

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

508-945-2075

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“NEWS FROM THE HILL”

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Editor: Susan Bauer

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SUNDAY SERVICES are

held at 10:30 AM each week.

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY**

December 15. Send items to Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



ANGEL FUND

Once again UUMH can help to create a merrier holiday for a local family chosen for us by the Chatham schools. Basic clothing needs, toys, gift cards, many ways to help.

Be an angel this holiday season! Choose a gift tag from the tree at the front of the church beginning December 4. Each tag lists a particular gift or a monetary amount. If you choose a gift, please wrap it and attach the gift tag to the outside of the gift. Buy washable; choose a larger size if you must choose.

If you would rather make a donation, make checks out to UUMH and give them, or cash, to Sue Bauer or Charlotte Edgecombe. They will turn your donation into gifts!

This year's family includes a mom and three boys, ages 4, 5, and 13. There are lots of choices hanging on our tree—lots of ways to be generous and caring. Deadline is Dec. 14.

Questions? Please call Sue 945-3264 or Charlotte 394-3360.

HAPPY HOLIDAYS TO ALL OF US

STAFF MEMBERS**MINISTER:**

Rev. Edmund Robinson
edmund@gmail.com

MUSIC DIRECTOR:

Frank Toppa
ftoppa440@hotmail.com

CHURCH ADMINISTRATOR:

Melissa Clayton
melissaclayton@uumh.net

SEXTON:

Ralph Bauer
ralphb1234@cs.com

Board of Trustees

Walter Diggs, President
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VISION STATEMENT

We, the members and friends of the UUMH, strive:

To apply UU principles in our daily living, social actions, and community service;

To nurture a safe community that encourages intellectual, spiritual, and religious freedom and celebrates all the passages of life;

To welcome diversity and pluralism as essential for our connection with all humanity;

To provide fellowship, friendship, and fun, and to support a creative artistic and musical environment;

To sustain and promote a vital religious and spiritual lifespan education program.

A MONTH OF SUNDAYS

December 4 To buy or not to buy? Rev. Edmund Robinson

Many progressive voices are urging us to boycott Black Friday and the whole Christmas retail season. What would be the economic, spiritual, and social effects of not buying presents this year?

December 11 You can't – and must – go home again
Rev. Edmund Robinson

The holidays hold up for us an image of home, but what is the content of that image? Have we established a home on Cape Cod if we moved here from elsewhere? Is our home always on our backs like the turtle?

December 18 Hallelujah! Joy of the season

The choir will do a version of a portion of the Messiah.

December 21 Solstice celebration Rev. Edmund Robinson and others

We go into the dark of the year and celebrate with wassail songs and a mummers' play and other revelry.

December 24 Christmas Eve service of lessons & carols **5 PM**
Rev. Edmund Robinson

Traditional carols and the story of Christmas with a few odd readings thrown in.

December 25 Christmas sharing service Rev. Edmund Robinson

Christmas Day we will gather in the sanctuary to sing songs and swap readings and stories; come prepared to share something.

Solstice Service December 21

Let Edmund know soon if you would like to be a part of this year's Solstice Service on the evening of the 21st. Singers, actors, readers, and dancers all needed!!!



Sightings
the Rev. Edmund Robinson

Joy to the World! I feel so fortunate to be called to serve as your minister. There is such a smorgasbord. I have been responding to the calls for economic justice outside the church in the Occupy movements in Cape Cod and Boston, and a few days ago I even wrote a song about it, which you can see on YouTube (just type <http://youtu.be/-xo8Y-bf3Ek> into your web browser). But I have also been engaged by how you have responded with your whole hearts to the suggestion that we might have a children's RE program after all. I have ministered to one of our dear members in her sudden fatal illness, to her family as she lay dying, and, as shaken as anyone myself, to all of you who were shaken by this loss. I have enjoyed exploring with you the tasks of making meaning in the later years of life in the Coming of Age for Seniors class.

It is a rich and varied stew which I have the taste of every day here. My cup runneth over. It begins and ends in love. Let me remind you of what I said as I announced Denise's passing in church two Sundays ago; I said that this sudden turn of fate reminds us that our lives are fragile things, and none of us knows how much time we have left. I said if I hadn't told you all before individually, I want to tell you now collectively: that I love you, each one of you, even when you are irritating, and I encourage each of you to tell one another.

In the Christmas season we celebrate the ancient Christian symbolism of love coming into the world as a newborn child. It is an emotionally apt metaphor, for we are hardwired by evolution to love and protect babies. Like a baby, many forms of love itself are helpless, innocent, needy, and utterly open to the new.

Beneath all the tinsel, the inexorable rum-pa-pum-pum of the drugstore soundtrack, the hyper-marketing, there is the heart of this season, it is there for the discovery of love within us.

Scrooge's nephew in "A Christmas Carol" sums up the spirit of the season well when he says: "I have always thought of Christmas time, when it has come round... as a good time; a kind, forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open their shut-up hearts freely, and to think of people below them as if they really were fellow-passengers to the grave, and not another race of creatures bound on other journeys. And therefore, uncle, though it has never put a scrap of gold or silver in my pocket, I believe that it has done me good, and will do me good; and I say, God bless it!"

And I echo, God bless it, and each of you!

Edmund



THE ARTS



Sunday Art and Crafts Sale

Small Works and various crafts - and cookies too! - will be for sale after church on Sunday December 4, December 11, and December 18. A good variety of items to finish—or start—your Christmas shopping. A portion of the sales are given to the Meeting House.



Small Works Artists' Reception

A Holiday Artists' Reception and Small Works Sale will be held in the Fleck Room on Saturday, December 10 from 1:00 to 4:00 PM. In addition, Holiday wreaths and decorative trees will be available. Refreshments will be served. Come meet the artists and pick out a treasure to buy at the Sunday sales!



January Art Show at UUMH

There will be a Mandala show at the UUMH in January. For those interested, there will be a **Mandala workshop on December 12, in the Fleck Room from 2 to 4 pm.**

Please let me know by email (bamart@comcast.net) or phone (508-255-5175) if you want to come.

I need to know how many people will be there, so I can be sure to have enough paper. I have purchased enough black charcoal paper for 10 people and have also purchased some colored charcoal paper. I'll sell paper at cost.

Each person should provide his/her own prismacolor white pencil crayons. Or buy your own colored prismacolor pencil crayons and/or bring the medium you want to work with and/or colored charcoal paper.

Small pencil sharpeners are very handy to keep the pencil crayon point pointed :-)) I will have one and if I can find the good ones, will pick up a couple more. However it is handy to have one's own.

Please remember to either email me or phone me so I'll know if you will be there on the 12th of December

If you want to come but have a conflict, Google "What is a Mandala," read about it, and see examples. Then do one!

COMING OF AGE FOR SENIORS

Next meeting of the Coming of Age for Seniors group will be Monday, December 19 at 3 PM in the Fleck Room. Call Edmund for more information.

NEW MEMBERS

Each year the Membership Committee puts together brief biographies of new members of UUMH to help members get to know each other better. Here are two more.

Liz Van Wye

New member **Danielle Jeanloz** is originally from Newton, MA. Her parents were Swiss, and she pursued her studies in this country and abroad and graduated from the University of Massachusetts at Amherst, where she majored in French and Spanish. She worked as a travel agent and then for American Airlines where she had a successful career in sales and marketing. Danielle's husband Bob Zaremba, whose mother owned the Calico Cat, introduced her to Chatham and she fell in love with the town. In 2000 the couple purchased Chatham Antiques and began to build their business, which now includes both Maps of Antiquities and Chatham Guest Rooms. By 2005 their businesses had grown and they decided to move to Chatham permanently.

Danielle was brought up as a Congregational Protestant but found herself drawn to exploring other religions. She first came to the Meeting House last spring. "I enjoyed the services and I was instantly taken by the church," she says. "I was warmly welcomed and it felt like a kind of a home."

Danielle is active in the Chatham community, putting her background in sales and marketing to work for both First Night and the Chatham 300 celebration. In addition she enjoys yoga and reading and is a member of the Chatham Walkers.

A native New Yorker, new member **Janet Jansson** grew up on Long Island and moved upstate with her husband to Spencertown, located near the border of Massachusetts. She began her career in her local library on the circulation desk, and after her husband passed away, wound up working in several nearby libraries over the next 20 years, including at Bard College at Simon's Rock in Great Barrington, MA.

Six years ago, after spending two decades visiting friends who had settled in Cape Cod, Janet made the move to Harwichport. "I moved to Cape Cod to be back near the ocean," she says. Five years ago Janet came to UUMH with her friend Bonnie Robinson. She enjoyed the experience and over the next few years continued to accompany friends to the Meeting House. She joined this fall, saying with a laugh, "Marion wore me down!"

Janet volunteers at the Harwichport library, the Museum of Natural History in Brewster and Brooks Museum, among other activities. She also serves as the publicity director for the Cape chapter of the Hearing Loss Association of America.

"I like that the Meeting House is open to everyone, and everyone is welcome," she says. "You can be just who you are and still be accepted and welcomed."

CANDLELIGHT DINNERS RETURN

Come join your friends for a fun – and food! – filled evening before the snow birds fly south for the winter. A great way for new members to meet others at informal pot-lucks held in members' homes.

Friday, December 9. Sign up at coffee hour in the Fleck Room.



At Christmas play and make good cheer, for Christmas comes but once a year.

SOCIAL JUSTICE



Bulletin Board

In December the Social Justice Bulletin Board at the bottom of the stairs will be welcoming your articles, comments, and your kind of "tweet" in an exploration of the OCCUPY MOVEMENT. Join us in posting your views and reviewing the views of others each week. Contact person is Beth Avery-- bhaverytown@ verizon.net



Books for HEADSTART----

We will again be collecting NEW books for children 3 to 5 years of age. If you are interested in wrapping the books with the Headstart teacher and learning more about the Lower Cape program, see Linda Redding for date and time. A collection box will be in the upstairs foyer through December 11.



Congregate House Meal

On Jan. 1, 2012 our Meeting House has the opportunity to start the New Year with service. We will be serving the evening meal at the Captain Bearnse House, aka the Chatham Congregate House. UUMH does this service project 6 or 7 times a year: a simple way to volunteer for just part of an afternoon. Three of us prepare the meal and serve it at 5 PM. We are usually cleaned up and ready to leave by 6:00.

For more information, call Connie Pina at 432-3414



Occupy Boston trip

Last week I went up to Occupy Boston to see what was happening in the city around the Occupy movement. I am working on getting a bus load of Cape Codders to make the trek up on December 3rd. We'll leave the Brewster UU at 9:30, arrive in Dewey Square by 11, participate in what we wish to until 3, and be home by 5. I am planning (with others) to utilize the bus ride up for educating, sharing, singing, gaining momentum and the bus ride back for reflection and sharing. I am in the process of lining up the bus now; it will be \$15-20 a person; bring your own lunch/snacks.

Please let me know if you'd like a seat on this bus.

Deer Sullivan

Director of Lifespan Faith Development First Parish Brewster
[508-896-5577 ext. 306](tel:508-896-5577) (office) [508-896-0017](tel:508-896-0017) (home)

He who has not Christmas in his heart will never find it under a tree. (Roy Smith)

BOARD NEWS

2010-2011 End of the Year Financial Report (Unaudited)

As of June 30, the Meeting House showed a \$2,071 excess of revenue of over expenses thanks to restricted gifts for the driveway, fans, and “green” toilets. The operations budget was several thousand dollars short for the year. You will note in the Financial Annual Report that total income and expenses were within one percent of budget for the year.

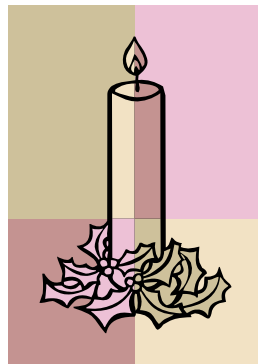
The current budget, approved at the June Annual Meeting, includes a decrease in total income and an increase in expenses, projecting an end of year deficit of \$6,000.

It is difficult to operate the Meeting House on a \$200,000 annual budget with 86 family pledging units. In 2010-2011 we significantly reduced denominational support and religious education. In 2011-2012 we reduced the Program Council budget. We are not funding depreciation.

The Finance Committee led by Ed Mangiafico and Jack Parsons, assisted by Melissa Clayton, deserve credit and thanks for excellent planning, budgeting, and forecasting. As we reorganize the Finance Committee, volunteers are needed to assist in analyzing trends, auditing our financial status, and financial forecasting.

The good news includes increased pledging thanks to Ralph Bauer’s Stewardship Campaign, increased open plate collection, Thrift Shop income, and Joyce DeVoe’s fundraising. At the end of the first four months, total income is 45% of budget compared to expenses of 33%.

Walter Diggs

**IN MEMORIAM**

**Denise Bonenfant-Gaunya
1942-2011**

Memorial Service at UUMH December 11 at 2 PM

URGENT TIME SENSITIVE FROM THE STEWARDSHIP TEAM

The Stewardship Team would like to remind all of our eligible members that you can donate from a Traditional IRA if you are over 70½.

The IRS has a deduction for this year only that allows people to take up to \$100,000 amount out of an IRA and give it to a nonprofit without paying tax on it. <http://www.irs.gov/retirement/article/0,,id=234258,00.html>. "The qualified charitable distribution provisions were renewed for 2011, allowing individuals age 70½ or over to exclude from gross income up to \$100,000 that is paid directly from their individual retirement accounts (excluding SEP or SIMPLE IRAs) to a [qualified charity](#). The excluded amount can be used to satisfy any [required minimum distributions](#) that the individual must otherwise receive from their IRAs for 2010 and 2011. It can also be used to prepay the 2012 pledge. If this is an attractive option for you, please contact your financial advisor.

UUMH CLASSIFIEDS (Please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at ralphb1234@cs.com)***** NEW!!** Holiday Fund Drive for the Tibetan Nun

Dear friends, thank you for helping me support my young nun, Tenzin Sangmo, last Christmas. Together we raised the \$400 needed for her food and clothing and school supplies for 2011 at Menri Monastery in India. This year she still needs our support, and I am collecting donations from my friends and family to raise the \$400 needed for her support in 2012. Please feel free to mail a donation for her to Jennie Makihara, 204 Main Street, Harwich, MA 02645. If you have questions you can call me at 508-776-8450. Information on the Nun Sponsorship program can be found at www.bonfoundation.org Thank you!

***** FREE!!** JVC 27" television, about 6 years old. Cable-ready, runs well. Includes TV cart. Needs a home!
Call Dolly Howell 508-430-0604

***** Chatham Fixit.** Need a handyman? For small odd jobs, call Ralph Bauer at 945-3264. Reasonable rates.

***** Beacon Hill, Boston apartment for rent.** Our studio on Revere St. is available for rent daily, weekly & monthly. Fully furnished. Kitchen, queen bed and sitting area. Call Dwight Wilson for more information and availability. (508) 240-3426 or (508) 776-3157.

***** Private PCA (Personal Care Attendant) (Daughter of Harmon & Ann Diers, UUMH)**

- * Friendly, mature, professional 53-year-old female
- * Appointments, errands, grocery shopping
- * Cooking, light housekeeping, laundry, companionship
- * Business/organizational skills (domestic, office, computer)
- * CORI approved
- * Reasonable Rates (lower than company agencies)

Please contact Cindy Smith any time at: 774-722-2611

COMMITTEE CORNER**WORSHIP SERVICES COMMITTEE**

The Worship Services Committee would like to hear from the congregation with feedback and comments on how our UUMH Sunday Services are going. Our functions as a Committee are to plan services when the minister is away, as well as to provide guidance, support, and assistance to the minister in the services he conducts. We meet regularly each month with the minister, and anyone interested is welcome to attend our meetings and to join the Committee.

You are encouraged to provide any comments or suggestions directly to Edmund, of course, but if you prefer, seek out one of our Committee members with your feedback on any aspect of the services. Committee Co-Chairs are Barbara Rothenburger and Dick Eccles, and other members are Vivienne Chapman, Fred Jensen, Dave Monroe, and Helen Pickett.

Many thanks for your response to the appeal for sign-ups as ushers or hosts. The boards for continuing signups are to be found in the Fleck Room. Once you have signed up for a given Sunday, please be sure to remind yourself of this assignment as the selected day approaches.

Floral Arrangements

Anticipating winter and early-spring months, when gardens are hibernating, Paula Raye and Debby Ecker are donating two arrangements of dried and silk materials. Paula will be applying her floral design skills to produce a winter arrangement, of assorted pines, and an early spring arrangement with colors that pick up the tapestry.

**WINTER STORM CLOSINGS**

We are coming into winter and the possibility of snow or ice which might make getting to the Meeting House difficult. The Program Council and the minister have developed a procedure for such times. Whatever the Meeting House does, please decide on your own whether or not to venture out!

Sunday Services: If a Sunday service needs to be canceled, the following will occur as soon after 8AM as possible:

An all-wide church email will go out to the congregation

The church phone message will announce the change (945-2075)

WQRC (99.9 FM) will be notified – we will be part of their closings list

Other church events on Sundays or during the week.

The email and phone message information will remain the same as for Sunday closings. However, WQRC probably will not be called.

PLEASE!!! Make your own decisions based on your situation. Sunday services will not be canceled unless absolutely necessary, but consider your street, your neighborhood, your love – or not! – of driving in the snow.

The most important thing is not the sermon, but your safety!!!

**Cobb's Hill Community Series
Potluck Dinner & Film**

"The Economics of Happiness"

Friday, December 9, 2011

Potluck dinner at 6:00 p.m. Movie at 7:00 p.m.

Discussion following the film.

At the Unitarian Church of Barnstable

3330 Main Street Barnstable, Massachusetts Route 6A near Phinney's Lane

A movement is growing to re-create more just and sustainable communities and re-invent economies based on a new paradigm – an economics of happiness. The *Economics of Happiness* describes a world moving simultaneously in two opposing directions: while government and big business push for a globalized economy based on high technology and increased trade, people all over the world are working from the grassroots to nurture smaller scale, ecological, local economies.

The post-film discussion will be facilitated by Kumara Sidhartha MD, a local physician whose expertise and interests include human wellness, environmental health, nutrition, and consumer ethics.

Donations will be accepted to cover the cost of this film.

For the potluck, please bring a dish to share (organic and local, if possible).

This event is sponsored by the UCB Social Justice Committee.

**SUPPORTING AN AIDS ORPHAN IN KENYA**

Thank you to those who have responded to the appeal for us to sponsor a deserving child's care and education in Kenya on behalf of the UU Meeting House. The Crossroads Springs Institute has nominated one of their children for us to sponsor. His name is Godfry Macheti, age seven, and you can read his message and see his picture in the posting on our Social Justice bulletin board at the bottom of the stairs.

An outreach such as this helps to broaden our ministry at UUMH, and is a rare opportunity.

With some additional contributions, UUMH can qualify as sponsor of Godfry, if we reach the goal of \$500.

For those who wish to join in supporting this cause, please write a check to Crossroads Springs Africa, Inc., and mail it to them at Box 242, East Aurora, NY 14052. You may note UUMH/Chatham on the Note line of your check.

JOYS AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS

Kristin Howard was honored as the Rotary Club Student of the Month in October. She was also a featured soloist in a recent concert by We are the Men where she received a standing ovation for her rendition of Gershwin's Summertime.

DIRECTORY CHANGES



CONTRA DANCE

Due to the holidays, there will be no Contra/Square Dance held in December.

New Books in the UUMH Library

Lifecraft / Forrest Church
Wherever you go, there you are / Kabat-Zinn
The Jefferson Bible / Thomas Jefferson

Fall and Winter Parking

Once again this year, the Queen Anne Inn has generously offered their parking lot closest to the Meeting House for Sunday morning parking. Now that the CVS across the street is open, parking there may become difficult, so we are lucky to be able to have the Queen Anne lot to Oyster Pond Furlong and the Post Office lot as parking possibilities.

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE



Don't forget Women's Group Monday, December 12! Call Charlotte Edgecombe for more info at 394-3360

LET US KNOW.....

The Pastoral Care Team delights in celebrating birthdays and anniversaries by sending cards to members and friends. From their list, we prepare the People to Celebrate part of each Newsletter. We would love to add your name to our list!! Wouldn't it be great to have others celebrate your special day with friends? Please call Melissa (945-2075) or Sue Bauer (945-3264) with your birthday or anniversary.

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Third Monday Book Club will be December 19 at 10:30AM in the Fleck Room. We will be discussing Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain. All are welcome to join us. Call Sue Bauer with questions at 945-3264