



**Rodin
The Thinker**

August, 2010

The Free Thinker

First Universalist Church of Norway, Unitarian Universalist
Since 1799, the Oldest Continuously Existing Universalist Church in Maine
Our Mission, as we live our historic liberal faith, is to nurture spiritual growth, honor diversity, and offer service with love.



AUGUST, 2010 *Happy Summer*

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**AUGUST VESPER SERVICES ARE HELD EACH SUNDAY AT 6:30 PM
AT THE NORWAY UU CHURCH.**

Scryings

For the past two years our August Vesper Services have used portions of the UUA's Evensong services. Rather than repeat the same materials I'm creating a somewhat similar but equally informal series of vesper services. This year we will be meeting downstairs in the Norway church because it's air-conditioned and we can meet outside on the grass when the weather permits. The services will include a chalice lighting, readings, songs/chants, periods of silence for reflection, meditation, and prayer, a story, and comments/stories by participants of personal experience or faith related to the service's theme, and closing words and circle.

We will try to begin promptly at 6:30 p.m. and will rarely, if ever, take more than an hour for the service. The themes for the services are:



- August 1 Forgiveness
- August 8 Compassion
- August 15 Generosity
- August 22 Openness
- August 29 Appreciation

We'd love to have you participate with us. I hope you're having a fine summer. Richard

WEST SUMNER UNIVERSALIST SOCIETY

Summer Services 11:00 am

- Aug 8 - Rev. Richard Beal
- Aug 15 - Rev Vaikko Allen
- Aug 22 - Rodney Abbott
- Aug 29 - Rev. Scott Jones - Christening - Chinese Auction

<i>Bernice Martin</i>	<i>Chair</i>
<i>Dorothy Raymond</i>	<i>Co-clerk</i>
<i>Jan Cardoza</i>	<i>Co-clerk</i>
<i>Marden Seavey</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
<i>Claire Gelinas</i>	<i>Trustee</i>
<i>Peter Lenz</i>	<i>Trustee</i>

Pastoral Associates

Becky Hardy
Nancy Wood
Kathy Pewitt
Sally Bradley
Please call the church if you'd like a home number.

We are located at 479 Main St in the heart of historic downtown

Norway, ME.

www.norwayuu.org

E-mail: norwayuu@gwi.net

207-743-2828

The Free Thinker

COMMENTARY

The bright late-morning sunlight highlights
the outer leaves of the trees, which dim the vividness but do not make
any less green the underlying leaves they partly shadow.

Together they create a light-filled darkness on the ground
about the trunks and on the branches angling
outward and upward from them, immaterial shadows
of soft and here and there heavier browns that where
the leaves are thickest become almost black.

All about the reaching shadows the sun glints and shines
and reflects off the bushes and the grass which lie exposed
and warm to it.

Small clouds, a mix of white and faint grey scud lazily
through the sky above and the same cool breeze that moves them
blesses us who walk about here on the earth over which they pass.

A robin streaks between the posts of the open fence, swooping
fast from one tree to the next.

The vines of the cucumbers and squash, which yesterday were drooping
were revived late yesterday afternoon and evening by bucketfuls of
pouring rain and perhaps the ozone of the accompanying
lightning and thunder and ferocious wind.

Today they are firm and thrust their broad green leaves and yellow
blossoms defiantly upward at the sun, again unbowed and unbeaten.

The weeds too have taken renewed courage from the drenching
and push aside the smothering garden soil to seize what they see as their
rightful place in the sun. Mad dogs, and Englishmen, and weeds, I think to
myself.

Another summer day is passing as the sun slips from its zenith
toward the downward slide of the gathering afternoon.

In far too few hours the shadows will grow longer and then longer again,
the sun will for some few quiet moments rest atop the crowns of the trees
before its daily dying into twilight, leaving us to enter without a choice
into the night. (cont'd on p. 4)

The Board of Trustees met on July 7 and discussed the following issues: Mardy presented the monthly financial reports and answered questions. We are pleased to note we will most likely meet our pledge goal this year, but we need to grow our church and raise more funds to improve the health of our finances.

We're still working with our Blake House tenant on signage for the front of the building and hope to finalize plans soon.

Our Belfry Assessment Grant was approved- thank you, Ellen Gibson and all who worked on the grant! Next step is to schedule and coordinate the actual assessment.

We decided that we need a policy to specify how and who will check our name preferences for privacy in the newsletter and on-line.

We had an in-depth and multifaceted discussion regarding the need for job descriptions and performance reviews; explicit roles and responsibilities for our committees and groups; a policy manual and revision of our bylaws- all of which were topics of discussion at the Leadership Retreat on 7/12.

Our 1st Board Brainstorming Retreat on 7/26 went very well and among other things, we developed a covenant for how to work together on the board, with leadership and within our congregation:

- Speak in turn and allow time for everyone to speak
- Speak and listen with respect
- Allow room for disagreement and different opinions
- Allow questions that deepen our understanding of each other
- Allow differing perspectives and diversity of experience
- No triangulation
- Be mindful of time
- Have and maintain an agenda
- Allow time to consider options
- Make timely decisions and follow through on actions to be taken

Stay on subject, but allow for a "Parking Lot" for ideas to return to later (added at Leadership Retreat)

We want to collaborate with the congregation and leadership by inviting leaders to board meetings on a rotating schedule, encouraging on-going input from groups and individuals, and reporting to the congregation quarterly.

We discussed potential members of the Pew Proposal Group- Bernice will approach those folks and the group will be formed to "Explore ways of achieving space flexibility for worship, children, accessibility, and church functions while respecting the historic nature of the church and its needs for the future". We will have an initial report to the congregation in September, as decided at the Annual Meeting, and convene a Congregational Meeting in October for the final report.

Mary and Herb Adams have offered to put up a Peace Pole at the church. A Peace Pole is a four sided pole that has the phrase "May Peace Prevail on Earth" written in four languages and we are considering creating a special church service in conjunction, maybe to include the Beyond War Peace Group. The languages will be Hungarian, Japanese, Somalian, and English. We are hoping to put the pole up in October. Thanks to Herb and Mary!

Our second brainstorming session was the Leadership Retreat and Pot Luck Dinner and it was a great success. We started with readings about leadership, power, and authority; reviewed and discussed our "Covenant of How to be With Each Other"; shared ideas, problems and suggestions about the functioning of the church; collaborated on developing "roles and responsibilities" descriptions for our various church groups and activities; talked about how to increase membership and have a greater presence in the community; talked about our vision (and a vision statement) for the church; and had a great dinner. The ideas and materials collected will be reviewed and revised as an outline and guide for the upcoming year's tasks and activities. Notes from both brainstorming retreats are available in the Church Office or by emailing Dorothy at dfraymond@yahoo.com.

Small Group Ministry by Ann J.

This was a significant year of growth for Small Group Ministry within our church. Our longstanding six member group met on a monthly basis throughout the calendar year. In the Fall, this group led a Third Sunday service for the church to demonstrate the Small Group Ministry format and process in hope that a new group might form. In December, a new six member group began meeting on a monthly basis. Presently, almost 1/3 of our congregation is involved in Small Group Ministry.



The purpose of Small Group Ministry is twofold: to build intimacy (opportunity for community and friendship) and ultimacy (opportunity for spiritual exploration). Each session has standard format. After opening words and chalice lighting, there is a check-in and sharing time. A brief reading with questions to stimulate thought helps create focus on a discussion topic. Some of the topics addressed this year were: perfection, the spiritual side of food, recalling childhood, resilience, and what has life taught me so far? Sessions are obtained from a variety of sources, including creation of sessions by group members. After a brief discussion of likes and wishes, the meetings end with closing words. The newly formed group has an open chair, which serves as an invitation for new group members.

In an effort to bring realize a vital democratic process in our congregation and our community, the long-standing group purchased "Please Vote" stickers that we distribute at the time of elections.

Ann J. attended the Small Group Ministry workshop at the May Spring Conference and Annual meeting of the Northern New England District.

[Books and Magazines](#) Marilyn G. will begin the new church year with the free magazine exchange and used book sale. Bring in your contributions now! They can be left under the table on the stage. The proceeds benefit Social Justice projects.

Commentary (cont'd)

The summer day, with chores and friends, book and Adirondack chair
and orange popsicle; with the blue of the lake; with raspberry pie for supper;
has been a blessing for which I will now take a moment to be appreciative.

Hope to see you, on a summer Sunday evening, at vespers, Richard

The next Board of Trustees Meeting will be on August 4th, 2010 at 6:00PM at the Norway Church. All are invited to attend Board Meetings- only board members can vote, but your input and/or attendance is always welcome.

Button, button.....

The church is short about a dozen hymnals. If you've borrowed *Singing the Living Tradition*, please return your copy to the sanctuary. Many thanks!

Local Farmers' Markets

Tues. 9-3p. Wed. 12:30-5:30 Collaborative Store, indoors 35 Cottage St., Norway

Thurs. 2-6p 15 Whitman St. behind the Grange Hall, Norway.

Fri. 12-4pm SMH office, across from Amato's, 59 Winter St., Norway

Sat. 9-1 pm Fox School 10 Main St., S. Paris



AUGUST NORWAY UU

Sunday	Monda	Tues-	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 6:30 p Vespers	2 AA 8-9 am	3 AA 8-9 am	4 AA 8-9 am 11:30-12:30 Com- munity Lunch	5 AA 8-9 am 5p Free Dinner by Progress Ctr	6 AA 8-9 am	7 AA 10-11
8 6:30p Vespers	9 AA 8-9 a	10 AA 8-9 am	11 AA 8-9 am 11:30-12:30 Com- munity Lunch	12 AA 8-9 am	13 AA 8-9 am	14 AA 10-11 am
15 6:30p Vespers	16 AA 8-9 a	17 AA 8-9 am	18 AA 8-9 11:30 Commu- nity Lunch	19 AA 8-9 am 5p Free Dinner by Progress Ctr 7p Cakes group	20 AA 8-9 am 7-9 Drum- ming	21 AA 10-11 am
22 6:30p Vespers	23 AA 8-9 a	24 AA 8-9 am	25 AA 8-9 am 11:30 Commu- nity Lunch	26 AA 8-9 am	27 AA 8-9 am	28 AA10- 11am
29 6:30p Vespers	30 AA 8-9a					

First Universalist Church, Norway
Unitarian Universalist
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Norway, ME 04268

Address Service Requested

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Please send your
email address to
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First Universalist Church of Norway
Unitarian Universalist

Church phone: 743-2828

Email: norwayuu@gwi.net

Website: www.norwayuu.org

Everybody Welcome! Please Join us!

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 norwayuu@gwi.net

Sexton Kevin Farr 539-4232 farrou@roadrunner.com
Music Director Heather Pierson 935-4505(h) vesselrecordings@yahoo.com

A Welcoming Congregation that Puts Its Faith in You

The food pantry needs volunteers. Call Barbara H. 743-7806
Donate peanut butter, tuna, pasta, mac 'n cheese, "common things"

