

NEWS FROM THE HILL

NEWSLETTER OF THE U.U.

MEETING HOUSE OF CHATHAM

PO BOX 18 CHATHAM MA 02633

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

next month is **THURSDAY** February 23. Send items to Sue Bauer: Ralphb1234@cs.com



MEET UUMH'S CANDIDATE FOR DIRECTOR OF RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

The UUMH Religious Education Committee has invited Cheri Armstrong to speak at UUMH's Sunday service on February 26, 2012. Cheri, who teaches at the Chatham Elementary School, is a candidate to serve as UUMH's Director of Religious Education starting in September 2012. On February 26, she will outline her vision for a UUMH Sunday school program, as well as her plans for continuing the Beacon Youth Outreach program.

The members of UUMH's Religious Education Committee are:

Gail Eldredge Co-Chair
Fred Jensen Co-Chair
John Raye Co-Chair
Paula Raye
Barbara Rothenburger
Merylle-Lee Thompson
Phill Thompson
Dave Van Wye

Ex-officio:
Elsa Bastone
Jean Mangiafico
Rev. Dick Fewkes

UUMH members are welcome to provide their comments on this topic to any of the R.E. Committee members.

SEE PAGE 5 FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BOTH RE AND BEACON OUTREACH



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Jean Mangiafico, Secretary

At large members:

Jon Goward
Ruth Treen
Dave Hubbard

Program Council

Sally Davol, Chair

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

February 5 What Don't They Know? Rev. Edmund Robinson

Is there anything left of privacy in the Age of Google, when the whereabouts of anyone who possesses a smart phone or GPS can be tracked by the minute, when the preferences of people searching the web are sold to advertisers, when people post on the social networking sites how they felt about the date they had the night before?

February 12 Evolution and Our Shadow Side Rev. Edmund Robinson

Fear, shame and disgust are negative emotions which all of us wrestle with and which we might like to see banished from our makeup entirely. But in an evolutionary perspective, these emotions serve vital functions in keeping us alive and letting us pass on our genes to a new generation.

February 19 Does Love Have a Point or Is It the Point?
Rev. Edmund Robinson

Karen Armstrong has pointed out how many of the world's religions espouse an ethic of compassion. Is this compassion the overall purpose of life, or does it point to some other purpose?

February 26 Beyond congregations but within the covenant?
Rev. Edmund Robinson

UUA President Morales has encouraged us to think beyond the walls of our congregations, but we have always said that our faith is based on covenant. How can someone outside the congregation's walls still be in covenant with us?



Special service: Wednesday February 22 7 PM Ash Wednesday observance. Ash Wednesday marks the beginning of Lent in the Christian calendar. While most of us do not observe Lent, I have found this an opportune time for reflection. So, as in years past, we will have a reading of T.S. Eliot's masterful religious poem "Ash Wednesday." We'll talk a little about the poem first, and then have a reading with instrumental interludes in between the sections. If you want to play some one-minute interludes for this, please let me know.

Sightings the Rev. Edmund Robinson

“Beyond Congregations” is the title of the provocative essay from UUA President Peter Morales. In it, he encourages us to look at organizational structures other than congregations to carry forward the work of our faith. He cites facts such as this:

“We have known for many years that the number of people who identify as UUs is about four times the membership of our congregations (about 160,000 adult members and about 650,000 people who identify as UUs). In other words, for every adult member, there are three non-members who say they are Unitarian Universalist.”

A lot of us have been discussing this statistic and it holds surprisingly true among the children of the members of the Meeting House. Most of these children in their 30s through 50s were raised UU, but only about one in 4 is a member of a UU congregation today.

Peter Bowden, the Ballou Channing District’s growth consultant, asked the readers of his UU Growth lab on Facebook to list reasons why people who might think of themselves as UU would NOT want to join a congregation or worship there regularly. One minister listed all the reasons people give him: “it would cause my Jewish mother to roll over in her grave, I am not interested in serving on committees, Sunday is not a day I have available, it is soooooo 20th century, people in churches abuse congregational democracy to get their own ways, I hate all the PC stuff, I don’t want to feel obligated to someone else’s social action vision, are only dead white European men available to write hymns, all the services I have been to have been too surface and not enough depth, I hate being the token (black, teen, Christian, Republican, omnivore, . . .)”. Now there are only so many of these that a congregation can do something about, so we have to ask the question, what form other than a congregation can we conceive to allow these “free range” UUs to practice a religion, to minister and be ministered unto?

Now one of the ways that we move beyond congregational walls is in engagement to make the world a better place. We have a wonderful opportunity coming up to learn a lot about social justice issues and to practice some justice-making at this year’s Justice GA in Phoenix June 21-24. I plan to attend and invite anyone who thinks they might be interested to let me know. There are plans afoot to help people on the Cape with transportation to Phoenix.

Blessings,

Edmund



A distinguished minister named Debra Haffner wants to spend part of her sabbatical in Chatham in June and July and will preach and do pastoral care for the congregation if she can get a place to live for about 4 weeks. I would love to have her fill in and allow me a little breather. If anyone is in a position to give Debra a place to live between June 18 and July 16, please let me know.



Social Justice



We will be serving the Congregate House supper on Sunday, Feb. 5.
In March it will be on the 11th, so please let me know if you are interested
in helping out. Thanks

Connie Pina 432-3414

Soup & Salad & other things.

Break the winter doldrums with a little fellowship! We will continue to have a lunch on Thursdays at noon, followed by a short program. On January 26, for example, Barbara Blanchard made a nice soup out of chicken sausage, and we read part of Emerson's essay "Nature" and then watched a few videos I have made and posted on YouTube. Come join us!



**Just look what wandered into
Charlotte Edgecombe's yard in Dennis
last week! WOW!**

RELIGIOUS EDUCATION PROPOSAL

The Religious Education Director will use a curriculum as selected by the minister, Religious Education committee, and congregation to facilitate a Sunday morning religious education program.

The RE Director will work closely with the minister to present lessons that relate to the topic of the Sunday service and prepare and present a family homily at the beginning of each church service prior to children leaving for their religious education class.

Responsibilities of the RE Director would include marketing, programming, planning, and implementation, recruitment of volunteers, some acquisition of materials through donations, and attendance at Sunday services and other meetings involving Religious Education and the work of the church as it relates to family / child ministry. Additionally, the RE Director will plan events appropriate to different ages of the children in the congregation to further complement religious education and to foster a commitment to the church community.

BEACON YOUTH OUTREACH PROPOSAL

This is a proposal for the continuation of Beacon Youth Outreach and the implementation of a religious education program to begin Sunday, September 9, 2012 and to conclude on Sunday, May 26, 2013 and to proceed for that time in alignment with the calendar school year of the Monomoy Regional School District including its holiday and school vacation schedule.

Beacon Youth Outreach (BYO), previously facilitated by church members and community volunteers, will be supported by the minister and the congregation of the UU Meeting House and overseen and facilitated by the Religious Education Director. Its mission is to afford the children of Chatham and the surrounding communities opportunities in the Arts in conjunction with community service learning. Community service projects will be organized around the seven UU Principles.

It is proposed that each meeting of BYO will begin with a team-building activity followed by the lighting of the chalice and an opportunity to "check-in". Following will be a reading from a book that will relate to the topic or theme in which we will be engaged. The remainder of the time will be used for participating in the Arts project and/or community service.

Responsibilities of the RE Director would include marketing, programming planning and implementation, recruitment of volunteers, some acquisition of materials through donations, and attendance at all BYO meetings and events. It is proposed that BYO would meet three days per week with each day per week tailored to a specific age group.

For example:

Tuesdays, 3:30 - 4:30, children in grades 2-3

Wednesdays, 3:30 - 5:00, children in grades 4-5

Thursdays, 3:30 - 5:00, children in grades 6-7



The Electric Kitchen



The first Electric Kitchen of 2012 will be held on Sunday, February 12, after the church service at Coffee Hour. The theme will be **Chocolate** to celebrate Valentine's Day!

For those of you who would like to bake some goodies, please call Charlotte Edgecombe at 508-394-3360. Suggestions are chocolate cakes, cupcakes, cookies, candy, and fudge.

Please help make this fundraiser a success by baking and cooking up a storm! If you don't bake, please save your money for purchasing these delectable goodies.



The Gathering (formerly known as UUMH Women's Group)



Monday, February 13 at 7 PM in the Fleck Room

The evening's program is "Being Outrageous!", based on the poem Warning by Jenny Joseph, "When I am an old woman I shall wear a purple dress and a red hat that does not match...."

Please come prepared to share a personal outrageous story of something that happened to you as an "Older Woman", or something outrageous that you are planning to do in the near future. If you desire, you may wear some outrageous clothing! I do believe this is going to be a truly "outrageous" evening. Hope to see everyone there. This meeting is open to all female members and friends of UUMH.

Winter is on my head, but eternal spring is in my heart. (Victor Hugo)

Gala Ball Dinner Dance February 11 5:30 PM-midnight
Cape Codder Resort and Spa, 1225 Route 132 Hyannis



A joyous celebration bringing together for the 12th time Cape Cod's lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender community and their straight friends and allies.

Cocktails and social hour 5:30-7:00 Cash Bar

Seated dinner 7:30 Dance until midnight!

\$65 per person (more if you can, less if you can't) Proceeds benefit LGBT Aging Project

Dress fabulous or funky! Dance to a DJ playing hits of the 70s, 80s, and 90s.

Limited tickets: Advance sales only: Call Joanne Hush 508-255-5476



Forum Series - Is There Such a Thing as a "Just War?"

Sponsored by: Humanists of First Parish and Cape Cod; Social Justice Ministry of First Parish Brewster.

Place: First Parish Brewster Meeting House sanctuary; Sundays at 2:00 or 3:00; refreshments.

Session 1: 2/26/12; 2:00; Introduction to Just War Theory and to Forum Series (Bob Marcus).

Session 2: 3/25/12; 2:00; U.S. Involvement in World War II As Seen Through a 'Just War' Lens (Jack Barnard).

Session 3: 4/22/12; 3:00; The U.S. Civil War As Seen Through a 'Just War' Lens (John Myers).

Session 4: 5/20/12; 2:00; Group 'Just War' Analyses of War-like Scenarios (Margaret and Rob Moir).

O wind, if winter comes, can spring be far behind? (Shelley)

“FOR YOUR INFORMATION”

FROM THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Worksheet 2011 budget

INCOME	BUDGET'11	Actual	%	BUDGET'11-12
Pledges	\$ 132,000.00	\$ 135,655.33	103%	\$ 135,000.00
Assessment	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 6,405.00		\$ -
Open Plate	\$ 8,000.00	\$ 8,463.65	106%	\$ 8,000.00
Gifts and Donations	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 8,474.50	169%	\$ 5,000.00
Restricted Income		\$ 3,570.00		\$ 4,650.00
Facility Rent	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,603.05	107%	\$ 1,500.00
Fund Raising -misc	\$ 10,000.00	\$ 5,108.73	51%	\$ 10,000.00
Thrift Shop(net)	\$ 26,000.00	\$ 25,574.31	98%	\$ 26,000.00
Committees & Other	\$ 4,000.00	\$ 1,327.25	33%	\$ 2,000.00
Total Income	\$ 195,000.00	\$ 196,181.82	101%	\$ 192,150.00
EXPENSE				
		AMOUNT SPENT		
Minister	\$ 85,761.00	\$ 85,805.72	100%	\$ 85,761.00
Office	\$ 34,000.00	\$ 33,565.20	99%	\$ 34,808.00
Annex	\$ 6,000.00	\$ 6,000.00	100%	\$ 6,000.00
Building & Grounds	\$ 25,447.00	\$ 24,730.38	97%	\$ 26,121.00
Restricted Expense		\$ 500.00		\$ 4,650.00
Insurance	\$ 3,300.00	\$ 3,495.00	106%	\$ 3,500.00
Music	\$ 14,000.00	\$ 13,837.50	99%	\$ 13,563.00
Mortgage	\$ 19,000.00	\$ 19,100.16	101%	\$ 19,000.00
UUA/BCD	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 1,500.00	100%	\$ 1,500.00
Thrift Shop expenses		\$ 1,312.99		
Committees	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 4,263.59	85%	\$ 4,000.00
Total Expense	\$ 194,008.00	\$ 194,110.54	100%	\$ 198,903.00
Gain (Loss)	\$ 992.00	\$ 2,071.28		\$ (6,753.00)

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!!!

UUMH CLASSIFIEDS (Please email Sue Bauer with your "ad" at ralphb1234@cs.com)

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

*** 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

Plymouth looking for new DRE

First Parish UU Church, Plymouth, MA is now welcoming inquiries for the position of Director of Religious Education. We are a small, dedicated congregation with 12 - 15 registered children currently in our programs.

The position is part time 20 hours per week including Sunday mornings. The Director will be primarily responsible for coordinating youth religious education activities, while assisting in the growth of adult religious education programs.

Interested individuals, send a letter of interest and resume by March 31, 2012, to the DRE Search Committee at Plymouth.DRE@gmail.com

DIRECTORY CHANGES

PEOPLE TO CELEBRATE



**REMINDER FROM
BUILDING & GROUNDS**

Please use the double-backed tape in the upstairs foyer drawer when you are hanging notices around the building. NO tacks or nails please.



COMING OF AGE FOR SENIORS

Next meeting of the Coming of Age for Seniors group will be Monday, February 20 at 3 PM in the Fleck Room.

Call Edmund for more information.

THIRD MONDAY BOOK CLUB

The next meeting of the Third Monday Book Club will be Monday February 20. We will be talking about the book Down the Nile by Rosemary Mahoney. Anyone is welcome to join us. Questions? Call Sue Bauer at 945-3264.



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.

WHAT ARE YOU MISSING?????

Dishes, plates, etc. from Pot Lucks and other events are located – for the time being – above the coat rack outside the Fleck Room. Please check for your lost treasures – even if you don't think you've lost any! These may become Thrift Shop additions by May!

There is also a Lost and Found on the shelf above the coat rack upstairs. Check there too!!