitting Circle	<b>21</b> 12-INC 7-Worship Cmte	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b> 9:30-Spirit Band
<b>24</b> 9:30-Worship 5-Meditation Grp 6-MoonPool Coven	<b>25</b> 9- <b>Communicator Deadline</b> 7-Artist Way	<b>26</b> 7-Mindful Meditation Practice	<b>27</b> 7Building & Grounds Cmte	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>

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