

*Newsletter of the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church*  
**The First Universalist Church in America**  
**Organized in 1779 as *The Independent Christian Church***

**THE REVEREND JENNY RANKIN, INTERIM MINISTER**

**Worship Service: 10:00 am**

**10 Church Street [corner Middle & Church Streets]  
 Gloucester MA 01930 (978) 283-3410 info@gloucesteruu.org**



## Interim Musings



December is upon us! I write this a few days before Thanksgiving when my mind is on apple cake and Brussel sprouts. Next week it will be a December, a month that evokes wonder in some, strikes terror into the hearts of others.

December, a month when the world is dark early in the evenings and the lights that are lit, in the store windows, on the steeple high above the harbor, when the lights gleam out all that much more brilliant because we need them so. the longest night of the year, the month of festivals of light, Advent, Hanukkah, the Solstice, Christmas.

“So hallow’d and so gracious is the time,” Shakespeare wrote about these December days, this Advent-tide, this time approaching the Solstice. I wonder what it is we can each do to find what is hallow’d or holy in our ordinary days, to make them more gracious and less harried and frazzled. I wonder, what festivals, rituals and traditions inform your December days.

For me, it is simple things like setting up a Christmas village with my son, with a train running somewhere through it or around it, putting out the little houses and figurines that my mother used to love, twinkling white lights wherever I can string them, and cutting greens from my garden and the

woods and fields to bring into the house and fashion into something pretty. It is music I listen to as I cook and candles I set out on the kitchen counter and maybe something with cinnamon sticks and orange simmering on the stove.

I thank you for your participation in this fall in the life of this community. You have been caring for one another, making phone calls, bringing casseroles, writing notes and checking in with each other. You bring food for coffee hour, welcome visitors, go to retreats, bake for the Christmas fair,

show up for “grown up Sunday school,” sing in the choir and in so many other ways, engage in the life of this spiritual community. That in itself is a spiritual practice and many of you have other things you do, yoga, meditation, prayer, walking, painting, writing, playing the piano, the list goes on. Ways that you choose to center yourself, to deepen your inner life. “How goes it with thy spirit,” the Quakers say. “How is it with thy heart?” We probably do not say those exact words, but when we check in with each other, stop to chat in coffee hour, when woofers a comment or a question, then listen, we are essentially saying with our body language and our eyes and our attention, “how goes it with your heart today? I am listening, I care.”

*Minister's Hours*  
**Wednesday and Thursday, by appointment.**  
**Please call the church office (978) 283-3410.**  
*revjenny@comcast.net*

*Continued on Page 15*



**Accessible Entrance at  
 Corner of  
 Pine/Proctor & Church  
 Streets  
 AND off Gould Court lot**



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 Church/205512609487543](https://www.facebook.com/pages/Gloucester-Unitarian-Universalist-Church/205512609487543)



## Solstice Concert

**CAPE ANN WINTER SOLSTICE**  
**SATURDAY DEC 20<sup>th</sup> AT 7:30**

Concert for a Cause...  
 MEETINGHOUSE RESTORATION PROJECT

PRESENTED BY  
 gimme LIVE

**CHARLIE FARREN**      **ALLEN ESTES**

**DANIELLE MIRAGLIA**

**TICKETS**  
**\$20 ADV**  
**\$25 DOOR**  
 VIP AVAILABLE ONLINE

AT GLOUCESTER UNITARIAN UNIVERSALIST CHURCH  
 Corner of Middle & Church Street  
**TICKETS ON SALE HERE**  
 OR WWW.GIMMELIVE.TV ~ 978-525-9093

Last winter we started a Gloucester Tradition - The Cape Ann Winter Solstice - a tremendously successful kick-off to our Meetinghouse Benefit Concert Series, culminating in a memorable concert by 60s icon John Sebastian, the first ever Gloucester appearance by a **Rock 'n' Roll Hall of Fame** inductee.

This winter we continue the tradition featuring three of the area's top acoustic artists: Boston rock star, Charlie Farren, of THE JOE PERRY PROJECT & FARENHEIT, rising Boston Blues star, Danielle Miraglia and Gloucester's iconic singer/songwriter Allen Estes.

Tickets are available online or by calling 978/525-9093.

- **VIP** (online only) for **\$30** - includes premium seating, exclusive early entry and commemorative VIP laminate.
- **General Advance \$20**
- **At the Door \$25**

Just like last year, a portion of the proceeds support the Meetinghouse Restoration Project. Enjoy a festive night of original music, traditional holiday favorites and a few surprises as you help Gloucester's Meetinghouse become a world-class concert and performance venue.

## Showcasing Our Church

On November 30, potential ministerial candidates from all across the country will be able to see that the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church (GUUC) is looking for a settled minister.

The Search Committee has worked very hard during November to finalize our presentation, which describes the church, the congregation and the community and the position we are offering. We used your thoughts and results from the survey and cottage meetings for much of this. Specific information about church activities and building renovation came from committee chairs, financial information from various sources, and the Board gave us a lot of useful input, as well.

We have put all that together in a way that we think highlights our history and the historic building, tells who we are right now and tells where we are hoping to go in coming years. We have expressed our hopes in this way:

*"Our community has expressed its collective desire to recruit a Minister who can meet several simultaneous goals: embrace our desire for spiritual growth, our respect for tradition and our acceptance of diversity, and also provide the leadership needed to grow the church and its impact for peace and social justice. We hope that the new Minister will bring in new members, with an emphasis on younger families, while creating a culture in which people with diverse beliefs feel comfortable."*

During the month of December, ministers seeking positions will be able to look at all that we have written and indicate an interest in our church, and in the first week of January, we will begin to find out more about potential candidates.

We thank the congregation for such a robust response in sharing your thoughts.

**Search  
Committee**

**UPDATE**

# Why I Give

For just a moment think back to a time in your life when you had a really serious worry about yourself or someone you love. Remember how that worry seemed to cast a shadow over life. Perhaps it was hard to focus without the worry intruding. The things you usually enjoyed might have lost some of their savor. You probably felt weighed down.

I've been there recently.



Then something I read a few days ago shifted my outlook.

Have you heard of Gratefulness.org? It is a network for living gratefully. If you wish, you can go to their website and subscribe. You will receive an email each day containing a quote, a quote that inspires you to reflect on gratitude. Each day I read the quotes that

gratefulness.org sends and appreciate them. You might even say I'm grateful for them. They frequently do inspire, for a few moments, a feeling of gratitude for the many blessings in my life.

Then this week they sent a line from a poem. It is a poem called "Jet" by Tony Hoagland and the line is, "We would give anything for what we have."

***"We would give anything for what we have."***

That line stopped me in my tracks. The proverbial light went off in my head. Of course. Of course I would give anything for what I have right now. Suddenly I could see how full my cup is. Gratitude flooded in and hasn't left.

Perhaps you are wondering what this bittersweet story has to do with why I give, so I'll tell you. This (indicate sanctuary) is part of what I would give anything for - this faith, this sanctuary, this choir, this congregation, and you. If I lost this church it would leave a hole in my life. Among many other things I

would lose the chance to talk about gratitude with people who care.

I give out of gratitude and out of the certain knowledge that I am giving to myself as much as to this vibrant institution. For the same reason I ask you to give. Does this place help to fill your cup? Is it part of what you would give anything to keep? Would something important be missing in your life without it?

Believe it or not I am even (sometimes) grateful for the task of asking you to give. Doing the work of the church is like pledging. It adds meaning and depth to your spiritual practice. If you haven't pledged yet please see Doug and me at the canvass table at coffee hour. We should be wrapping up the canvass soon so we can prepare next year's budget.

Since we would give anything for what we have, we should give from our hearts for what we have.

*Holly Tanguay*

# Canvass News

## We're Almost Done!

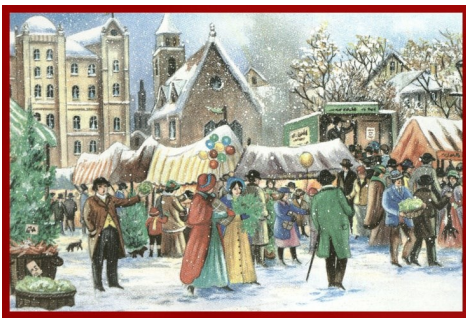
The annual appeal is close to wrapping up though we still have a few people to visit. It will be some time before we have a figure for projected pledge income in 2015 but we heartily thank all those who have made pledges. The church would not endure without your generosity.

**If you have not pledged yet, and have not heard from a canvasser please give one of the canvass co-chairs, Holly Tanguay, 525-2192, or Doug Smith, 281-5710 a call this week.**

Many thanks go to our dedicated canvassers, Doug, Holly, Dick Prouty, Newt Fink, George Smith, Janet Young, Charles Nazarian, Bill Jackson and Peggy Kimball.



## A Successful Christmas Fair Depends on Many “Elves”!



Whether you want to sit at a table for a two-hour shift on December 13th, bring a batch of cookies, or help set up or clean up — there are many small (and big) jobs

and we'd love you to be on our *Old Fashioned Christmas Fair* team. All are welcome and invited!

The church will be filled with the wonderful aromas of coffee, pastry, hot dogs, chowder, veggie chili and cookies. The vestry will be buzzing with happy people looking for that special gift, listening to stories, making crafts, hoping to win one of our wonderful raffle items.

The annual Middle Street Walk will also be in full swing. Upstairs in the sanctuary students will be singing and playing holiday tunes.

On the lawn (from 1-3 pm) you will be able to make your own ‘Smores — an activity which was a great big hit last year.

Children will be able to have their pictures taken with Santa from 11 am until 1 pm.

Sign up at coffee hour -- or contact the co-chairs to help. Caroline Connolly (carolinec@rumrow.com) or Karen Lundh (newvoices@juno.com)

AND look for the flyer on page 7.

### Call for Gloucester UU Artisans

If you want to bring your artwork or hand-crafted items to the *Christmas Fair* to sell on December 13th, we will be having a table that highlights Gloucester UU Artists and Artisans. Contact Karen Lundh by December 1st (newvoices@juno.com). We expect artists to help staff the table and to donate 5-10% of their proceeds to the Gloucester Meetinghouse Restoration Fund.

### Black Friday OR Giving Tuesday?

If you missed out on Black Friday, or want to go another path, consider joining in on Tuesday, December 2<sup>nd</sup> as Unitarian Universalists across the country participate in “Giving Tuesday.” Created by people who want to buck our consumerist culture, “Giving Tuesday” encourages us to give to local, national and international organizations and causes that make the world a better place.

You could call it the response of our free faith tradition to the Black Friday escalation! Go to our Facebook page or the Unitarian Universalist headquarters’ website ([www.uua.org](http://www.uua.org)) to learn more.

## “A Mingling of Souls” — A Play About Our Church and Founders



During the Middle Street Walk on **December 13**, the church will host a costumed reading of Jay DiPrima's new play "Mingling of Souls from Sorrow to Joy," based on the lives and writings of Rev. John Murray and Judith Sargent Murray.

The production features the playwright as John and Kimberlee Cloutier-Blizzard as Judith. **Showtime is 1 p.m.** and a donation of \$5 is suggested.

After the half-hour performance, walk with the actors to the Sargent House Museum. This program is supported in part by a grant from the Gloucester Local Cultural Council, a local agency which is supported by the Massachusetts Cultural Council, a state agency.

# The "Shutter Hoist"

**November 8, 2014**      **Temperature = 37 degrees**      **Wind Chill = 29 degrees**

**CAST:** *Newt Fink and Jim Schoel "leading men"*

**SUPPORTING CREW:** *Bob Tanguay, Rob Hill, Holly Tanguay, Alex Floyd*

**FINISHERS:** *Bonnie Stafford and Newt Fink*

## The Shutter Hoist

*Script by Holly Tanguay — Photos by Karen Rembert*

Last Saturday morning I left the house to drop off some food for the family of baby Walter and to help Newt and his crew haul a rebuilt shutter up onto the steeple. It was windy and chilly so I bundled up and tucked my cell phone safely in my pants pocket. *(Can you hear the background music warning of disaster to come?)* I dropped off the food and met the shutter crew in front of the church.

I had little to do at first since the riggers had to sort out their ropes. What a magnificent view. I swear I could see the "other cape" way down south looking sandy and unspectacular. Gloucester and the harbor were spread out before me. Karen and Alex down in the allée looked mighty small from that height and they thought I was very brave. I drank it in. Here I was, the least able of the crew, getting all the glory.



Eventually Newt and Jim, those brawny guys up top, raised the shutter with great effort. The wind soon caught it and Bob and Rob, who were manning the tag lines, had trouble holding on as the shutter sailed about. I braced myself behind a pillar and managed to hook the thing and pull it in over the railing. My chest swelled with pride. What a hero, a key player in "The Shutter Hoist," book and movie expected out in 2015.



Newt Fink, Bob Tanguay, Jim Schoel and Rob Hill were there to do the job. Karen Rembert soon arrived to document the endeavor and Alex Floyd arrived later, in time to observe.



After a lot of rope rigging and knot tying on the front steps, Newt and Jim went to the top of the tower and prepared to haul up the shutter using a boom made from an aluminum mast. Bob, Alex and Rob staid on the ground holding tag lines designed to keep the shutter from blowing all over the place once it got up into the wind.



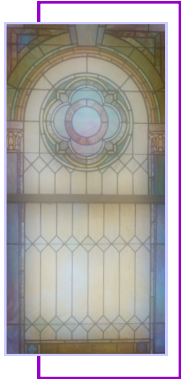
I lack a bit in the brawn category so my job was to snare the shutter as it came up to the right level. That involved standing outside way up on the steeple at the level that has a little balcony with a railing. I was equipped with forked hoe from Newt's garden. It made a nice long hook with which I might grab the ropes tied around the shutter.



A sequel, "The Installation of the Shutter," filmed a few days later, stars Bonnie Stafford and Newt Fink, the dynamic duo who heroically attached the shutter to the tower, working outside at great height!

***If you liked this script ... you might like to read Adventures of a Wayward Cellphone Owner page 10***

## Music & Meditation in the Meetinghouse



De-stress from all the activity of the holidays; plan to relax for 90 minutes beginning at 7:30 pm on Sunday, **December 28th**. The meditation leader for this next event in our monthly series called **Music & Meditation in the Meetinghouse** (MMM) is **Charles Nazarian** -- who is the originator and driving force behind this monthly event. Music will be provided by guitarist **Steve Lacey**.

Each MMM event offers the participants an opportunity to enjoy a different combination of peaceful self-awareness through various kinds of meditation enhanced by the musical offerings.

The MMM experience is intended to be comforting,

entertaining and spiritual but it is emphatically not a church service. It is held in the candle-lit sanctuary of the grand Meetinghouse, a place of gathering and welcoming for the entire Gloucester community for over 200 years.

There will be a collation with light refreshments afterwards in the Entrance House, giving participants the opportunity to meet the leaders and each other . MMM is open to the public; a free-will offering (\$10 suggested) is received but everyone is welcome.

Charles Nazarian, a designer and Historically Informed Cape Ann Architect, is a member of our church, our choir, and the chair of the Music & Liturgy

Committee. He has been arranging these monthly Music & Meditations since June, 2013.

Steve Lacey, a lifelong Gloucester resident, is a guitarist of 13 years. He received his B.A. in music from Salem State University with a background in both Jazz and Classical theories, which he incorporates with other influences into in his improvisations. He believes in the communicative nature of music. Steve performs widely, provides music for special events, and teaches private lessons for guitar/bass.

## Filling Our Pulpit During December



- December 7** Rev. Sarah Clark
- December 14** Rev. Jenny Rankin
- December 21** Rev. Jenny Rankin
- December 24** Rev. Jenny Rankin
- December 28** Gordon Baird

### *Christmas Eve Service*

Our Christmas Eve service will be held at **5:00 pm**. *Families are encouraged and invited to attend; the public is welcome.*

The Christmas Eve Service will feature a Clarinetist who will play sections of Mozart's Clarinet Concerto.

The choir will sing traditional carols, "Still, Still, Still," "Ding Dong Merrily on High," "The Virgin Mary Had a Baby Boy," (West Indian Carol); and "O Holy Night." One will have a lively rhythmic accompaniment, some with clarinet and organ accompaniment, some unaccompanied. The congregation will sing traditional carols, and conclude with the candle-light singing of "Silent Night, Holy Night."

We thank **Carolyn Edwards** who continues her long tradition of ordering flowers for Christmas and Easter.



Please call Carolyn (978) 283-9129 if you would like to purchase flowers for Christmas to honor, or in memory of someone. The cost this year is \$13 per plant.

Checks should be made payable to Gloucester UU Church — with the word "flowers" in the memo line and indicate the color (red or white).

Drop your check in the collection plate, or mail it to: 7 Perkins Road, Gloucester MA 01930

Carolyn will need your order and payment by December 14th !



# *An Old Fashioned Christmas Fair*

**Saturday — December 13, 2014**

from 9:00 am until 2:00 pm

**Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church**

*Accessible entrance at 10 Church Street*

[gloucesteruu.org](http://gloucesteruu.org)

978/283-3410

*Coffee & Pastry*



*Stocking  
Stuffers*

*Cookie Walk*

*Unique Antiques*

*Raffles*



*Crafts*

*Storytelling*



*Photos with  
Santa*

11 am - 1 pm

**Lunch:  
Hot Dogs, Veggie Chili  
or Chowder!**

Noon until 2 pm or  
when food runs out



*Gifts*



*Wreaths*

**Make-Your-Own  
'Smores!**

1 - 3 pm

## Board Notes

**Care:** New chairs Peggy Kimball and Ann Straccia have been busy organizing food for parishioners who are under the weather. They have also been preparing for Care Committee holiday activities. Thanksgiving host and guest forms were made available in the vestry. Donations of toys, gift cards and warm clothing (or cash with which to purchase those) will be accepted to benefit Pathways for Children families until December 14.

**Building and Grounds:** As always Newt and his helpers have been hard at work. See the photos and story about installing a shutter high on the tower elsewhere in this newsletter. The Building and Grounds (B&G) crew has accomplished much more – including installing molding around a new door on Church Street and moving an exit sign out of the new vestibule in the vestry. Newt is planning a new Saturday morning B&G effort once a month so those who work on weekdays have a chance to participate.



**Religious Education Notes:** Rose Sheehan, Interim Director of Religious Education led a session about Lifespan Faith Development Visioning in our church. Members of the congregation began by defining the purposes of religious education. The conversation will continue at future meetings as we dream big about Sunday school, youth programs and adult religious education. Rose is also busy working on a junior youth group, possibly in cooperation with Essex and Rockport. The Religious Education Committee will meet at 11:30 on December 14 or 28. Stay tuned for the actual date. Please join us to support this crucial aspect of church life.

**Membership:** Six prospective church members attended a special Saturday introductory class on November 15 led by Janet Ruth Young, Susan McKain and Reverend Jenny Rankin. Those who decide to join the church will sign the book during our service Sunday December 14. Janet Young, membership chair, has taken on coordinating the church's contributions to the Middle Street Walk which will occur on December 13 from 11 to 4:30. On the same day our own Christmas Fair, revived by Caroline Connolly and others, will be held from 9 AM to 2 PM. During the Walk our church will host a number of programs in the sanctuary and provide roving carolers to brighten the Middle Street scene. Many hands will be needed and much holiday spirit enjoyed. Come join the fun.

**Music and Liturgy:** Preparations are underway for special music during our Christmas Eve service provided by the choir and a guest clarinetist.

The benefit organ concert donated by Bob Wech, our Music Director, was beautiful and well attended. *The concert was sponsored by a gift from Judith A. Williams in memory of her husband Robert M. Williams. This event is part of the 2014-15 Series to Benefit the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund.*



Photo by Charles Nazarian

Thank you Judy for sponsoring this lovely event.

The concert and lecture series will continue with the second annual Solstice Concert on December 20, produced by our partners from GimmeSound. Charles has found sponsors for most concert and lecture series events. Having a sponsor guarantees that event costs will be covered and the restoration fund will benefit.

The one missing piece is an organized group of volunteers to provide set up and cleanup for events and receptions. Too often those duties fall on series coordinator Charles Nazarian and one or two others like faithful helpers Janet Young and Tony Hilliard. Would stage crew T-shirts help?

**Finance:** Happily Ken Belanger is largely recovered from his long illness and is back on the job. The balance sheet is as expected though cash-on-hand is low because \$22k in 2014 pledges is still due to come in. The treasurer's report income shows significant work still to be done on pledges, building usage and fund raising to reach the budget goal. The expenses have been held in check and are running less than budget at this point in time. The creation of the 2015 budget is finally under way and we need all committees to submit their 2015 proposed budgets by November 30 to Ken Belanger/Karen Rembert. Much work remains to be done to summarize the 2014 financial picture and prepare a budget for 2015.

If you have a head for figures and operations the Finance Committee is looking for members.

**Social Justice:** Because the current chair has been ill the social justice committee has been quiet. Though many members of our congregation are devoted to social action this committee could use more participants and leaders. Please let Karen or a board member know if you are interested.



# A New Sign of Life!

Long-time member George Smith was concerned that the existing sign at the corner of Middle and Church Streets that is supposed to direct people to our church wasn't doing the job very well. He recognized that the distance between the sign and the church building was too far and that people were having a hard time finding us.



Although our historic building is the oldest (1806), largest and last surviving Meetinghouse in Gloucester and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places many people are still unaware of our presence in the community. George knew that a sign closer to the entrance was needed.

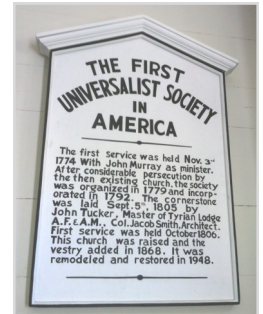
So, more than a year ago George asked Charles Nazarian, chair of the Music & Liturgy Committee and advisor to the church on building restoration matters, to help design a sign that reflected both our 200-plus year history and our present locally-known name: the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church.

Several designs and many variations were considered by the Board of Managers as well as the M&L Committee. Of course, everyone had a suggestion on what the new sign should convey. The Gloucester Historic District Commission also had to be consulted. As Charles said during the official dedication of the sign on Sunday, November 23rd, it was like an entire community was involved in making Beef Bourguignon: everyone had a favorite recipe, and every recipe had different ingredients!

The shape, size and location of the new sign also had to be determined. After some rumination Charles proposed copying the shape, scale and moldings of the historic sign that is mounted in our Entrance House. To test the concept he and George took an early mockup outside and held it up for each other to evaluate in various locations and angles. The final choice was to remove a yew from an unused concrete-framed terrace on the Church Street side and place the raised sign in line with the entrance façade.

Special credit must be given to Newt Fink, our indefatigable Buildings & Grounds chair. He commissioned a local woodworker to make an exact replica of the historic sign in Spanish Cedar, a material that resists rot and mills nicely. He also poured the new concrete footings, cut the tapered posts, primed the woodwork, painted all parts in the buff trim color of the church, and permanently mounted the sign in place after removing the yew and planting a handsome ground cover to grow on the terrace. At Charles' request, he also ran an underground conduit for a new exterior fixture with a light sensor so that the sign would be illuminated automatically when it gets dark throughout the year. What would we do without Newt?

In many ways consideration of what was to be included on the new sign and what kind of



Photos by Charles Nazarian



Continued on page 13

## December Birthdays

- 6 Ruth Maassen
- 14 Suzanna Runnels
- 17 Matilda Melvin
- 17 Carol Ackerman
- 21 Diane Constantino
- 24 Lucy Myers
- 29 Diana Long



## November Flowers

**November 2.** Given by Linda Riley in loving memory of Eileen Ryan, daughter of Linda Riley and sister of Tim Ryan.

**November 16** Given by Hamer and Charlotte Lacey to commemorate their meeting, twelve years ago, at this church, and in anticipation of their next 20 years or so together.

**November 23** Given by Carolyn Edwards in loving memory of her husband, Roger C. Edwards and her brother, Harold J. Bradley.



But on Saturday Newt and I just tied the shutter to the tower so the cast of the "Raising of the Shutter" could retire to Cape Ann Coffees for a much deserved break. After coffee and discussion of world affairs we all returned to our mundane lives.

At home I hung my jacket and scarf up in the closet, patted my pants pocket for my cell phone and found nothing. Pocket empty, cell phone gone. Somewhere in that long morning odyssey it had fallen out!

There was no other choice but to retrace my steps. I called Susan McKain to tell her I would be delayed in getting together for a visit because of the search. She said, "I'll meet you there! I love heights and I can call your cell phone with mine."

Before tackling the tower I looked for the phone in my car, at Walter's house, on the ground where I parked, on the steps and on the front lawn of the church. No luck, so up we went.

At the attic level Susan called my phone and we heard it faintly ringing above us! We proceeded upward looking carefully around. Nothing at the next level, nothing at the bell level, nothing at the balcony level where I had stood. We crawled

out onto the balcony and looked all around. Still nothing. Susan called my phone again and we could hear a muffled ring, probably below us.

We took a side trip up to the highest part of the tower to enjoy the view and then climbed back down to the bell level.

For those of you who haven't been up there, the bell level is very open. Beneath the Paul Revere bell there is a sloping metal floor and around the perimeter there is netting designed to keep birds from roosting.



Susan called my phone again. It rang loud and clear at our feet but we couldn't see it! Susan decided to get a foot level view of the metal floor by climbing into the hatch that leads down to the next level. Eureka! She could see the phone from there. It had slipped under a wood plank that holds down the netting and was completely hidden.

We never would have found it without Susan's cell phone! *So that's what friends are for!* They keep you company through your misadventures and they provide the extra bit of wisdom (plus the extra cell phone) that makes a successful outcome possible.

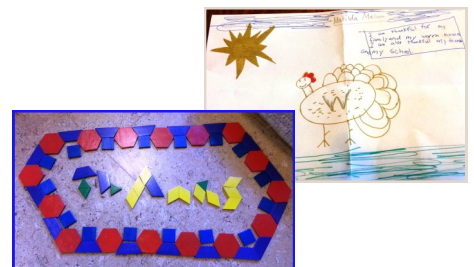
## R.E.marks by Rose

*"I carry a light within me, a brightly burning flame  
Though dark may try to win me, it ever shines the same  
It guides me through uncertainty, it warms the wintry weather  
And brings to every burden, the lightness of a feather."*

*Advent has a strong connection to the Christian traditions, but resonates deeply within me as a transcendent season of preparation and transition. It's a time (at least in our hemisphere) to experience the darkest nights while anticipating the renewal of light. It's a time to bring closure to another year while preparing for the new. During December's Spirit Play, we will light Advent candles, share songs of the season and hear stories of the coming of light from different traditions.*

**Program Notes:** *Topics in Spirit Play have included making connections between culturally diverse holidays such as Divali, Christmas, Halloween, All Hallow's Eve, All Souls Day, All Saints Day and Day of the Dead; teaching, learning and sharing kindness; participating in Care Committee work (making cards); our congregation's history of names (preparing for our new sign dedication); creating messages of thanks.*

**Volunteer Assistants** are needed for the Spirit Play Program. There is no preparation work needed outside of the Sunday morning classroom time. I will provide orientation for volunteers before they are asked to be in the classroom. Again, please contact me with a phone message at church or at [DRE@gloucesteruu.org](mailto:DRE@gloucesteruu.org) if you would like to participate.



Continued on next page



**Coming of Age:** The Unitarian Universalist Society of Rockport is planning to offer a Coming-of-Age (COA) program

open to young people in 8th, 9th and 10th grades. Gloucester youth are invited to participate. Beth Graham is the leader. Most meetings will take place on Sunday mornings in Rockport.

**So what the heck is a ‘Coming of Age’ program?** — A message from Beth

“Many cultures and religions have a rite of passage, an intentional event that marks the transition from childhood to youth and young adulthood. Native American cultures have Vision Quests for people in their early teenage years. Jewish youth have Bar and Bat Mitzvah services. Christians have CCD or Confirmation classes. Unitarian Universalists have what we call “Coming of Age” (COA) for UU youth who are in or near their early High School years.

The purpose of the program is to help you bring together all of the RE experiences you have had up to now. It is the rite of passage that we provide you as you step over the threshold from childhood to full-fledged youth, on your way to adulthood.

We will meet from January through June, twice a month. Most (but not all) of the meetings will be on Sunday mornings during church.

The good news is that we’ll talk about things that matter to you. Our goal is to help you get clearer about what it means TO YOU to be a UU. What do

you want to understand better? What do you want to hold onto as you move through high school and beyond? What moral and social values mean the most to you? Is there anything you wish was different about our religion? Why did your family become UUs anyway?

We’ll answer questions like these. BUT this is not a drop-in-if-you-feel-like-it program! You’ll need to sign up and come to all of the meetings. (But if you know ahead of time that you can’t make a date, let me know. We’ll work around that.)

Each gathering will build on the one before. Some meetings will be out of the church (in Boston and elsewhere). We’ll schedule those together, with an eye on your calendars.

I’ll be leading this program. Plus each of you will have another adult – a mentor – connect with you as we move through the weeks. You’ll help pick your mentor. But I’ll explain all that at our first meeting.

So... are you in? Hope so! Our introductory gathering is on December 7, for lunch at church – for pizza and general introductions. Then we’ll start the full program in January.”



**RE Outreach:** Interim DRE Rose Sheehan will be conducting outreach activities during the month of December. December Mondays Seasonal Stories will be held in the Robert Williams Center every Monday at 10:00 for young children with an adult caregiver. A story and craft activity is also planned for Saturday, December 20 in the Robert Williams Center during the Farmers Market.

**Notes from the Director of Religious Education:**

The RE Committee sponsored a conversation on Sunday, November 2: *Creating a Vision for Lifespan Faith Development at the GUUC*. This conversation served as a starting point in developing a GUUC congregation-specific vision and goals for Lifespan Faith Development. A suggestion was made to share some of the materials we discussed, summaries from the *Essex Conversation* in the newsletter.

The *Essex Conversations* is a collection of more than 30 essays by UU religious educators. These essays were a response to three questions:

- *As we enter the twenty-first century, what is the core of our evolving Unitarian Universalist faith?*
- *What is your vision for the goals of our lifespan religious education?*
- *What are the vital components of Unitarian Universalist curricula?*

The following is a summary of, “Educating for Faith,” by Barry Andrews, in *Essex Conversations*.

*Faith is comprised of both spirituality and religious identity, which are interdependent and reciprocal. Spirituality is largely personal, made up of values, beliefs, and experiences that relate to our individual experience. Religious identity represents values, beliefs, and rituals that a group holds in common. Both are required for full realization of faith. Unfortunately, our current religious education programming ends up teaching religion, not faith.*

Continued on next page

## R.E.marks by Rose *(continued)*

*A core curriculum in Unitarian Universalist faith development would progressively nurture spirituality and character formation. It is not enough to educate about our religious heritage. We must seek to develop faith, helping individuals of all ages to more fully integrate their spiritual lives with their sense of identity as Unitarian Universalists.*

It would be wonderful to continue our conversation, perhaps as a study group, while we develop a response to these questions:

- What is the purpose of religious education for children and youth and adults at GUUC?
- What outcomes do we hope for and expect as a result of the RE program at GUUC?

We are in need of an RE Committee membership that can both embark on developing this vision AND can take up the nuts and bolts of maintaining and developing the GUUC RE

We will have an **RE Committee meeting on Sunday, December 14 at 11:30** to welcome new membership and make plans for moving forward. Childcare will be provided. We invite all members of the congregation to join us, not just current RE parents. We look forward to seeing you there. Please let Holly Tanguay, Acting RE Chair or Rose Sheehan, Interim DRE know if you are interested, have thoughts, questions, or suggestions.

# Thank You All —

**for the November 22nd Farmers Market.**

Many thanks to **Peggy Kimball, Carol Ackerman, Doug Smith, Ann Leamon, Ann Straccia, Paula Gray, Rob Hill and “G” Georgeanne Hyatt** — all hands who baked quiche, provided cash boxes, brewed coffee, and sold food, drink, and concert tickets last Saturday. We raised about \$125, made our presence known to Farmers Market customers, had some fun doing it, but more importantly spread some good will. The homemade quiches were delicious. Many customers told us so! Congratulations to all on a job well done.

As you may know this was the last Farmers Market effort that I plan to coordinate. I have written up all the steps, and created print and electronic versions of the sign up sheet and signs to post. I have the list of volunteers and names of other people you can ask to volunteer.

There are four more indoor markets:    12/20/14 -- 3/21/15 -- 4/18/15 -- and 5/16/15.

If four of you will volunteer to coordinate one market each, we can carry on this tradition. You could also ask a friend to do it with you and be co-chairs. This takes less than 6 hours during the 7 to 10 days before the market and 4.5 to 5 hours the day of the Market.

Disaster will not strike the church if we stop selling coffee and quiche, but our presence will be missed. Vendors and customers who look forward to the coffee or quiche will be disappointed, vendors who have questions won't know where to turn, the people who come in looking for concert tickets won't be able to buy them, security in the church could become an issue as there will be no one watching the stairs, and the person who expresses interest in the church will not have anyone to answer his/her questions.

**Please seriously consider taking a slot and let me know if you can:** *The December Market will probably be the biggest opportunity for our church — and the hardest slot to fill, so please speak up if you can do that one.*

Regards,    *Holly Tanguay*



importance should be assigned via the graphics to those elements was a good preparation for the issues the congregation is now considering as part of the search for a new settled minister. In microcosm but on full display to every passer-by, the sign represents the shared autobiography of the church, its history of activism and the building's unique role in Gloucester as a Meetinghouse for all.



At the end of the Thanksgiving Sunday Service, November 23<sup>rd</sup>, the formal dedication took place. In a festive procession during the last Hymn, 'Now Thank We All Our God,' the choir walked up the aisles of the Sanctuary and led the congregation out the front doors and down the steps.

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Rev. Jenny opened the dedication with words of gratitude on this special day with particular thanks to George. Standing by the new sign on the terrace, Charles told those gathered about the process it had taken to get to this point, accompanied by much laughter, in appreciation for how living in community and deciding together is sometimes a convoluted process.



Rev. Jenny & George Smith at dedication: photo by Peggy Kimball.

Rev. Jenny closed by leading members in prayer and then everyone sang our parting hymn, 'God be with You Until We Meet Again.'

*It was a beautiful day, sight, and sound!  
Thank You So Much George!*

*"If all our misfortunes were laid in one common heap, whence everyone must take an equal portion, most people would be content to take their own and depart."*  
*Socrates*

## The Brown-Bag "Lunch Bunch"



Each week — every day — homeless people in Gloucester leave the ACTION Shelter with a brown bag lunch consisting of a sandwich, snack, and juice pack.

These lunches are put together by members of Cape Ann's churches and the Temple. Four members of the Unitarian Universalist Church join a large team from Temple Ahavat Achim to bring the lunches to the Main Street Shelter on Mondays. Can you join our "lunch-bunch" **Carolyn Edwards, Peggy Kimball, John Neilson, and Shep Abbott** in this Brown Bag Lunch Ministry?

- You can decide how many times a year you want to make lunches
- You can make lunches at home or at the church.
- You can deduct the amount you spend for food or be reimbursed by Rabbi Lewis!
- It's an easy way to help Cape Ann's most vulnerable citizens, many of whom are getting job training and/or help with addiction.

Please contact Ellen Solomon at [ellensolomon18@gmail.com](mailto:ellensolomon18@gmail.com) with any of your questions or to tell her you're ready to join in.

***Please Help Feed the Hungry and Homeless***

## The "One-Two" Crew

### News from the Building and Grounds

We are always looking for helping hands at any skill level. As we look back through the past few years we have had many volunteers step forward and lend their hands at prep/painting, yard and garden work, cemetery cleanup, mowing and tree and brush cutting, and assisting the "regulars" with their maintenance tasks.

Much has been done by a few folks working in the back-ground to complete the finish and cleanup tasks not included in

some of the contracts for the wheelchair lifts and accessible lavatories.

Most of these helpers have had weekday jobs, families and demands for their time. Needless to say, their many contributions, however small, have given a big boost to our (almost) clean, bright and finished look.

We want to recognize that many would like to help out when they can, but a major commitment is too much to expect. We are, accordingly, going to form a **new "One-Two Crew."** The "One" will stand for one Saturday a

month. The "Two" will stand for a two-hour time commitment.

Beginning in the Spring, we will decide on a Saturday start date and develop a listing of meaningful tasks and projects for the crew to take on.

To join the team, contact me -- or Karen in the church office.

Thanks from all,  
*Newt Fink*

978-283-3484  
[newtfink@yahoo.com](mailto:newtfink@yahoo.com)



## Pet Loss Healing Circle

### PET LOSS HEALING CIRCLE

**December 7, 2014**

**7 pm to 8:30 pm**

**First Parish in Brookline**

*Have you lost a beloved animal friend?*

Are you struggling this season with grief for your companion or anticipated loss of a dear one? Join with me and others who understand, holding a time and space for stories, pictures, memories and silence. All are welcome, as we light candles and reflect together on the loves we've known. Free. Led by Rev. Eliza Blanchard

We'll meet in the Dana Room, which is handicapped accessible. Parking is available on 382 WALNUT STREET, BROOKLINE. (Off Route 9). Call 774-551-6071 with questions.

Rev. Blanchard gave a sermon at our church on April 13th. She is Interfaith Spiritual Advisor for New England Pet Hospice and Home Care, and Affiliate Minister, First Parish in Brookline, MA

*"The Animals of the planet are in desperate peril. Without free animal life I believe we will lose the spiritual equivalent of oxygen."* Alice Walker

## Wellspring House Offers Free Adult Education



English, math, and Career Development.

Wellspring House offers free adult education classes to support individuals in their efforts to find employment, prepare for college or pass the HiSET (formerly GED). The education classes that are offered include Computer Skills,

The FREE classes are available in four different sessions throughout the year. **Free local transportation** to classes is also available.

Call Recruitment & Enrollment Coordinator, Lisa Wheeler, for more information at (978) 281-3558, ext. 304. Wellspring House is located at 302 Essex Avenue, Gloucester.

**Next Session Starts: January 5th!** [www.wellspringhouse.org](http://www.wellspringhouse.org)



This event will benefit the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund.

*Welcome Yule! A Midwinter Celebration* comes to the Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church Sanctuary on **Sunday, December 21 at 3:30 PM.**

*Welcome Yule!* celebrates the return of the light with a delightful family show filled with music, dance, songs and stories to drive the dark away. It features carols, wassailing songs, dancing, a mummers' play and a Yule log procession. This festive, participatory celebration invites the audience to sing-a-long, laugh-a-long, even dance-a-long!

*Welcome Yule!* was first produced 30 years ago in Greenfield, Massachusetts at the All Souls Unitarian Universalist Church by founder and original artistic director Rose

Sheehan, currently our Interim Director of Religious Education.

The Gloucester cast will include some of our church members as well as other community friends.

There is a \$15 suggested donation for adults at the door; \$10 for seniors and children five through sixteen; \$40 family cap; age four and under free.

This event will benefit the Meetinghouse Preservation Fund.

## Interim Musings

*Continued from page 1*

In some ways, what we are together, what we offer each other, being part of a church community is so very basic: we are just human beings, gathering together, for friendship, for food, for prayer and singing, human beings coming together for comfort, spiritual sustenance, intellectual stimulation and finding ways they can work together to better the world around them.

Not innovative or fancy or self-important. Belonging, friendship, company, caring. Basic stuff we all want and need. This is part of the ministry that you do, day in and day out, on the corner of Church and Middle St. I think the world's a little bit better because of it. Thank you.

I remember Garrison Keillor once talking about the meaning of life, to me, he said, "it's to love and serve God, that's why I'm here." You may define it differently for yourself. Maybe you'd use the word "God," perhaps you wouldn't. But to love life and serve one another is probably something most of us could agree on

December is surely a time to love life, to celebrate it through candles and food and singing and coming together, December is surely a time to serve one another and the world. Your participation in the church and its ministries in the wider world, through your presence, your participation, your pledge, your spirit of engagement and

caring, it all makes a difference. Thank you.

*"The bird of dawning singeth all night long...the nights are wholesome; then no planets strike,  
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to char  
So hallow'd and so gracious is the time."*



*Jenny*

## “Hot Topics” A Message from the Board of Managers

The Annual Meeting is scheduled for the last Sunday in January and it will be here before you know it. Between now and then we plan to have congregational conversations after coffee hour to tell you about items on the meeting agenda and listen to your input. Congregational conversations (and Board Notes in the newsletter) are part of leadership’s commitment to open communication. We want you to know what we are thinking and we want to know what you are thinking!

Recently the issue of holding raffles at the church has come to the fore. About two years ago the board checked the church by-laws and found no reference to raffles or gambling. The board decided to permit raffles as a way of raising money. We raffled wine baskets during fall Farmers Markets. We also held 50-50 raffles during GimmeSound concerts. These raffles have indeed raised money for the church.

Now the Christmas Fair organizers plan to raffle theme baskets at the fair. This has been a source of concern to some who remember the earlier church policy forbidding raffles. Current policy, approved by a vote of the board, is to permit raffles. If there is enough concern about the change we will schedule a congregational conversation on this topic.

Another issue of considerable interest to members is the name of the church. As you all know our historic and legal name is the Independent Christian Church. That title was chosen by those who founded the church to distinguish it from the established church at the time, a decidedly Calvinist institution that was an integral part of town government. We are all proud that our church was the first Universalist church in America and that the actions of its members helped establish the separation of church and state.



Fast forward to the twenty first century. We are now Unitarian Universalists, members of a denomination committed to shared worship by people of diverse belief systems including Christianity, Buddhism, atheism and others. Problems have arisen due to our historic name.

People looking for a Unitarian Universalist church in Gloucester had trouble finding us because we were listed as the Independent Christian

Church. Some even contacted the church thinking we were fundamentalist because of the name. Finally some who knew we were Unitarian Universalists were reluctant to attend because we identified ourselves as Christian.

A few years ago your leaders decided to try a practical experiment. By using the name Gloucester Unitarian Universalist church in day to day activity we would find out how well that name fit us. We did not move to change the name officially because then the time was not ripe. The time is more ripe now. Lack of clarity about our name has affected the Search Committee’s work and may be of concern to ministerial applicants.

We need to decide together what to call ourselves and we will take a vote on this issue at the annual meeting. There are at least three possibilities, keep the historic name, change the name officially to “Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church,” or chose a combination such as “Gloucester Unitarian Universalist Church founded as the Independent Christian Church.” We will have one or more congregational conversations on the name issue before the annual meeting. Clarifying our identity as a congregation is an important part of the transition process.