

October 2015



A Stable Faith-Rev. Shayna Appel

Inside this issue:

A Stable Faith-Minister's Column 1

Reaching Out 2

October Services 3

Buddhist Meditation Group 3

Beyond Categorical Thinking 4

Sunday Volunteers 4

From the DRE Slides and Sides 5

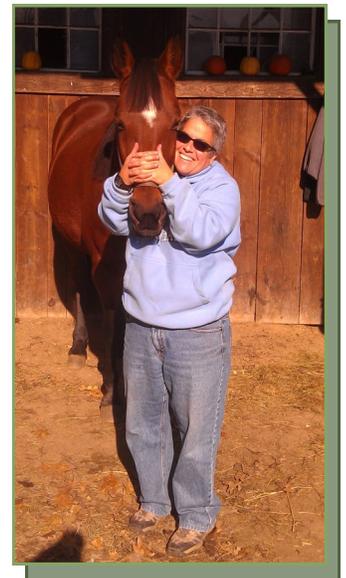
During the last week of this past August I had the opportunity to attend a training of the Interim Ministers Network sponsored by the UUA's office of Ministry Transitions. I was joined by 43 colleagues, 42 of whom are Unitarian Universalist Ministers and 1 who is a Rabbi in the Reconstructionist Movement of Judaism. The training took place in Minneapolis, Minnesota over the course of 4 full days and I came away from it knowing a great deal more about interim Ministry than I did when I arrived!

One of the many theories we explored looked at congregational life-spans. According to one theorist the stages of a congregational life-spans could be modeled after the stages of a human life-span. In other words, like people, churches start out at an infant stage, progress to the toddler stage, continue on into adolescence, maturity, and adulthood. Eventually, some move into the empty nest stage, an early aging process, and if there is no

move towards revitalization, advanced aging and eventually death.

The group was given some tools to help us figure out where our churches might be in their life-span trajectories. I brought this information and the discernment tools back to a meeting of all our church Committee Chairs that takes place annually and, not surprisingly, those present were in agreement about where PUUC is in the life-span matrix...somewhere between empty-nesters and early aging.

To understand how we got here and how to turn this trajectory around, imagine that the church is a car. In the beginning, someone or some people have a Vision/Mission and that Vision/Mission gets behind the wheel and begins to drive. 'Relationship' navigates assisted by 'Program', and 'Management' sits in the back and supports the entire operation. During this period the church is growing in vitality, membership, programming, etc.



What happens over time, if Vision/Mission doesn't get "refreshed" is it gets tired. When Vision/Mission gets tired, it scoots into the back seat and Management begins to drive. We find ourselves doing things, not because we are compelled to, not because the things we are doing reflect our highest ideals, not because they are helping to build the 'kin-dom of heaven' here on earth - we find ourselves doing things because, well, "we've always done them this way." When Vision/Mission takes a back seat and Management drives, soon both

Cresset Deadline:

October 23rd



Be sure to get your articles and calendar items in on time.

Your prompt action makes it easier for all.

Thank you.

A Stable Faith, Continued

Relationship and Program get bored and start asking, “Are we there yet?” (In other words, “When can we get out of this car?”)

The good news is this: we are in a transition year and with your support we can begin to turn this beloved church back towards vitality and a bright future. What will it require? Simply this: we ALL need to work at putting Vision/Mission back behind the wheel of this automobile. Towards this end, PUUC’s Religious Ed Department, Worship Team, and Standing Committee will all be focusing on our church’s mission statement this year by digging deeply into the values it reflects as well as those reflected in our UU Principles. This year we will be asking all of you to make a conscious effort to discern for yourselves why you are here, how you live out your UU values and what difference it makes in our beautiful but broken world. We will be encouraging our Committee Members and Chairs to draw deeply from this well of values as they carry out the remarkably important work of engaging the congregation in the life and ministry of this church, (Assisting the formation of Relationship by creating vital and engaging Program). And finally, I hope we will all work together to find new ways to reach beyond our church doors in order to increase our relevance within the larger Peterborough Community.

It’s a tall order, to be sure. But if we’re doing it right - when we find the sweet spot rooted in our values - our hearts, hands and voices will combine to sing a melody that will fill us with joy, and inspire all who hear it to join in the chorus!

Come sing a song with me, come sing a song with me, come sing a song with me, that I may know your mind. And I’ll bring you hope when hope is hard to find, and I’ll bring a song of love and a rose in the winter time. Shalom- Shayna

Reaching Out

Spirit of Life, come unto me. Sing in my heart all the stirrings of compassion.

Dear Friends-

On Saturday, September 5th, Suzy McDonald’s daughter and family escaped a devastating fire that completely destroyed their home. Apart from the emotional trauma an event like this causes, they are otherwise OK. Insurance will pay one years rent while they contemplate next steps and they have begun replacing necessities, all of which were lost.

Thankfully they are members of the UU Congregation in Belmont, MA and so they are receiving much love and support from their church community there. When I asked Suzy if there was anything we could do, knowing so many of you would want

to DO something, she came up with an awesome idea. Her daughter Abigail, Abigail’s wife Tara and their 2 small children are CSA members, prefer to eat local and clean...(I know, feign surprise! UU’s who are farm to table folk!) ANYHOW...Suzy thought it would be fun to collect any home goods you may have canned or are canning this fall and we can bring these to the Donner’s when Suzy returns to us. Every time they open a jar of apple butter or home made tomato sauce, they’d be reminded not of the terrible fire that dislocated them, but of the stabilizing love of so many people that is ever present.

Also, if you have any unused gift cards, or partially used gift cards for this or that, it would help them

save insurance money for necessities.

And, while you’re at it, Suzy would love to hear from us. It’s been hard, as you can well imagine, to be so far away from her church and family during this crisis. (86948 McTimmons Ln. / Bandon, OR 97411).

Please drop any canned or dry goods you’d like to donate at my office. And PLEASE, one of the children has a nut allergy... A CRITICAL NUT ALLERGY, so no nuts and no products produced in factories where nuts are processed!

Thanks all and God/ess Bless!
Shayna

October Services

Worship Overview for the Month of October:

We begin a seven month journey that will take us through the Seven Principles of Unitarian Universalism with our first principle in which *we covenant to affirm and promote the inherent worth and dignity of every person*. Put another way, *we respect the importance and value of every person*.

At first glance this may sound rather simplistic since most of us would affirm that promoting the worth and dignity of all is a good thing. But how easy is it to actually live this value out?

Join us in the month of October as we explore our Living Tradition!

OCT. 4th: R-E-S-P-E-C-T; Living Our First Principle will require us to re-think “power” as it exists both in our minds and in our societies.

OCT. 11th: The Challenge of Columbus; Most of us don't think much about Columbus Day, celebrated on October 12th. But as people seeking to affirm the inherent worth and dignity of all people, perhaps we should!

OCT. 18th: Beyond Categorical Thinking; This service will be followed by a workshop in which participants will have a chance to discover, with themselves, any barriers that may stop us from embracing the worth and dignity of some individuals. Who are your “problem people”, and are you ready and willing to step beyond your categorical thinking?

OCT. 25th: “Soil Land”; Following up on last weekend's theme of stepping beyond our categorical thinking, Rev. Shayna will share a personal journey in which she was actually moved to do so!

Buddhist Meditation Group

"The respectable view is that falling in love is full of delusions, projections, and misunderstandings. But if we reverse that idea, we can ask, how is love actually very much like enlightenment?" -- John Tarant, from The Best Buddhist Writing 2012.

As usual in October, we will be meeting at the Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church every second and fourth Thursday. Our next two meetings will be **Thursday October 8th** and **October 22nd**. We will be continuing our reading from **The Best Buddhist Writing 2012** edited by Melvin McLeod -- on October 8th *Let Me Count the Ways* by John Tarant and *Smile at Fear* by Pema Chodron. **As always, the reading is not required** as it will be summarized during the discussion.

Meditation begins at 7 pm in the stage area of the Parish Hall (way in the back). We meditate for one hour (approximately 25 minutes sitting meditation followed by 10 minutes walking meditation followed by another 25 minutes of sitting meditation). Meditation instruction is available at the beginning of the session for those who are interested.

After a brief break for tea and homemade refreshments, we spend the remaining time discussing the reading. We are a small, friendly, informal, eclectic group -- our members range from beginners to long time meditators.

There is no charge, but we encourage small voluntary donations to the church in recompense for their donation of the space we use.

Directions: Please enter the church by the back door which is lighted and accessible from the church parking lot. To get to the stage area of the Parish Hall, go up the stairs, turn right to go towards the Parish Hall, then turn left and follow the short corridor to the end. The stage area is on your right. **Because we often close the door to keep in heat and keep out noise, the area may seem dark and empty.** No need to knock, come in and be welcome! If meditation has begun, just take a seat silently. Someone will attend to you if you need help.

Email pb.buddhist.meditation.group@gmail.com or phone Nori Odoi or Rags Gilmore at (603) 547-2650 for more information. If you would like to share your email address, we will add you to our announcements email list. These are sent out at the beginning of the week prior to a meeting.

Beyond Categorical Thinking

You're Invited Please Come!

Sunday, October 18th 12—3pm

Ministers in our faith are not always white, heterosexual males - they are people of color, bisexual, gay, lesbian, female, transgender, differently-abled, young, old, ethnically different, or of a different class. All of these credentialed ministers may face discrimination as part of the ministerial search process. In our efforts to find the best match, our congregation will host a Beyond Categorical Thinking worship service and workshop on Sunday, October 18, 2015 from 12:00 noon until 3:00 pm. A trained facilitator, Donna Dolham, will come and meet with our search committee, lead the Sunday service, and facilitate a conversation directly after service, where we will have a chance to examine how we can avoid letting prejudice become a part of our search process.

It will allow the entire congregation to explore our hopes and concerns for a new minister, learn more about and participate in the search process, and see how our history (both personal and congregational) might interfere with our efforts in this search.

Lunch will be provided, as well as childcare. Attendance is encouraged for everyone in the congregation. Those of you with email addresses in our database should have received an Evite by now. Please RSVP by October 11. For those of you without email addresses, please RSVP to the church office by calling 924-6245 and leaving a message with Vanessa, the church administrator.

Thank you in advance for participating in a very important part of the settled minister journey! If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Laura Gourlay at 547-0180/lkgourlay@gmail.com or Ray Dodge at 499-1067/rtdodge78@gmail.com.



Greeters, Community Hour, Flowers

October 4

Greeters: Barbara Harlow and Peggy Brown

Community Hour: Jenny and Tony Brinsdon

Flowers: Jenny and Tony Brinsdon

October 11

Greeters: **Please sign up!**

Community Hour: **Please sign up!**

Flowers: Sydney Wilson Smith to honor the life and in memory of the death of Daniel Wilson

October 18

Greeters: Search Committee

Community Hour: Search Committee

Flowers: Laura Gourlay

October 25

Greeters: Audrey Carvalho

Community Hour: **Please sign up!**

Flowers: Audrey Carvalho

Sunday Morning Worship Volunteers Needed:

- ◆ Greeters
- ◆ Community Hour Hosts
- ◆ Sunday Flowers

in October and for the rest of the year. Please consider volunteering your time to make our church a welcoming place on Sunday mornings. You can sign up with Sign up Genius, or contact me in the office. ~Vanessa

From the DRE

And so we circle around and find ourselves in another September, at the very beginning of another church year.

Who will come? What will we come to understand at a deeper level? When will I feel moved? Where will I feel the power of this community? Why is it important for us to worship together?

“I beg you, as well as I can, to have patience with everything unresolved in your heart and to try to love the questions themselves as if they were locked rooms or books written in a foreign language.” *Rainier Maria Wilke in Letters to a Young Poet*

This year throughout our religious education programs with the children and youth as well as in sermons in the sanctuary, we will explore the 7 principles that have evolved from the depths of our UU communities and been affirmed democratically.

Hmmm... you may want to know what they are!

In order to have some fun and help you remember the principles, we will give each principle a color of the rainbow and rewrite the principle in simpler words for all ages to understand. Each principle will begin with the same letter as the beginning letter of the rainbow color assigned to it. Every month we will look deeper into a principle.

Respect the importance and value of every person. (October)

Offer fair and kind treatment to everyone. (November)

Yes to spiritual growth and learning. (December)

Grow by exploring ideas and finding your truth. (January)

Believe in our ideals and voice your vote. (February)



Slides and Sides with Peggy and Scott

Yukon River Trip Slides and Potluck

Saturday Oct 3

7:00 slides/movie presentation in the Parish Hall

6:00 Potluck Supper in the Dining Room

Scott McGovern and Peggy Brown, along with friends from their Outward Bound days, spent 2 weeks canoeing the wild Hart River in Yukon, Canada this past summer, Scott has captured

the essence of the trip and the experience of outdoor adventure in his photographs through still images, movie images and conversation with some of the trip participants. Come and enjoy his photography in this hour-long presentation. Come earlier and enjoy food and conversation with friends and acquaintances. All are welcome.

Insist on justice, freedom and peace for all. (March)

Value our responsibility in the web of life. (April)

In May we will look back at the year and notice how our relationships to these principles has changed.

Let's get going! ~ Char



Messiah Production December 5th

To All Past, Present and Future Messiah Singers,

Greetings! We hope you are planning to join us this year for another joyful one-day Messiah sing! The date is Saturday, December 5th, with an evening performance at 7:00 pm at the PUUC. We will begin sectional rehearsals at 2:00 p.m. at (or nearby) the church. We have plenty of room for all singers, so please invite your friends and family as singers or audience members. All are welcome!

Jim Sharrock will be our conductor, and Bev Caldon will be our organist. A professional string quartet will join us! (Marcia Lehninger, Sue Ann Erb, Pam White & David Runnion). Vocal soloists in-

clude Amy Knight, Rick Simpson and Pamela Stevens (Bass TBD). We have such wonderful local talent!

To encourage ALL interested singers to participate and to cover the costs of hosting an event of this caliber, we will offer a sliding fee scale for singers:

Middle, high school and college students—free

Adult Singers--\$20-\$50, whatever level you can support.

Angels--\$100+

Event Details:

On Saturday, Dec 5, arrive between 1:30 p.m.-1:50 pm to register and get to sectional rehearsal location. Allow time to park in the Depot Square parking lot (by Toadstool or

movie theater) as there is not a church parking lot. Bring your own score (more info below).

1:30 Registration

2:00-3:30 Sectional Rehearsals

3:30-3:50 Break

3:50-5:40 Announcements & Rehearsal

5:45-6:45 Dinner break (on your own—BYOD to eat in church dining room or grab quick bite out)

6:50 seated for concert

7:00 Concert (1 hour & 10 minutes, no intermission)

Jim has outlined the concert and these are the choruses we will be singing:

#4 And the glory of

#7 And he shall purify

#9B O thou that tellest

#12 For unto us a child is born

#17 Glory to God

#53C Amen (from letter F in Schirmer score on)

#44 Hallelujah Chorus

To prepare for this festival concert, there is a sectional rehearsal, followed by a full chorus rehearsal with organ. However, there is no way to learn all of this music on that Saturday afternoon. The expectation is that singers will be quite familiar with the pieces. Please obtain your own scores and learn your part ahead of time. Schirmer's edition recommended.

For more information, contact Peggy Brown at peggy.brown252@gmail.com

Peterborough Unitarian Universalist Church

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25 Main Street
Peterborough, NH 03458

Phone: 603-924-6245

E-mail: puuc@uupeterborough.org

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